

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on Community Safety, Select
For HB 2744

Compiled on: Wednesday, April 19, 2023 3:53 AM

Note: Comments received by the committee reflect only the view of the individual(s) submitting the comment, who retain sole responsibility for the content of the comment. Neither the committee nor the Texas House of Representatives takes a position on the views expressed in any comment. The committee compiles the comments received for informational purposes only and does not exercise any editorial control over comments.

Hearing Date: April 18, 2023 9:00 AM

Harrison Miller, Mr.

Self

Humble, TX

This bill will help protect our children and increase gun control. It is NOT taking away any rights and will serve to protect our communities and minimize the damage caused by gun violence.

Janine Conner

PAVE

Houston, TX

Please vote for and pass HB2744. The bill could have prevented 19 children and 2 teachers from being killed in Uvalde. Raise the age. This is vitally important.

Paul Burdick

Self

Houston, TX

Please support and pass HB2744. This bill will help stem the widespread gun violence in our country, especially the shootings committed by youths under the age of 21. Raise the age because research shows that 18- to 20-year olds commit gun homicides at triple the rate of adults 21 and older. Data shows that we need to raise the age. Please support and vote in favor of this bill.

Jess Smith, Dr.

Self, professor

Waco, TX

I absolutely support raising the age from 18 to 21. The frontal lobe is not fully developed until age 25. Young adults do not need access to semiautomatic rifles. They have legal access to other weapons for the purpose of sport or self defense.

Wes Smith

Self

Waco, TX

I support this amendment. The frontal lobe of a person is not fully developed until 25 years old.

Brittney wasserman

Self

Dallas, TX

The violence is insanity. The lack of background checks is insanity. I fear having more than one child due to all the mass shootings at school. RAISE THE AGE LIMIT for gun buyers. This is not hard. Do the right thing.

Madeleine Wolf

Myself, Lawyer

Dallas, TX

Raise the age to buy assault rifle to 21.

Paige Hoyt

Self

Dickinson, TX

Definitely on board with this bill. Especially limiting the access for young people.

Caitlin Marquis

Self

Plano, TX

Please consider raising the age on purchasing assault style rifles. As a Texas mom to 4 kids, I worry daily sending them to school. Please do something to help the children.

Amanda Selvarajan, Mrs.

self, teacher

Arlington, TX

Hello, my name is Amanda Selvarajan and I reside in Arlington, Texas. I am a teacher and I have 2 elementary aged children. I am appalled at the gun violence we have seen in our country this year alone. I agree with the idea that young adults aged 18-20 should be prohibited from purchasing most semi-automatic rifles. There is no need for a young person to personally own a weapon of war. Thank you for your time. Let's do what's right for our state.

Navvab Taylor

Self, architect

Austin, TX

Please support getting rid of semiautomatic rifles and increasing penalties for improper transfer. These are killing machines that no one with a criminal record or history of violence or mental instability needs to own.

Taylor Silverman

Goldman Sachs

Dallas, TX

Please support

Lauri Ruiz

Self/Attorney

HOUSTON, TX

Please vote for and pass HB 2744. We need responsible legislation like this to protect citizens like the 19 innocent schoolchildren and 2 dedicated teachers from gun violence which is an epidemic in this country.

Julie Crowell
Self
Houston, TX

I want to see the age limit raised from 18 to 21 to buy a semiautomatic gun so I support this bill!

Courtney Meinen
Self, CFO
Austin, TX

Please raise the age for purchase or possession of semiautomatic and automatic weapons to at least 21 years of age.

Barbara Ivy
Self
Leakey, TX

I support raising the age for purchasing automatic and semi-automatic weapons.

Lindsay LeMeilleur
Self, parent.
Fort Worth, TX

Please please please vote to increase the age to be able to obtain these weapons. Our children are dying in schools.

