

Testimony Prepared for:

House Select Committee on Mass Violence Prevention and Community Safety

By: Mrs. Stacey Roberts

It is not the right or responsibility of our government or our governor to restrict the rights and ability for citizens to be able to defend themselves. Lawful gun ownership empowers people to protect themselves against someone who wishes to do them harm. Your survival rate and the survival rate of those around you increases if you are armed and prepared to defend yourself with a gun. Focused efforts by our lawmakers to improve our security by means of unlawful surveillance and making someone suspect of a crime without due process promotes fear within lawful gun owners and slows down the process for lawful and responsible people to be able to acquire and keep their choice of gun. Less restrictive gun laws help one to be a victor and not a victim. The mentality of people who wish to restrict and mandate more gun laws is that they somehow have the power to manipulate good into people. That is a false narrative and belief system and causes more harm to those who need to be empowered not emasculated.

Let me tell you a story...My Father was a Dallas Police officer. Lieutenant Ernest Clyde Elrod worked South Dallas PD for 26 years. Later in his career he worked as a Deputy for Rockwall County. My whole life, I learned from my Dad that guns themselves were not evil...but that men's hearts were evil. We had guns at every entry of our home. None of those guns were to be touched by myself or my sister unless we were learning how to safely operate them by practicing how to shoot with my Dad. I never once saw one of those guns cause any harm or violence or make a bad decision.

Until the age of 9 years old, we lived in University Park Dallas. U.P. was known to be one of the safest areas in the DFW metroplex back in the early 70's and still is considered relatively safe today. They had a very large police force and the neighborhoods were considered to be well patrolled. Everyone wanted to live in the Park Cities because they had good schools and safe neighborhoods. One night when I was about 7 years old, we were home alone with just my mother. This was common because Dad worked swing shift and deep nights were part of the shift. I sat up in bed because there was a man standing on the back steps looking in my window. I called out to my mom that Dad was home, not realizing that this man was a peeping Tom and NOT my Dad. My mom swept me up and into the hallway where she grabbed her gun and the phone to call the police. After she phoned the local police, she called my Dad, but he had already heard the call out and started towards the house. My Dad arrived before the local officers. Unfortunately, the perpetrator had left, and they had missed catching him. I will never forget the startling reality that my Dad nor the police department caught the bad guy. What if he had broken in? The knowing that my mom was also armed and ready to protect us was comforting.

Fast forward 20 years... I was managing a Townhome property in North Addison off the Dallas Tollway. I moonlighted at a ski shop during ski season that was located close to Interstate 35 about 10 miles away. One cold evening as I travelled between jobs, I decided to pull into a gas station to fill up. As I got back into my car a man ran up, reached into my window and opened my door. There was no one around and my only defense was to scream at him to get out. He did not get out, instead he jabbed what he said

was a gun into my side and told me to drive until he said stop. The man reached into my purse pulled out all of my cash and then as I pulled into the location he demanded I drive to, he dashed away from the car. I immediately pulled away and drove far away from the location so I could call the police. I made a report which was all I could do. I later wondered if they ever caught this man. I also wondered what would've happened if I had pointed my own gun and told him to get away from my car. Those seconds count and those decisions would've given me the time to notify police and then they could've been more likely to catch him. I will never know if that man harmed another unsuspecting victim. But I do know that I will never be unprepared to protect myself again.

My concern today is that research by anti-gun grabbers focuses too much on socio-emotional learning. The message promoted by psychologists and professors like the one who influenced me to not carry a gun, may very well be leading to unnecessary fear in of guns and may prevent someone like myself from being able to protect themselves against a violent perpetrator.

Invited testimony by Dr. Temple who teachers at UTMB suggested one of three reasons for violence can be prevented by 3) changing social norms associated with toxic masculinity, misogyny, racism, sexism, and other forms of discrimination. My question is what do any of these things have to do with violent crime? This way of thinking gives way to a dangerous hypothesis that someone who garners a weapon to do a crime is somehow the victim. A victim of racism, a victim of sexism and or some form of toxic masculinity which by the way is made up and doesn't exist. Furthermore, Dr. Temple's 3 R's program actually promotes sex and the use of condoms. Is this the message we want to keep promoting to youth in our public school system? His message focuses on men being toxic and then gives methods on how to put a condom on. I respond with no...this is not a clear view of how to fix violence but increases toxic thinking towards men.

My focus today is to help you to realize that Red Flag laws and more restriction on gun owners only keeps good people from being able to protect themselves from bad people. Because of our increasingly violent society and the inability for our own government to understand due process and our God given rights, I feel it even more important that we ask government and you as law makers to not mandate more gun laws but to remove the unlawful 8 red flag laws signed on Sept 5th 1019 by governor Abbott.