

## Senate Select Committee on Mass Violence Prevention & Community Safety

To all committee members in attendance,

First off, thank you for hearing my voice here in my personal statement, understanding that I am strongly against any type of so called "red flag" laws, expanded background checks, and any other measure or "political tool" to prevent law-abiding citizens from providing protection for themselves, their families, and friends. All of the political measures listed above are unconstitutional, and have no place in America; period. Red flag laws, in this country, have already led to wrongful gun confiscation, which we cannot allow to happen in Texas. Expanded background checks, is simply a national gun registry; just go ahead and say what it really is, Michael Bloomberg. A gun registry is the key to total gun confiscation; we cannot allow this to happen in America. Don't believe me? Look at Australia, New Zealand, the UK, China, Canada, and Japan. Law-abiding citizens turning in their firearms to stop criminals from using guns; unbelievable, that's what this is, plain unbelievable.

Enforce the current background checks that are already in place, which are unconstitutional by the way. You cannot buy a firearm online and have it shipped to your house; it doesn't work that way, as many of the "first-time" gun buyers are experiencing right now during the pandemic; many are disappointed to find this to be true. Surprise, surprise, anti-gun population. Isn't it odd that all the anti-gun people made up the majority of the first time gun buyers? They realized that the government cannot, and will not protect them; the police is limited to the number of resources available, and to think groups backing and funding the socialist democrats, not to mention the majority of the democrats, including "sleepy" joe, would like to defund the police. Insanity you say? Yes, it is. As you will see me state multiple times, in my personal statement, criminals are the problem, not guns, and not law-abiding citizens. Lock-up, and punish the criminals, stop setting them free; then and only then, will we make great gains in cutting down violence in America.

My father, a United States Air Force veteran, raised me in the outdoors, along with an occasional dove hunting trip. Today, I am carrying on the tradition my father blessed me with and passing it along to my seventeen year old. "I am" a law-abiding, gun owner, who understands the importance of gun safety and also personal protection. These past few months have brought great concern to me as an American, as well as a gun owner. For some irrational reason, the democrats "always" want to push along further gun scrutiny and gun control legislation, even in the stimulus bills, of all things; this is very, very disturbing to me and makes me realize that public officials are not thinking about things from a logical perspective. The real issue lies in several areas, which I'm about to discuss. First, removing God out of our schools, fatherless homes, as well as removing the "Pledge of Allegiance" from our schools; there is no love for this country anymore, just look at what's happening with our National Anthem, riots, looting, total destruction of our history and our statues, which I might add these true Americans gave their life for this country and made America what it is today; prior to the total lack of self-

discipline, and self control. There are no morals anymore, or any care, or concern for people's lives, in this country; that begins at home and in the schools, and yes, even church. The police, who deserve our appreciation and support, have become a target to criminals and people of hate, trying to disband/abolish the police all together. The state and federal judges are not prosecuting first time, and/or repeat offenders, rather just wrist slapping, and letting them back out on the streets. Some states have legalized marijuana and other so-called “medicinal drugs”, which is totally ludicrous. What is wrong with this country?! The state of California has become a literal “haven” for criminals, illegal aliens, and an overwhelming amount of homelessness; with the latest total chaos, Portland, Chicago, Los Angeles, Seattle, Minneapolis, San Francisco, and several other blue run cities, have joined them. Nancy Pelosi, a representative from California, which is an absolute state of chaos, is trying to ruin other parts of this great country; “no thank you”, don't bring that insane ideology to my great state of Texas! Nancy Pelosi, Chuck Schumer, Michael Bloomberg, and Andy Cuomo are all part of this socialist movement that is trying to sweep across our beautiful country; I say “No!” to them. Too many Americans have given their life for this wonderful country and I'm not about to just sit back and do nothing; I stand and fight with my fellow brothers and sisters in Christ, to keep our great nation strong and courageous.

Instead of looking into ways to educate, and inform the positive aspects of more people legally carrying, certain state and federal governments are looking for ways to modify and or remove the Second Amendment, which is a God given right. Us, law-abiding citizens, are here to protect ourselves, our families, and fellow citizens; the police cannot be everywhere and are limited by their sheer size. If the police departments are “defunded”, therefore understaffed, by the recent downsizing efforts currently underway by these “left” run cities, the police may not even be able to respond. Then, how are “we” able to protect our families and ourselves?