Laura Krebs-Holm
Self, mother and dietitian
Austin, TX

I am writing in support of HB 2744. As a mother, wife, and healthcare professional, raising the age for the purchase of semiautomatic rifles is important to me. Firearms are now the leading cause of death for American children and teens. My daughter is four years old and attends Pre-K at public school. Every morning, when I drop her off, I hug her tight, kiss her, and tell her I love her, with this tiny niggling fear of "what if." Any one of us could be out shopping, going to work, or attending our house of worship, and be caught in the most recent national nightmare of gun violence. While the gun violence epidemic is heartbreaking, there are things law makers can do to reduce the violence and save lives. If a young person cannot buy certain hand guns, they should also not be allowed to be high capacity semiautomatic rifles. We need to close this loophole. I appreciate your hard work on this issue that is so important to Texans.

Kristen Gardiner
Self, marketing consultant & mental health advocate
Allen, TX

Please support this bill. It is incredibly important to recognize the impact of brain development on decision making, as the frontal lobe is not fully developed until a person's mid 20s. Raising the age to buy certain firearms is the smart, responsible thing to do, just like raising the age to buy cigarettes that was recently implemented, and also how the age to purchase alcohol is 21. This bill is along the same lines to not only protect the purchaser, but also to protect others around them and the community as a whole. It is also important to consider mental health. The leading cause of death for people ages 18-21 is suicide and homicide, the overwhelming majority of which are done with firearms. Please carefully consider advancing this bill! Thank you.

Elizabet Villasenor Plascencia
Self
Houston, TX

I'm on board with this bill. Raise the age limit to 25 years or better yet, ban the purchase of rifles

Erica Grandin

Self

Frisco, TX

I encourage support for this bill to raise the age to purchase of posses assault type rifles to 21. Please help us keep our Texas communities safe and help me protect my children by creating stricter gun laws.

Kaitlyn Stevens

self, Human Resources

Richardson, TX

Please take into consideration.

Dallas Bosveld

Self

The Woodlands, TX

This is a common sense legislation

Katie Elizabeth Dunnivant

Self

Alvin, TX

Please do what it takes to save our innocent children. Enough is enough.

Melissa Imhoff

Self

Dallas, TX

I support this bill! Do what you can to help stop the enormous amount of gun violence we are seeing in our communities and all over the country!

Frances Guilfoyle

Self, Education Consultant

Houston, TX

I support raising the legal age to purchase a semiautomatic rifle from 18 to 21.

Ellen Buckingham, Mrs

Self

Magnolia, TX

Please vote yes. There is NO excuse for having any semiautomatic weapons on the streets!

Cari Scaff

Self

Austin, TX

Please do the right thing.

Eric Mata
Texas Organizing Project
Dallas, TX

Dear Members of the Texas Select Community Safety Committee,

As a concerned Texan and a community member, I am writing to express my unwavering support for HB 2744, a critical piece of legislation that aims to prevent the transfer of certain semiautomatic rifles to certain recipients, creating a criminal offense and increasing criminal penalties. I join the majority of Texans who support this important measure and urge the committee to honor the lives lost in Uvalde by wholeheartedly endorsing HB 2744.

The tragic event in Uvalde, where 21 lives were senselessly lost, is a stark reminder of the urgent need to address gun violence and enact common-sense measures to protect our communities. It is our responsibility as citizens and lawmakers to take meaningful action to prevent such tragedies from occurring again in the future. HB 2744 represents a crucial step in the right direction.

By prohibiting the transfer of certain semiautomatic rifles to certain recipients, HB 2744 aims to prevent firearms from falling into the wrong hands, including individuals with a history of violence, mental illness, or those who pose a threat to society. This measure will help to close loopholes and enhance background checks, which are critical to ensuring that firearms are only in the possession of responsible individuals.

Furthermore, by creating a criminal offense and increasing criminal penalties, HB 2744 sends a strong message that the misuse of firearms will not be tolerated in our communities. It holds individuals accountable for their actions and serves as a deterrent to those contemplating gun-related crimes.

