

Subject: Committee: Mass Violence Prevention & Community Safety, Select Duty (4)
Public Comments

Cyber security

The State of Texas historical records and ongoing records, public records access, access to State of Texas Agencies services, daily official communications, employee and citizen proprietary information, and business proprietary data as well as all State of Texas digital data must be protected against unauthorized cyber access, modification, deletion, and blackout. Our state communications, networks, and both public and private outputs must be carefully secured and controlled. Changes and upgrades for both cyber hardware and software occur continuously at exponential rates. Therefore, adequate plans, funding, and personnel must be in place to at least keep-up with the developing changes. A mass violence event accompanied by or set off by a state-wide cyber security shut-down would result in social chaos and physical public anarchy.

Mental Health

Mental health may apply to groups, but generally applies to individuals. As to the mental health of Texas citizen, the main issue is safety. Safety of our person, our families, our public utilities, public services, and safety to conduct our daily activities and livelihood. Citizens feel safe when people conform to the laws, and those who will not conform are held accountable for their non-conforming actions. For this, we depend primarily on our law enforcement organizations. However, to feel safe, we must have confidence in our elected officials and leaders. They must also obey the laws and perform the requirements of their elected positions, and within their official limits prosecute their oaths of office. Nothing will deteriorate or destroy the confidence and mental health of the citizenry then the appearance of two sets of rules for citizens and political office holders. It becomes us and them. Therefore, we must do what is necessary to hold law breakers accountable, to hold our elected officials accountable for performing their duty or we must remove them by ballot or by regulation for failure to perform their duties. Failure to keep our Texas citizens feeling safe will result in a mental fear that they are on their own and must protect themselves. This mental attitude is clearly seen along the Gulf Coast during hurricane disasters. Most Texas feel safe in their homes since they have firearms to secure their homes until order is restored. The Legislature need not make new or more restrictive laws to restrict Texas citizens possession or use of their own firearms. Such new restrictions would only lead to a deterioration of Texans feeling safe in case of a mass violence event and would not deter or prevent a mass violence event.

The mental health of an individual is another matter. In the case of an individual, it is a medical issue. Medical proven mental abnormality can only be recognized or determined based on the known or proven actions of the individual or by actual clinical testing of the individual by trained medical experts. Even then, mental health of an individual can be subjective based on circumstances, environment, or inconsistent results from the individual's actions. There are many and varied views of what is "normal" mental health. Making laws based on a subjective standard and dealing with potential individual actions that have not occurred is a very, very risky legislative action. Let us not fall into a fascist trap of "control". If there are no proven actions or actual clinical testing, who will make the subjective decision about an individual's mental state? Certainly, there should be no firearm legislation based on the unproven mental status of an individual or group. Yes, there is a minuscule risk that Texas must face, that is that a single individual will take "crazy" action and innocent people may be harmed. However,

the action of that one person cannot be the basis for subjective firearm legislation that would impair the safety of the vast majority of Texans. (When you drive home today, notice the “crazy” drivers on the streets with you. They kill Texans every day.)

Law Enforcement

Texans know that our law enforcement officers keep us safe from law breakers and from those who would create a mass violence event. Just a few decades ago when Texas became a state, stealing cattle or Comanches raiding a ranch was not tolerated. Rioting and looting must not be tolerated today. Not by our elected officials, not by our police organizations, and not by our Texas citizens. Back in the day, individual ranchers might have to make a stand at a raid, but then their neighbors would gather, pursue and eliminate the problem. Back then, we formed and sent Texas Rangers, today we still have Texas Rangers plus sheriffs and local police. We depend on them to keep us safe. However, current events have pushed our feelings for safety back to the 1840's. Today, there is an unprecedented demand for firearms. The price for firearms is skyrocketing. Try to find a handgun, AR, or shotgun to buy. If you can find one, you will pay a big price. The same goes for ammunition and for reloading components; the shelves are bare. Primers for reloading are unavailable and you can't even place a backorder for them. That's not just in Texas, it is true across the nation. That means Texans and Americans don't feel safe, and they question the ability or willingness of law enforcement to protect them. In light of the way Texans feel, and the current social circumstances, why would the Texas Legislature want to make a spectacle by introducing new legislation or regulations that would further restrict Texas from possessing, keeping, using, or purchasing firearms, ammunition, or reloading components?

Law enforcement agencies, departments, and officers are our defense and shield against law breakers and mass violence. Our Texas Legislature should make no laws or regulations that would prevent the effective action of our law enforcement officers. At the same time the Legislature should actively assist State Agencies, County and Local governments to aggressively discipline and prosecute all law enforcement personnel who overstep or abuse anyone in the conduct of their duties.

Related (Workforce) Professionals

Uncertain of the identity of this group based on the wording the request of input. Does this refer to Professionals related to Law Enforcement or does this refer to Professionals related to long-term workforce needs? No input is submitted.