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It is my understanding that the Texas House Violence Prevention committee is seeking statements from the public. I would like to add my statement if possible.

You may be able to tell from my phone number that I moved to Texas from Maryland. What you wouldn't know is that I grew up going to highschool in Wheaton from 2001-2005. I've lived through an event of mass violence, the DC sniper. I remember how counter-productive all the fear, uncertainty and doubt surrounding the event was. I remember that when it came down to brass tacks, you could count on the police to cover your cold body with a blanket. I remember thinking that it would have been more productive to have an armed citizen in the vicinity that would have had a chance to stop the threat than to tell the public to watch for a non-existent white van.

You want to stop mass violence? Make more Jack Wilsons. Create a class of licensed citizens that are REALLY trained. The current CHL test is a joke, meant for grandma to be able to carry her 380. That's fine and dandy for Grandma, but for the public good find the men and women who are capable of shooting like Jack Wilson (they're 1 in a 1000 but that's still 30,000 in Texas) and do everything you can to make sure they're ready to respond. Deputize them, train them, let them be the militia. I've seen cops shoot. God bless them, but give me the Jack Wilson's (I know he has an FBI background, but there are plenty of civilian marksmen/women) of Texas and make sure they're always ready. Let them, no, MAKE them carry EVERYWHERE. That's how you will stop the next event of mass violence. (or drones with strobe lights and pepper spray that lock on to and seek sounds louder than 110 db...Inside a well defined environment I think that could work, but I'm a better shot than programmer).

People don't respond to the severity of a repercussion...they respond to INSTANT repercussions. Have you ever noticed that mass shootings seem to spur more mass shootings as the media creates a self amplifying feedback loop of notoriety and fear? But when you get an event like the White Settlement church shooting or the Texas "draw muhammed" event where the ne'er do well gets quickly smoked things quiet down? Maybe that's my own misperception, but it's also the one thing that everyone seems to loathe to try.

Look at Baltimore and Chicago for the result of gun bans and feel-good reactionary legislature. Poorly written Red flag laws and gun bans are just going to discourage people from seeking professional help and create criminals out of law-abiding citizens. How many minorities are already criminalized because of things like court debts or drug charges. Why add another trap that SHOULD be protected by the

constitution? Why create further division? Try something new for once for pete's sake.

When was the last time Switzerland, home to perhaps the most disciplined shooters in the world, had a mass shooting? Oddly enough I do kind of agree with some of the rhetoric used by gun grabbers...I would love a world where we actually had a well regulated militia. It worked well enough before.

Thank you,  
Michael