As a Texan who values our communities' safety and well-being, I urge the Texas Select Community Safety Committee members to prioritize public safety and support HB 2744. Let us honor the lives lost in Uvalde and take meaningful action to prevent gun violence in our great state. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Lou Ann Montana
Self; Retired
The Woodlands, TX

Please support proposed HB 2744. I believe raising the age of sale or transfer of semiautomatic rifles to 18 years is an absolute priority!

Ellen Cochran
Self
Austin, TX

I urge the committee to vote for this bill to help keep Texans safe from the rampant gun violence plaguing our state and nation. Please help take us take common sense steps to protect everyone.

Cindy O'Brien
Self, Interior Designer & Mother
Frisco, TX

I support raising the age to purchase an assault rifle.

Julie Wilson, Ms
Self, Analyst
Houston, TX

Please support and pass HB 2744. Research shows that young adults aged 18 to 20 commit gun homicides at triple the rate of adults 21 and older. As such, we need to raise the age at which semiautomatic rifles can be bought. Pass this bill.

Shelbee Russell

Self

Fort Worth, TX

As a public school official, I wholly support this house bill. Going to work every day worried about my life and my students lives should not be a part of my thoughts. I support more restrictions on semiautomatic weapons.

Ryann Kuhn

Self - lawyer

Fort Worth, TX

I support this bill and pray that it is passed into law in the State of Texas.

Sheen Smith

Myself

Houston, TX

Please vote for and pass HB2744. This bill will reduce gun violence in our country, especially the shootings committed by youths under the age of 21. Research shows that 18- to 20-year olds commit gun homicides at triple the rate of adults 21 and older. Raise the age. It is common sense This is such an important bill to pass.

Elizabeth Bronson

Self

Austin, TX

Please pass this bill if you care about children or general public safety. Enough is enough. Texans shouldn't have to live in fear of our own citizens having guns.

Gayle Alterman

Self

San Antonio, TX

Like obtaining alcohol, obtaining semi- automatic weapons should have legal limits such as raising the age to 21. Please consider passing this bill.

Geroge Clement

self

Austin, TX

Against - This bill would criminalize the sale of a semi-automatic rifle to those Texas citizens between the ages of 18 and 21.

Ashley Ferguson

Self

San Antonio, TX

Rep. King, thank you for putting forth this gun reform. I'm born & raised in Uvalde, with family still there. My husband is from Concan and we go home often to see grandparents and family. We have stood with those that lost loved ones that day but it's time we do more for those we lost and those that still are living like my two daughters, 6 & 3. I am terrified that something will occur that could have been stopped and your HB is something everyone can get behind no matter the side of aisle. My brother is a teacher and was that day at Morales Jr High, and while he was not at Robb it was terrifying waiting to hear his replies while things were unfolding. Just this last week, there was a horrific shooting in my neighborhood in Alamo Heights with a 1 yr old killed by her father. Having sensible laws can only benefit everyone and especially those who we should be defending, not defending guns themselves. I sincerely appreciate you taking a stand for those 21 souls, those injured and all others that have been affected by gun violence. I beg those on the committee to do it for our babies, children and our future. Kindly, Ashley Ferguson

Claudia Cardinalli

Self

Pearland, TX

I am in full support of this bill. Please, let's do something about this severe issue.

Leilani Struthers

Self

Austin, TX

I support HB 2744 in increasing the age limit from 18 to 21 years of age to purchase an assault weapon. While I would prefer a complete ban on purchasing assault weapons, I support this step-change in raising the age limit in the hopes that it will reduce further loss of life and damage to our communities and young people.

Katie Campbell

Self

Dallas, TX

Stop giving guns to kids!

