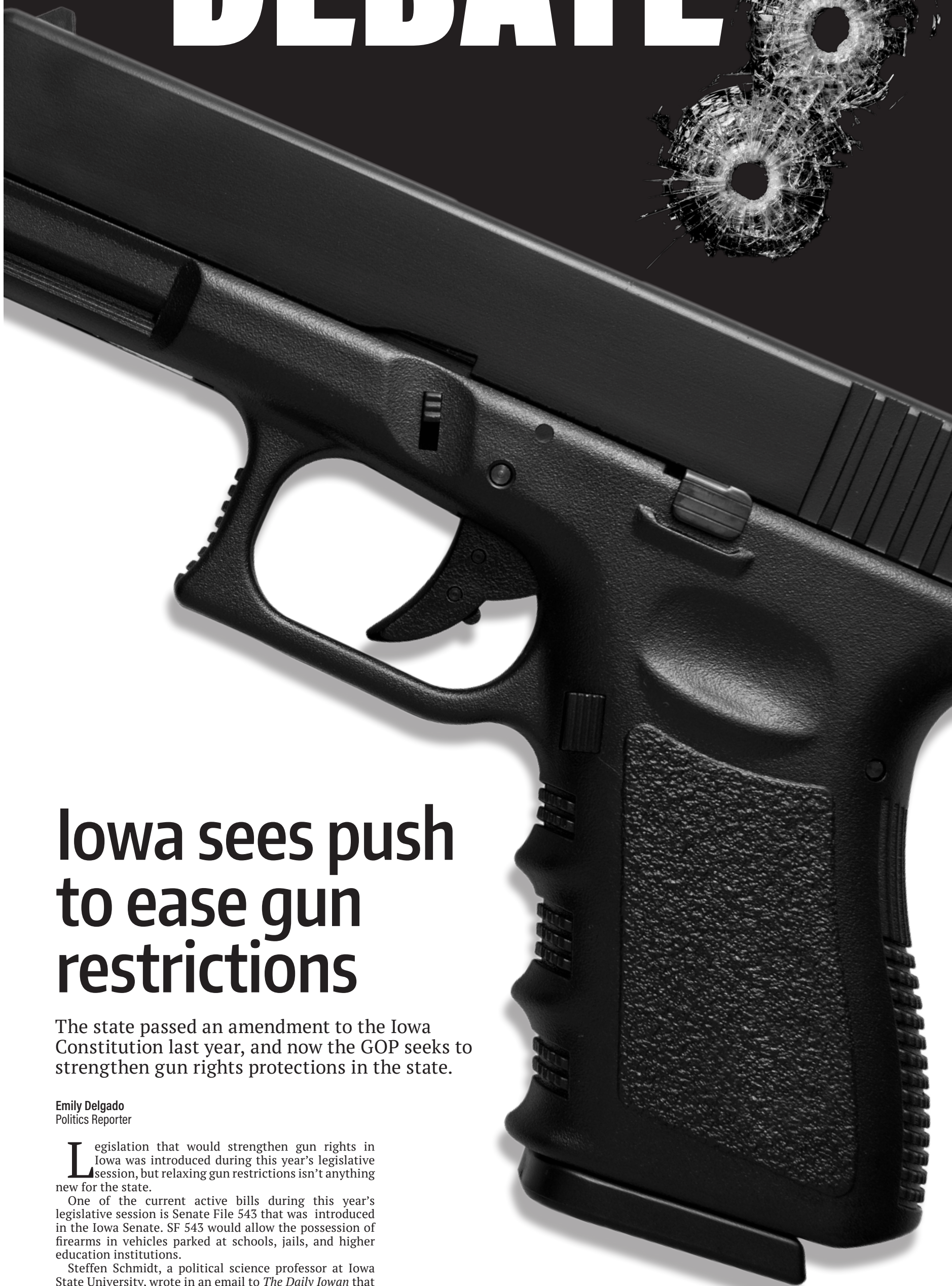


LOADED DEBATE



Iowa sees push to ease gun restrictions

The state passed an amendment to the Iowa Constitution last year, and now the GOP seeks to strengthen gun rights protections in the state.

Emily Delgado
Politics Reporter

Legislation that would strengthen gun rights in Iowa was introduced during this year's legislative session, but relaxing gun restrictions isn't anything new for the state.

One of the current active bills during this year's legislative session is Senate File 543 that was introduced in the Iowa Senate. SF 543 would allow the possession of firearms in vehicles parked at schools, jails, and higher education institutions.

Steffen Schmidt, a political science professor at Iowa State University, wrote in an email to *The Daily Iowan* that bills like SF 543 are an example of gun laws in the state that are becoming less restrictive.

House File 147, a bill that was killed during funnel week, would have created the Second Amendment Preservation Act that would reaffirm the state's rights to decide gun laws within its borders.

Elinor Levin, D-Iowa City, said the bill created a conflict

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BY THE NUMBERS:

During the exploration of story pitches, *The Daily Iowan* found common data and information that would be useful and visually interesting to show the Iowa City and UI community.

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GUN VIOLENCE INTERVENTION ADVOCATES PERSIST AMID LOOSENING GUN REGULATIONS:

Gun safety advocates, such as Temple Hiatt, said gun legislation should be implemented to minimize harm from firearms.

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AIRPORT FIREARM INTERCEPTIONS ON THE RISE:

More guns were found at Iowa airports in 2022 than in previous years. The Des Moines International Airport caught 15 guns, while the Eastern Iowa Airport in Cedar Rapids caught six in 2022.

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