

Thank you for the opportunity to provide public comment to The Texas House Committee on Mass Violence Prevention & Community Safety. While I am an unwavering supporter of the Second Amendment as written, I have limited my comments to specifically address Duty 4 as requested.

**Duty #4: Evaluate the ongoing and long-term workforce needs of the state related to cybersecurity, mental health, law enforcement, and related professionals.**

Comments Premise: Personal Responsibility and Self-Reliance. It is financially, logistically and physically impossible for law enforcement to protect all law-abiding citizens all the time. It is grossly unfair and irresponsible to expect law enforcement to be immediately present to prevent bad things happen. Rather, it is our personal responsibility and duty, to do our very best as citizens to protect ourselves and our families from violent criminals, and at the same time, help law enforcement professionals the best we can as private citizens.

Comment 1: Fully support law enforcement by fully enforcing existing laws, vigorously prosecuting violent criminals and sentencing convicted violent offenders to the maximum allowable sentence. This is especially applicable to repeat violent offenders, gang members, people who murder our children in or out of school and people who murder police officers. Zero tolerance for mass murderers, violent felons illegally in possession of a firearm, especially while committing any crime with a firearm. We certainly don't need more laws or restrictions targeting law-abiding citizens who want to protect themselves and their families from violent predators.

Comment 2: Eliminate gun free zones in Texas public places. Gun free zones only serve to place law-abiding citizens at greater risk and are a magnet for violent criminals targeting unarmed people. Year after year numerous cases in Texas and across America prove that responsibly armed citizens can stop violent criminals instantly.

Comment 3: Encourage and facilitate implementation of the Guardian Plan in all Texas public schools. Great program started by a native Texan in a remote area. The epitome of community actively protecting children.

Comment 4: Provide firearms education to our Texas public school children. NRA and USCCA instructors would do this for free, as would local law enforcement. We provide all manner of sex education in school, yet nothing on firearms. Time to stop vilifying firearms. They are a necessary tool in an increasingly violent world.

Comment 5: Goes hand in hand with Comment 4. Teach our children situational awareness and how to fight back. I don't want my child cowering under a desk waiting to be executed by a mass murderer or being intimidated or beaten by thugs. We need to give our kids a chance to survive until law enforcement arrives.

Summary

All the above require courage, commitment and responsibility. Texas can further support law enforcement by helping us help them. There needs to be a deeper partnership between law enforcement and citizens that goes beyond contributing a few dollars once year. We need to be able to help by protecting ourselves, our families and our communities and if need be, the very people that are committed to protecting us. When we are attacked by violent criminals, we are our own first responders and help alleviate the impossible expectations we have placed on law enforcement.