Kevin Johnson, RN

Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America

Sugar Land, TX

I strongly support a bill to restrict anyone under the age of 21 from obtaining an assault rifle. There is so much data, statistics and research to back up this position which I am sure you are aware of. By making this a law in Texas you will save many lives including the life of the person who acquires this weapon in most cases. It's time to do something to protect Texans of all ages. This is common sense. It does not infringe on anyone's rights. It allows a few more years for children to mature and make better decisions for themselves and others. Again please help make Texas safer by restricting the ability to get an assault weapon before 21 years of age. Thank you.

Britney Snyder

Self

Dallas, TX

I you support raising the age of assault weapon purchase to 21 as set out in the bill and urge the committee to vote for it PLEASE!

Denise Whitney

Self/retail planner

Houston, TX

I support HB 2744 to raise the minimum to 21 to legally purchase an assault style rifle. I am one of the 80% of Texans (including gun owners) who support legislation like this to make Texas a safer home for all of us.

Laura Siemers-Kennedy

self

Houston, TX

As the parent of an elementary schooler in Texas public schools, I support HB 2744. We need to do more to protect children from gun violence. Please raise the age to purchase AR-15 style firearms to 21. This is a baby step we need to take to protect all of our babies. I was raised in Texas when firearms were much more restricted. I have also lived in other states. I felt safer while living in a state where AR-15 style firearms were illegal. Please do more to protect children from gun violence.

Laura Van Slyke, LCSW

Self - Mental Health Specialist in AISD

Austin, TX

I am writing to express my support for HB 2744. I am a mother of 2 high school students, and I am tired of having to fear for my children's safety. For all children's safety. I am a licensed mental health professional who works in both high school and elementary settings, and I am tired for having to think of what I would need to do to protect 'my' other children - all the children I serve on a daily basis - if the horror of a gunman ever entered one of the campuses I serve. I am tired of our state caring more about gun owners than children - and I say this as part of a family with a long history of hunting in Texas. No one needs semi-automatic rifles for hunting. And it defies logic that we think an 18 year old, 19 year old, or a 20 year old is too young to drink but should be able to freely purchase a weapon of war. Please support the children of Texas and move this bill forward.

Kelly Klempay, Dr.

Self

Austin, TX

I am a Texas voter in 79739. I urge the support of HB2744 along with 80% of Texans who want to raise the age of purchase for deadly weapons like semi automatic rifles. Please honor the lives of the precious babies in Uvalde that were slaughtered In our home state. DO SOMETHING. This bill will make our state safer. If we don't think an 18 year old can drink a beer, surely they cannot own a deadly weapon like this. This Is common sense for a safer Texas. I have a son entering kindergarten this fall. I fear for him and our local schools. This is a crucial step In protecting our children and ourselves. This is my #1 issue.

Meredith Lopez, Mrs.

Self

Dallas, TX

Please pass this bill to protect children, young adults, and all Texans.

Brooke Kinert

Self/Marketing Professional

Sugar Land, TX

I'm heartily in favor of anything that increases the age to purchase deadly weapons. A child's brain is not fully developed at age 18.

It should not be easier to buy a gun than to rent a car. We don't allow buying of alcohol or drinking at age 18, why would buying a gun be more relaxed. Please pass this bill.

John Bolgiano

Self - Retired

Llano, TX

OPPOSED

To deprive an individual legally acknowledged as an adult in many aspects of their life of their rights under the Second Amendment is in violation of findings of the Federal 5th Circuit Court of Appeals, which has found that firearm rights, including the ability to obtain an LTC, are full Constitutional rights that can not be denied to citizens between the ages of 18-21.

Kendra Floyd

Self

Austin, TX

I stand in solidarity with the hundreds of families whose lives have forever tragically changed due to gun violence to advocate to raise the age from 18 to 21 for anyone purchasing automatic rifles. The precious lives that have been lost must not be lost in vain. This is a step in the right direction in prioritizing the safety of our children.

Riley Floyd
Myself- Personal
Austin, TX

Lives are at stake. This is an initial necessary step.

Molly Wheaton
Self, Operations
Austin, TX

I support this. Let's make our communities safer.

