

Attn: [REDACTED]

Dear Select Committee Members, Chair Darby:

I am writing you today as a Texan, American, parent, engineer and firearms safety instructor, with respect to your upcoming hearing on **Mass Violence Prevention & Community Safety**.

This is well-known topic to me – not long ago, I was against firearms, and thought it was crazy for civilians to own firearms.

Then my car was prowled a few times, and I recalled an incident where my home was broken into, I was drugged, robbed, and almost died because of the drug + asthma combination. The turning point was in 2010, where a police officer in Washington State (where I lived at the time) suggested I used a firearm to defend myself, should an abusive person I dated for a while come back.

What followed is months of me thinking that suggestion over and over – I eventually got trained, got licensed, then purchased a gun in 2011.

For months thereafter, I often lost sleep – there's a gun in my house! What if it goes off at night on its own? What if someone finds out am carrying?

Fast forward a few years, I cannot now imagine leaving home without a gun. I later became a certified firearms safety instructor, just to volunteer in training members of my community.

After years of following news about gun laws, gun safety, gun rights, gun control, how law enforcement works in protecting me, how gun free zones are enforced, how states often abused laws that were initially enacted by well-intending people (and some not), I have come to the following, strong beliefs:

1. **Gun free zones are a myth** – how does a sign keep an evil person away from a business or home? It doesn't. Unless there are metal detectors, guards and an insurance policy guaranteeing I'll be safe in a business, I believe gun-free zones violate the Texas Constitution, as those cannot logically be considered as "with a view to prevent crime"
2. **Magazine size limits are illogical** – an evil doer can buy many magazines, and switching magazines is very easy and fast – who gets harmed by these policies? Someone carrying two kids, a purse and trying to protect his/her family from one or more attackers, while running away from the attacker(s) – this is when a "low capacity" magazine puts the victim at a disadvantage, without disadvantaging the criminal
3. Universal Background Checks are a feel-good solution that I have seen always abused, never useful, and here's why:

- a. It perpetuates the idea that someone who was convicted once of crime cannot reintegrate in society – such an “ex-con” should be able to rent, work, vote and buy guns – if they have not been “corrected” why have they been released? Why even call it the “Department of Corrections”?
 - b. It creates a lot of paperwork for law abiding citizens, even for legitimate loans for safekeeping, self-defense and hunting (I stopped sharing a gun in Washington State with a domestic violence victim because they enacted Universal Background Checks – this law harmed a victim, as the process is complex, requires travel and high fees at the beginning and end of the loan)
 - c. It creates a registry of guns, which can be abused by hackers, foreign governments, and local governments – one false accusation by a disgruntled employee and you can lose your guns? Until you get your guns back, you’re exposed to criminals and violence
4. “Extreme Risk Protection Orders” are unconstitutional, and make you guilty until proven innocent – even the ACLU went publicly against these – are we the United States of America or are we intentionally trying to enact laws only worthy of dictatorships like Syria and North Korea? **Even if constitutional (they are not), who guarantees your safety between the day police confiscate your guns and the day you have your day in court?**
5. **“Assault Weapons” is a misnomer** – my hands can be an “assault weapon” – a frying pan can be an “assault weapon” – let’s stop oversubscribing the term. The US military has traditionally classified “assault weapons” as only “machine guns” and firearms capable of shooting many rounds with one pull of a trigger – how come a bunch of high schoolers and elitist politicians with little to no firearms expertise now want to redefine the term completely to ban most self-defense weapons in the Nation? Well-informed Americans can cut through the lies, and so should you.

If anything, we should:

- 1. Abolish gun free zones signage
- 2. Those who want gun free businesses need to have metal detectors at the door, and have to ensure your safety between their premises and where you are currently keeping your gun
- 3. Schools should not be gun free zones for those dropping off their kids, if they have an LTC – blue states like Oregon and Washington allow this, why not here? This is not a partisan issue, but if we are to make it so, at least let’s get it right!

Respectfully,
Jade Naaman