

The Texas House Committee on Mass Violence Prevention & Community Safety
c/o [REDACTED]

August 21, 2020

Respectfully submitted by Bradley Bogue

I would like to enlighten you about several facts, not emotions, facts and follow with a suggestion for your consideration.

Violence involving guns is not a “gun” problem nor is it a NICS problem; it is a drug, mental illness and a lack of enforcing current laws problem

Rational gun owners carry not as a weapon, but, as a shield. Over and over it has been proven the only way to stop a bad guy with a gun is a good guy with a gun. The Washington Times has reported there is a national drop in crime as more concealed carry licenses are issued. There are instances right here in Texas. Such as the church shooting in West Texas earlier this year of a good guy with a gun stopping a bad guy. This weekend (December 28, 2019) a church in White Settlement west of Fort Worth experienced a crazy man with a shotgun who was just starting on a killing rampage was stopped by a good guy with a gun (2 dead, 1 injured), as reported by Concealed Nation and Fox News plus other media outlets.

Looking at ALL the mass shootings since 1966, (LA Times, August 4, 2019) the vast majority of mass shooters had childhood trauma often involving violence, which developed into mental illness issues. Very nearly all reached a crisis point shortly before the event, Perpetrators study other perpetrators and model their acts after previous shootings creating cluster events. 100% had weapons and did not face a good guy (though could have if the proper laws were in place), many did not go through or actually passed the NICS test, most had drugs in their system and most were emotional based killings.

According to an excellent issue of *Imprimis* (Jan 2019 “Marijuana, Mental Illness, and Violence”) published by Hillsdale College using marijuana fairly quickly alters brain activity and in many people produces violent actions without concern for the victim. Cocaine actually remodels the brain function.

Please review the publication 2018 edition of the FBI's annual report *Crime in the United States*. You'll find both violent crime and property crime are diminishing year after year without adding new laws. Both categories involve personal protection.

An undocumented element that continues to affect criminal acts is the element of surprise. A criminal or perpetrator often depends upon the victim to be unarmed. When a victim is able to defend themselves the illegal act is rescheduled to a later time or stopped in it's tracks. What is needed to make a safer society today it is not stricter laws, it is using common sense to meet the illegal force with a known, proven method of stopping the crime and protecting the victim.

Stick with me a bit more, please.

In mid November three mass shootings took place in California, one in a school, an area designated as a gun-free zone, a second in a private home, and a third in a backyard party. Despite the strict gun control regulations in California, especially in gun-free zones such as schools, the teenage shooter was able to obtain a firearm despite being under the federal age requirement, carry it in such a gun-free and safe area, and use it against innocent people. Similarly, the party shooter was able to pounce on the defenseless party-goers without any resistance. More details are below.

I realize you are not up for election until 2022. What I would like to see at this upcoming legislative session are four positive steps to increase safety in Texas and to reduce the possibility of mass shootings as well as crime in general.

1. It makes no sense to vote for or prioritize any gun control measure or bill. This includes the NICS system. Criminals do not care about restrictive gun laws they will get guns elsewhere. By further restricting gun commerce the law abiding citizen finds it harder to buy guns, the criminal element finds the further eroding of the second amendment to be in their favor. With this in mind what NICS does is to make the community less safe. There are sufficient laws already available for law officers, I am asking you to Promote legislation to eliminate the possibility of additional laws especially in the areas of gun controls, including expanding background checks to private sales. Promote any effort of support where officers are enforcing existing laws.
2. For everyone's safety, Please publicly urge the passage of Constitutional Carry AND prioritize its passage into law.
3. Do not support any effort dilute the right to Constitutional Carry.
4. Please turn your efforts to energize the drug and mental illness support programs and agencies in our state.

Thank you for your time.
My deepest respect,

Bradley Bogue,

More details on the three shootings:

- The first shootings took place on Thursday, Nov. 15, 2019, in Santa Clarita, CA when a 16-year old student from Saugus High School shot five of his classmates before turning the gun on himself. Two of the victims and the shooter succumbed to gunshot wounds.
- The home shooting incident took place on Saturday, Nov. 17, 2019 in San Diego, CA where a man killed his ex-wife and three children before committing suicide with the gun.
- On Sunday night, Nov. 18, 2019 an armed man invaded a backyard party in Fresno and opened fire on the revelers killing four and injuring six men between the ages of 25 and 35 years.

If you have not seen the video Hopefully Texas Lt. Gov Dan Patrick is reevaluating his stance on red flag, Which is guilt by innuendo and removes your 2nd amendment right without proof.

Here is video of the event: Here is also an interview with the Good Guy with a Gun.

Here is the event <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xJ4HCb6-wZ8>

Here is a fabulous interview <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cuOEv1jCivg>

By the way ... The shooter had a long criminal record and legally could not own a gun. No law stops a criminal. As 14 US states ads well as Israel and Switzerland have proven ... less gun control is safer.

At the end of the video "Seattle is Dying" is a short bit about a community in Rhode Island that solved the problem. Simple solution that requires an understanding heart, tough love and courage. Enforcement and intervention.

<https://komonews.com/news/local/komo-news-special-seattle-is-dying>

Red Flag laws prohibit police from protecting citizens <https://defensemaven.io/bluelivesmatter/news/woman-files-false-red-flag-complaint-against-cop-who-shot-her-son-K6GZZz41j0iZ9OIdz7B0EQ?fbclid=IwAR379tPgAzrVGnDyWGqhfqxKl8i1GOvVsovsbH4UVyv6qVpYGGDFOAMu1k0>

TO MY ELECTED OFFICIALS

The right to keep and bear arms natural right is entirely rooted in the natural right to self-defense, and;

The Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution is merely a recognition of this right as such, and only serves to protect it from infringement by the government, and;

Red flag Laws (also known as Extreme Risk Protection Orders), background checks, firearm registries, and current gun control laws blatantly violate this natural right and;

Red flag Laws not only inherently deny the constitutional right of due process for the individual accused by having them prove their innocence to the court, but they have also been directly responsible for innocent lives being lost without a crime ever being committed by the accused;

Therefore: I respectfully urge you as my elected official to publicly oppose any Red Flag legislation, as well as any other piece of legislation that further infringes on our natural right to bear arms.

FBI latest data **Armed Citizens Are Successful 94% Of The Time At Active Shooter Events [FBI] Feb, 2020**

<https://www.concealedcarry.com/news/armed-citizens-are-successful-95-of-the-time-at-active-shooter-events-fbi/?fbclid=IwAR3XJxhlcEel1e9i-IvgYmUqxjNQ9nt9W4eJzIuryocvnXCV3Jw2PUOhHK0>

Thank you for your time. Please resist the temptation to “do something” to further gun control. Do not resist this opportunity to uplift public safety through less gun control (including promoting Constitutional Carry laws and provide greater assistance to the mental health field.