

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Duty # 4 Submission"
Date: Friday, August 21, 2020 3:20:31 PM

Good afternoon, I am writing to notify you of my concerns with the House Select Committee on Mass Violence Prevention and Community Safety. A little bit about myself so that you can understand my statement regarding gun control. I am a retired Texas teacher of 35 years retiring last year from the classroom. I am still involved with education as I work with new teacher to help them obtain their certification. As a parent and a Teacher I never felt scared or intimidated. I remained vigilant and aware of my surroundings at all times. I practiced active shooter drills and what if's with my students long before shooting up schools was in the news. I would ask the principals I worked with and the ones in charge of the school my daughter was attending -do you have someone other than the campus cop with a weapon?. I firmly believe that due to the fact that schools are gun free zones they are easy assessable for the evils that lurk in the world. I ask that Legislators end Gun Free Zones and encourage more teachers and citizens get trained and prepared to defend themselves. I believe more teachers need to be able to defend and protect themselves and their classrooms. I am also glad that now I can go to a school and have my gun in my vehicle in the event something happens while traveling because some of the schools I visit are in dangerous neighborhoods. Guns are also a part of my families livelihood as ranchers in West Texas we have to be able to protect ourselves from Illegal aliens that walk up to our house with the purpose of stealing from us or from drug runners who have found an alternate route through our lands to escape detection. A year ago my 82 year mother was driving down US 285 when several illegals flagged her down by standing in the middle of the road daring her to run over them. This is an area where there is no cell service and had she not had a gun on her it could have not gone well. Earlier this year 6 Guatemalans were discovered out by our barn and only my 82 year old mother was home. Limiting gun access will not keep Texans safer because illegals that come to steal from us don't follow our laws, and crazy people who know that churches and schools don't allow guns won't stop them from attacking our schools.

Instead of attacking gun owners who are law abiding citizens why not focus on mental health issues. Focusing on mental health issues would help with the homeless situation and come up with better ways to keep weapons out of the hands of people that are mentally ill. In addition why not focus on making the LEO's stay in touch with other agencies that includes the military so that they do a better job cross referencing who is on the list for no weapons. It seems to me that every time we have a tragic shooting or mass shooting, the person got ahold of a gun and wasn't supposed to because some agency dropped the ball. I don't believe that Red Flag laws are truly an answer because they can be so misused. Basically, anybody can say somebody threatened them and the government can take a weapon without due process. I don't think that is right because a person needs to be able to protect their homes and belongings.

In closing we need to keep the evil-doers away from schools and churches. We need to end the Gun Free Zones and allow people to carry concealed weapons to protect as the 2nd Amendment is meant to do. Also I believe that you all in Austin need to avoid enacting any Red Flag laws because all though they are well meaning they are also easily manipulating. Please share and listen to what we have to say- we live in a world where being safe should not restrict our ability to keep and bear arms and protect our own.

Thank you,
Darlene Stegall. M.Ed.
Fort Stockton, Tx.

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