Courtney Petersen
Courtney Guess Counseling
Austin, TX

Six of the nine deadliest mass shootings in the United States since 2018 were by people who were 21 or younger, a shift from earlier decades. For this reason alone this bill to raise the age could save Texas lives. As a native Texan and a mother of a young child in kindergarten it is vital that we move this bill to the floor.

Julie Earnest
Self - Speech Language Pathologist
New Braunfels, TX

I support prohibiting the transfer of semiautomatic rifles to those under the age of 21. As a mother and community member, I hope this will increase the safety of our communities while respecting the right to bear arms.

Amelia Koplos
Self
Austin, TX

I can't imagine living in a world where I have to send my 3 year old to school one day because it terrifies me to think he could be the victim of a school shooter. And at least 70% of all school shootings since 1999 were carried out by someone 18 or younger (Washington post, 2022) and most notably and tragic in our own backyard, Uvalde. Please vote for this bill for the safety of all of our children.

Wayne Herbert
Self - Retired IT Project Manager
Houston, TX

Please vote for and pass this bill. This bill could have kept the gun out of the hands of the murderer in Uvalde, saving many children. 18 to 21 year old men commit gun homicides at a far higher rate than older men. Please pass this bill and help stem the escalating gun violence in Texas and the nation. Thank you.

John Lawrence, Mr
Self
Spring, TX

Oppose any law restricting transfer of legal guns of any kind. Violates 2nd amendment.

Randall Reeves
Self
Lubbock, TX

All these bills assume the firearm commits the crime. None do anything to prevent any crime. Gun owners are not the threat

Susan Fairchild

self

Dallas, TX

I support this bill and urge lawmakers to pass this in order to protect Texan's lives.

Natalie Hatch

self

Woodway, TX

I support raising the age of assault weapon purchase to 21 as set out in the bill and urge the committee to vote for it.

Goodwin mccutcheon

Self

Dallas, TX

HB 2744

Sheila Rosario

Self

Allen, TX

This is an excellent common sense bill that has absolutely zero negative impact if passed and great potential to do good. As a born and raised proud Texan, I fully support this bill!

Claire Amberson, Ms

Self

Dallas, TX

I support House Bill 2744

Stacey Feldman

Self, Small Business Owner

San Antonio, TX

As a mother of two young children, an employee of Texas public schools for 11 years, and as a native Texan, I am requesting the passing of HB2744. I grew up in Texas, and I grew up around guns. In favor, in high school, kids would leave their hunting rifles in their truck beds, and no one thought anything of it. But during my senior year of high school, the unthinkable happened, Columbine. What was tragic and unheard of in 1999 has now become so common that I look at my 7 year old every day as I send her off to school, and I pray that it won't be the last memory I have of her sweet face, toothless grin, and bright, curious eyes. As a former school counselor, I spent too many sessions talking with students who already were affected by gun violence or carried the anxiety of becoming victim to gun violence, especially in a place they were supposed to feel safe - school. Siblings who had well thought out plans of where to meet if their school was under attack. Teachers who strategized and re-strategized and then strategized again about how they would protect their students in the instance of an attack. But the reality is, in the face of a semi-automatic firearm, the chances of these best laid plans succeeding are very, very small. Parents of students at Robb Elementary know this first hand. They are a Texas community. They believe in the second amendment. I'm sure many have guns or maybe left their rifle in the bed of their truck back in high school, too. But they also know that unless we do something, their reality - the reality of empty beds and empty car booster seats, lost laughter - the kind that carries pure joy - and lost hopes and dreams - this loss will be held by more families. They know, just as I do, and believe those of you at this hearing do, too, that we must start to pass and implement legislation to prevent this kind of senseless loss. HB 2744 is a start. And if it saves one life, it's worth it, right? Because picture that life being saved as your own child's, as someone you love and kiss goodbye every morning, as someone you can't imagine having to live without. See that person, and please take action to pass HB 2744.

