

20 August 20, 2020

To: Laramie Stroud

From: Cal Dean

Re Duty #4 submission

Sir,

I would like to put forth the following comments for consideration. I was made aware of the committees scheduled meeting and the ability for those of us who have an interest to comment yesterday. I have not had a great deal of time to research the information provided by the Center for Violence Prevention and Sandy Hook Promise. I will confine my comments to personal views and beliefs.

1. I find the term "Gun Violence" to be highly loaded and inaccurate. A gun is an inanimate object incapable of violence on its own. A person must either purposefully or accidentally operate the gun to cause it to fire. This may seem a simple or pedantic statement, but the term is used to show if there is "gun violence" then something must be done about guns to cure the violence when it is obviously the person using the tool that creates the violence.
2. Universal background checks, closing the boyfriend loophole, closing the gun show loophole, Straw purchase – A licensed store can easily be held responsible for selling a firearm without an NICs background check. They have inventory records that will correspond to the wholesaler/manufacturer's records and a record of the sale/background check to the purchaser. This is a simple chain to follow. None of this is available to enforce background checks between private individuals. In the worst implementations proposed it would mean that I couldn't lend a hunting rifle to a hunting partner while hunting, let someone try my gun at a range, or lend an arm to a family member or friend without a check and then pass a check when it's returned. In any form it will add cost and inconvenience to the seller and buyer of a firearm without adding any added protection to the public. Criminals don't follow laws which is why they are criminals. Adding another law for them to break is unlikely to

change their behavior. I also can't think of any other possession that I'm required to request government permission before selling, lending or giving away.

3. Red flag laws, CARR (crisis aversion & rights retention orders), EPROs (Extreme risk protection orders, GVROs (Gun violence restraining orders) – While I can understand the to wish to prevent someone from committing violent crime or suicide these laws have very serious problems. They violate a person's 2<sup>nd</sup> amendment rights and in the usual forms put forth also violate the 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> amendments. If you wish to remove a person's property, then have a trial where they can confront their accuser and defend themselves. Red flag laws as generally formatted allow a person to be secretly accused, judged & found guilty. At best the accused is required to hire a lawyer and go to court to prove they are not guilty. This goes against everything this country is supposed to stand for.

The standard to which a person is judged unfit to have their firearms has to be arbitrary as there is no law that they have broken. What is considered grounds in one jurisdiction would not be in another. It is solely at the discretion of the judge. There is also no solid ground to request removal of firearms, only that someone in the circle prescribed by the law feels that they may be a threat.

There have been cases where people have been killed because police showed up to confiscate their guns without them having any knowledge of why. In the case of potential suicide removing guns only limits one means of killing oneself.

4. Violent crime, homicide and crimes committed with guns have been falling in Texas for 20 years. If we want to lessen the danger to the public from mass shootings the logical choice is to deregulate gun free zones. These are nothing more than open invitations to those intent on killing. Traumatizing children in school with active shooter drills when school shooting are in reality a very rare, though highly publicized and utilized, occurrence is not the answer. Allow teachers to carry if they wish. Allow parents to carry on school grounds. If you really want to make a difference in firearm deaths to children institute gun safety classes in schools.

I thank the committee for the chance to have my say. I find this constant call to just do something infuriating. I'm old enough to remember long guns in gun racks in student parking in school. No one thought a thing about it. Not long ago in Houston the news reported that a child's BB gun was seen on his bedroom wall by his teacher during remote Zoom classes. Formal complaints were made and the police showed up at his door. We have billionaires from the other end of the country donating millions of dollars to influence our elections to try and curtail gun rights in Texas and other states. We need to put a stop to this here and now.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Cal Dean

Texas voter.