

19 August 2020

House Select Committee on Mass Violence Prevention & Community Safety

Re: Duty #4 Submission

I categorically oppose any state legislation that in practice works an infringement on the unalienable right of the people to keep and bear arms a la the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

As a matter of simple common sense, a criminal by definition violates laws with impunity. Ergo, laws limiting the guarantees of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment fall squarely on the shoulders of the majority of the citizens of Texas who are not criminals, but rather law abiding.

Notwithstanding the rights of a private property owner to establish conditions of entry, including denying firearms, to maintain security, safety, and good order, in his/her premises, and similarly court facilities or correctional facilities, I believe and support the ability of the law abiding citizen to go about responsibly armed if he/she so desires.

The media rarely makes reference to the number of times a crime is thwarted by responsibly armed citizens, whether on their own property, or in the public spaces. Sutherland Springs is an example of a responsibly armed citizen intervention that did receive wide coverage.

I invite your attention to the latest report of Mass Attacks in Public Spaces published by the Secret Service's National Threat Assessment Center at [www.secretservice.gov/protection/ntac/](http://www.secretservice.gov/protection/ntac/). There is no single profile for those who engaged in mass attacks. Could a responsibly armed citizen intervene under extremis condition? I believe in some cases one could. On the other hand, if the state or for that matter, private property owners, deny the citizen the otherwise protected right to bear arms, that person has no chance in hades of employing a firearm defensively. Case in point is the El Paso mass attack at a mall last year.

Every time the state or a local jurisdiction passes a law or ordinance restricting the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment guarantee, it leaves the people less safe. The effect of these laws is cumulative, and the result is sometimes tragic.

As a retired Federal law enforcement officer with over 40 years of civil service and contract service, I reiterate my opposition to any legislation that would work an infringement of my 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment protection.

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Retired Federal LEO