Kace Phillips
Self
Dallas, TX
I support HB 2744

Laura McConnell
Self
Dallas, TX

This is the least we can do to implement common sense gun regulations. I am a mom and registered voter and will be monitoring how my representatives vote to keep our kids safe

Rolando Ramirez
Uvalde
Needville, TX

Please consider Gun Reform that enforces stronger background checks and prohibiting young adults (18-21 years of age) to purchase semi-automatic assault rifles. As an individual from Uvalde, TX where 21 lives were taken at Robb Elementary May 24, 2022, we need change and we have to do our part to reduce the mass shootings across our beautiful country!
Thank you!

Mary Mabry
Self
Spring, TX

Please keep automatic/semi-automatic weapons out of the hands of people under 21. As a high school teacher, I learned how intensely emotional life can be for teenager. Such a weapon on a teenager's bad day could be a nightmare.

Keli Washburn, Mrs.
Self, SAHM and substitute teacher
Pflugerville, TX

As a Texas resident, a mother of three school-age children, and a substitute teacher in the PfISD, I support this bill. There needs to be a change in our country when it comes to gun control. I am sick of hearing about mass shootings. There are many things our country can do to help troubled people get the mental help they need, but those things are going to take time. I ask my representatives to vote in favor of this bill because it's something they can do NOW. Let's make a change that keeps certain semiautomatic rifles out of the hands of those troubled people while we wait for the country to get them the help they need. Any change is better than no change. Let Texas be an example of that. I beg of you. I am regularly entrusted with classrooms full of 20+ students. I would put myself in front of them during a school shooting if I had to. Please consider that as you consider this bill.

Jennifer Erickson
Self
Fort Worth, TX

I am a Texan in ZIP code 76244. I am one of the 80% of Texans who support legislation like HB2744 to raise the minimum age to purchase or possess assault-style weapons and other semi-automatic rifles to 21. I hope to see the bill advance in honor of the victims in Uvalde and to protect all Texans, particularly our children.

Olivia Gray
Self
Hockley, TX

I am in favor of this bill.

Whitney Somers

Self/attorney

Austin, TX

Please implement additional requirements to own semiautomatic weapons, increase background checks and red flag laws, raise the age required to purchase such guns, and take other reasonable measures to ensure semiautomatic weapons are only held by responsible gun owners.

Ashlyn Zare

Self investment banker

Houston, TX

I support this bill. Save our children.

Keri Haarde

Self- pediatric nurse

Dallas, TX

I support raising the age to obtain a semi-automatic rifle from age 18 to 21.

Joanna Becker

Self

Kingwood, TX

I support this bill. Children's brains do not fully develop their rational decision making abilities until age 25. Keeping dangerous objects out of their hands makes sense.

Courtney Haylock

Self

Dallas, TX

No assault rifles!!!!

Lauren Thomas

Self

Austin, TX

I am an Austin resident in 78731. I support bill HB 2744 to increase the age to purchase and possess semi automatic weapons to 21. I believe this is an important and necessary measure to ensure safety and decrease gun violence. In honor of the victims and survivors of the Uvalde mass shooting, please pass this measure.

Rachel Brown

Self

Dallas, TX

Please support and pass legislation out forth in HB 2744. We must do something to protect our children and families in public places. While this is not the only solution to our gun problems, it is one, it is something, and we need something to help save us from the ugly pattern we have learned to live with. Please look at the data from other countries and other states. There are patterns and we must not ignore the data. We must use the data we have to make decisions and take action to make it harder for certain people to have certain weapons. Please pass this legislation to protect your family and my family.

Melissa Roberts

N/A

Dallas, TX

Please support this bill. Please raise the age to purchase assault weapons.

Maritza Wong, Mrs.