The average citizen doesn't have an armed security team, to protect us. If you attempt to disarm us, law-abiding citizens, all you are doing is further empowering the criminals, and their hate, and their evil, to rule this country, and the world, for that matter. No matter what types of legislation you pass/enforce on the law-abiding citizens, criminals will never comply; lawlessness will continue to run amuck in this country, as you're seeing as we speak. Take any example you wish, to see where this is already happening. Need I remind you of the LA riots? The riots and looting after President Trump won the 2016 election? Total destruction of certain US cities after the George Floyd incident, and several other judicial outcomes; including just plain hate for our president, and our country. Not to forget, the purest of evil, antifa, and their followers of hate. Please see and realize, the problem doesn't lie with us, law-abiding citizens, but with the criminals; they come to steal, kill, and destroy, period. Sound familiar? Yes, Jesus, specifically states this in His word, the Holy Bible, “*The devil comes to steal, kill, and destroy.*” “*I have come that you may have life, and life more abundantly, and to the full.*”

I will be glad to wrap-up my written testimony with several, documented facts clearly showing that guns are not the problem, people are the problem; evil people. Guns don't kill people, people kill people. Don't focus on us law-abiding citizens, focus on the evil of this world.

I am a huge proponent for concealed carry reciprocity, ending “gun-free” zones, and stop requiring a government license to carry a handgun. I believe the government infringing on Constitutional rights is a greater threat to our safety than criminals. Thank you for your time.

Here are the facts:

- **Guns are used many times more often to save innocent lives than to harm them.**
- **Government is needed, but it needs to be controlled by the people.** "We the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union."
- **We need better enforcement of current laws,** not new legislation that will only restrict the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding citizens instead of stopping violent criminals.
- **Violating firearms laws should lead to very real punishment for violent criminals, but the laws first must be enforced.**
- According to the Department of Justice, **77% of criminals in state prison for firearm crimes get firearms through theft, on the black market, from a drug dealer or “on the street,” or from family members and friends, while less than 1% get firearms from dealers or non-dealers at gun shows.**
- A study by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) of federal armed career criminals showed that while **79% had acquired their firearms from “off the street” sales, “criminal acts,” and relatives, only 6% had acquired firearms from dealers or non-dealers at gun shows and flea markets.**
- **Rifles of any type are used in only 2% of murders.**
- **Murder rates were 19.3% higher when the Federal [assault weapon] ban was in effect.”**
- **AR-15s are the most commonly used rifles in marksmanship competitions, training, and home defense.**
- **Total violent crime and murder has fallen to near historic lows, while ownership of the firearms and magazines that gun control supporters want banned has risen to all-time highs.**
- **Crime reports and felon surveys showed that “assault weapons” were used in only 1-2 percent of violent crimes,** and in the 10 preceding years **murders committed without guns outnumbered those with “assault weapons” by about 37-to-1.**

Why do elected officials have security personnel, and what does your security personnel carry to protect you, your family, and your fellow officials? I’m pretty sure you understand the importance of having an armed security team, to impede any poseable threat. We, law-abiding citizens, also need that same line of protection. The Constitution and the Bill of Rights, given by God, gives us these rights.

*\*The Second Amendment of the United States Constitution reads: “A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.”*

Read that until it's clear, "shall not be infringed." Every government official works for the American citizens of this country, not the other way around.

In summary, the best way to make Texas safer, is to encourage law-abiding citizens to carry firearms for their own self-protection, as well as others around them. An armed citizen can prevent mass shootings, and other violent acts of terror; the police need all the help they can get. An armed society is a polite society.

Why not look at the percentages of drinking, drugs, and people under the influence while driving a vehicle, related deaths? *Maybe it's just a political game, and it doesn't create enough drama for the left wing media, and their followers?* It just doesn't make any sense to attack us law-abiding, gun owners. The numbers are just not there, period. It's time for Nancy, Mikey, Cuomo, and the aoc to move on. All the money and time being wasted on gun control "political" measures, with all the need in this world, plainly fighting against the good people of this country. Makes no sense; aka nonsense.

God bless America, and God bless our President!

Thank you,

Mark Browning

+Christian, father, gun-owner, and proud to be an American!