

Comments for House Select Committee on Mass Violence Prevention and Community Safety (Duty 4)

My name is Dr. Fleer and I am writing this in response to some designated speakers, specifically Dr. Jeff Temple of the Center for Violence Prevention and Mark Barden of Sandy Hook Promise. I will go over some points and discuss how these gun control laws and actions related to Crisis Aversion and Rights Retention Orders (CARR also known as Red Flag Laws) have resulted in the unjust deaths of many individuals like Breonna Taylor, Duncan Lemp, and countless others.

Jeff Temple points out that much violence involving shooters has a common trend in that the criminal has demonstrated hatred or violence toward women. This is true and precisely why individuals, especially women, need the ability to carry firearms for self-defense. I witnessed one such abusive man harassing a woman and this is precisely why I began carrying a firearm.

I had a license to carry, but seldom carried because I reasoned the need was rare. It just made background checks quicker and I figured it would be useful when traveling. That changed when I was sitting in my car alone and a woman hurriedly walked past on the sidewalk with a concerned expression on her face. Then a man walked up and pushed her off the sidewalk and started telling her how she needed to do as he said and made several statements along the lines of “you belong to me”. He started behaving like he was going to beat her, but always stopped just short of contact and kept circling her and trying to force her to go where he wanted. She looked terrified. Fortunately, his swings made minimal contact. She managed to slip away into a nearby office. I realized that, if he had decided to beat or kill her, there would be nothing I could have done. Those are the victims that gun free zones mandate exist. That area wasn’t gun free zone, so I could have kept her safe or she could have defended herself against the abusive man if she was carrying a firearm, but I was not, so I have carried one ever since! This just shows why gun free zones should not exist and why carrying a firearm is true women’s empowerment and allows a woman like her to stand up to an abusive man.

Secondly, when focusing on behavioral psychology, it is important to focus on the individual exhibiting the behavior, not the object the individual is utilizing. There is no such thing as a violent gun, but rather a violent individual. Focusing on the behavior of an individual will allow us to get to the root cause of said behavior, whereas focusing on an inanimate object, which cannot exhibit behavior, will not.

Dr. Temple brings up another point. People who have access to guns are 18 times more likely to threaten someone with a gun. If the woman being threatened in the aforementioned story had been carrying a gun, one would not blame her for threatening the abusive man with her gun as her life was potentially in danger. This statistic is misleading because many of these instances are in self-defense.

Furthermore, there are a series of “loopholes” mentioned, such as the so-called “boyfriend loophole” and “stranger loophole”. These loopholes are recently created buzzwords and do not exist. They are just different ways of saying someone sold an object they own to another person. Prohibited persons are still barred from purchasing firearms and there are no loopholes. Mark

Barden also erroneously refers to these so-called “loopholes” that do not exist and thus the loopholes in his statement are un-closeable.

However, the most dangerous of proposals is brought up in Mark Barden’s statement, the CARR order, also known as Red Flag laws. It essentially declares an individual a criminal before any crime is committed and results in a no-knock raid and often the unlawful deaths of the innocent individual. The unlawful deaths of [Breonna Taylor](#) and [Duncan Lemp](#) are examples of the results of CARR and similar orders. No surprise the officers involved were quick to exonerate themselves and did NOT record the incidents on their bodycams. Plus, there is a high risk of raiding the incorrect address. Just a few days prior to writing this, there was a [raid on an incorrect residence](#) that could easily have resulted in the deaths of an innocent family in Nashville, Tennessee. This no-knock raid was targeting a vehicle burglar and was carried out at the incorrect address and put a family at risk. CARR and Red Flag laws are also dangerous for police as innocent civilians will assume they are potentially being attacked by criminals and will likely fight back, resulting in the deaths of police and oftentimes the civilian.

Solutions:

There are few simple ways to reduce mass violence. [Around 94% of mass shootings occur in gun free zones](#), so the easiest solution to stopping 94% of mass shootings, is to remove the zones where the shootings occur, i.e. remove gun free zones entirely. Further, enact constitutional carry to ensure that everyone is able to defend themselves regardless of social or financial status. The woman I witnessed being harassed may not have been able to afford a concealed carry license. Criminals are less likely to be violent if there is a chance someone is armed. It is especially useful now as the shutdowns and financial constraints due to Covid-19 make it difficult, if not impossible, to acquire a concealed carry permit, or even a firearm, at a time when, to avoid infection, the [police are responding slower and to fewer calls to avoid social contact](#) and even not physically responding to theft all together in Dallas, TX. Much like you have a first aid kit to stop the bleeding until an ambulance arrives, you own a firearm to stop the criminals until the police arrive.

A retired police officer in Anderson, TX told me that he was in favor of constitutional carry because, “The criminals will carry anyway, so it’s not the law-abiding citizens carrying I’m worried about. They won’t do harm, so why does it matter if I know they’re armed or on a registry? I’ll never know if the criminals are carrying, so it doesn’t matter”. An added solution is to crack down more harshly on criminals for the act of committing crime rather than focus on an inanimate object. You cannot declare the innocent guilty because you think they may commit a crime. Do not catch and release violent criminals and do not make shooters famous. Talk about what happened, but do not mention them by name.

There is a new non-profit called “[Hold My Guns](#)” that works with Federal Firearms License holders (FFLs) and families that feel a depressed family member could be a suicide risk to get the help they need and temporarily hold the firearms of at-risk individuals. This is done without a violent police raid and seeks to provide the counseling required to affected individuals. This avoids the unnecessary violence associated with CARR orders and Red Flag laws and, rather than abandoning an at-risk individual after a traumatic raid which leaves them either dead or more depressed in the case of CARR, Hold My Guns takes further action to provide the help the individual needs.

Examples that **DO NOT** work are expanded background checks and registration because criminals obtain firearms illegally through theft, gangs, or drug cartels. In short, reduce violence by targeting criminals for the crimes they commit. Do not force law abiding citizens to be victims; empower them to care for themselves and others around them.

Sincerely,

Dr. Fleer