

Texas House Select Committee on Mass Violence Prevention and Community Safety:

I am writing to respond to Duty 4: *"Evaluate the ongoing and long-term workforce needs of the state related to cybersecurity, mental health, law enforcement, and related professionals;"*

The above charge was issued in context of preventing mass violence. My specific interest is that as the Committee seeks to tailor policy to reduce or eliminate mass casualty attacks it does not infringe upon the civil rights of peaceable Texans

I hope that it is not any member's intention to use a focus on mass violence to further policy designed to weaken our rights to defend ourselves. In other states, such focus has been used to advance so called "red flag laws" and "universal background checks" (read firearm registry).

Red Flag Laws (ERPOs): The delegitimization of the citizen's right to evidentiary standards (probable cause) and due process protections in order to seize firearms from a person who has been informed upon by someone in their life for being "threatening". Such laws are designed to be abused by estranged lovers, relatives, or coworkers who simply hold different worldviews. In 2020 it is no longer hyperbole to say that mainstream voices in one political party are daily accusing their political opposition being "dangerous", "racist", "misogynistic", "ignorant". Indeed it is the espoused position of some that simply owning guns is proof of mental instability. In this environment Texans cannot trust the state to seize property on mere suspicion and wait for due process at some point in the future.

It is not hard to imagine the following scenario playing out in our current environment:

Imagine a business owner who is approached by an activist group to prominently display signs or symbols espousing support of the activist's position. Imagine then that the owner refuses, for whatever reason. In cases such as this business owners have had their businesses threatened and social media has been used to vilify them for refusing to bend the knee to the mob. Our business owner begins spending nights in their business in order to protect it, they take along a weapon for protection. Imagine then that a false complaint is made that the business owner is a "mass violence threat" by relations or acquaintances for the express purpose of making him more vulnerable to attack. Police dutifully seize the man's weapons and his business, family, and person are left unprotected. It will be cold comfort for this business owner after his family is assaulted or his business burned down when the state gets around to recognizing his rights again some weeks or months later. In light of the events of 2020 this scenario is more than plausible. Indeed it is a certainty if "red flag laws" are allowed onto the books.

Universal Background Checks (UBCs):

Universal background checks are a trojan horse for firearm registries and a firearm registry is the tool that enables confiscation.

The 2nd Amendment exists to codify the individual right to protect oneself and one's rights from any person or institution seeking to violate them. It is the last resort of free men, a kind of firewall to

tyrants, criminals, and mobs. Simply by being exercised, the 2nd Amendment protects all of the other rights (free speech, equal protection, free association, right to petition, etc) while preventing the worst of the bloodshed and injustice that occurs when tyrants and mobs don't fear their victims.

Mobs and tyrants cannot seize guns when they don't know who has what. This has been the problem everywhere firearms have been banned in part or in whole. It's words on paper if a despot cannot go house to house with a list and account for every item of contraband. Mike Bloomberg and his minions know this so their plan is this:

- 1) UBCs (useless without a registry)
- 2) Either simultaneously with passage of UBCs or at some point in the future to "plug a loophole" a registry will be funded and citizens will be required to register. The compliant will register, criminals will not.
- 3) In the emotional aftermath of some outrage the registered items will be banned and the government will go down it's list seizing contraband from the law abiding and we will now live in a society where only the government and criminals are armed.

Addressing Mass Violence

At its heart the problem of mass violence is a moral problem and it requires a moral solution. Children and young people must internalize the sanctity of all human life. They must be philosophically inoculated against collectivist ideologies that pit one group of Texans against others. They must learn to be unafraid to get involved in the lives of others in a positive way. They must develop resilient self-images that that are not brittle when faced with slights. They must learn to forgive instead of nursing grievances. They must be convinced that their lives, all lives, have meaning.

Texas could hire enough clinical psychologists so that every Texan had a personal counselor following them around to judge and diagnose every personal interaction from one end of the state to the other and never offer the meaning young people need to assign value and purpose to human life.

Unfortunately, government cannot remedy the moral morass we are in but it can make it worse. This requires a cultural shift and needs be driven by cultural influencers with purpose taken up in every individual's heart.

In the meantime, we need to ensure that when one of these malcontents decides to express his hatred for human life by killing us there is always a good guy with a gun their to stop it by eliminating gun free zones and other victim disarmament zones.