Self - Stay at home mom

Manvel, TX

I support this bill. I have two teenagers who deserve a world better than the one that Texas gun laws have created for them. Right now in Texas, firearms are the number one killer of children and teens. Right now in Texas, students at my son's high school can purchase assault-style weapons designed for war. Right now in Texas, every daily outing presents the risk of being shot. Where, exactly, is our society's breaking point? When do we say ENOUGH and actually do something? If not now, with the horrors we've already witnessed many times over, then I question what there is left to hope for in a state that will sacrifice its children because of one sentence written on a piece of parchment over 230 years ago. This is not politics as usual, this not a time for memes or barbs - this is Texans being terrorized at home every single day. I do not accept the trade-off of lives lost and shattered for the sake of someone else's sport. Raising the age to purchase assault-style weapons to 21 is the very least that lawmakers can do to address the gun violence epidemic in this state. Please commit to changing our current reality and reversing the trend of rising gun deaths in our state by keeping weapons of war out of the hands of 18-20 year olds. No one law can stop all gun deaths, but if this law could have saved the 21 lives lost on May 24, 2022, wouldn't you have passed it? If it could have prevented the gun shot injuries sustained by another 17 people on that day, wouldn't you have passed it? If it could have prevented the lifelong mental and emotional scars inflicted on thousands in Uvalde, wouldn't you have passed it? Please do the right thing now and support this bill. Thank you.

Alicia Motter-Vlahakos, Mrs.

self (private music teacher)

Houston, TX

I agree with this bill. I think that it would be a reasonable law to prohibit the transfer of assault rifles to people under 21. The exceptions in the bill are well thought out, so that people under that age could still hunt with the permission of their legal guardian, serve in the military, or be in law enforcement. I personally feel nervous for friends and students who go to public school or large gatherings, because mass shootings seem to happen often in those places lately. If this can put even a small dent in the violence that happens so frequently now days, then I think it will be a valuable bill.

Natalie Rochen

Self, Student

Austin, TX

While the second amendment enshrines a right to bear arms, there is no provision in there specifically outlying a right to a certain type of semiautomatic rifle whose only purpose lies outside the claims of self-defense or hunting. There is no legitimate reason why any non-military civilian should have need of or access to semiautomatic rifles, least of all those below 21. After all, if both the state and federal governments determine that an 18-year old is too immature to handle drinking alcohol, why should we trust that same 18-year old with an AR-15 or other similar model?

Kimberly Page

Self

Cypress, TX

I agree with this bill and ask you to vote yes

Steven Page

Self

Cypress, TX

I agree with this bill please vote yes

Julie Clark

Self

Plano, TX

Support increasing age limit of those who have access to these dangerous weapons.

Sandra Bagley

AAUW

Lubbock, TX

I am speaking out because as a Registered Nurse working in the Emergency Dept and flying rotor wing medical patients, for over 20 years, and a retired Army nurse, I have seen the worst of the worst. Saturday night knife fights have turned into any day or night gun fights, but now with military type weapons ! My main concern however are semiautomatic weapons that cause massive damage and can shoot up to 45 rounds per minute, leaving ordinary citizens basically defenseless, and obviously our children even more so! There is absolutely no reason why anyone needs this type of firepower, much less anyone under the age of 21! I have no problem with the right to own a handgun for personal safety or a long gun with intent to hunt but the purpose of a semiautomatic weapon is mainly to kill....period! There should be much needed control over the purchase of not only the weapon itself, but the ability to buy 100's of rounds of ammunition with no age limit or guidelines to do so. There should be criminal penalty for selling both the weapon AND ammunition to anyone below the age of 21! That is at least a START! I am also a firm supporter of a waiting period as well. But increasing the age to purchase these items with penalties for doing so is just plain smart and the only way to at least BEGIN to address these issues. Thank you for your consideration in this matter and allowing citizens to verbalize our concerns. Please vote yes on HB 2744!

Reed Bilz, Ms

Self

Fort Worth, TX

I am interested in proposed legislation that would limit the proliferation of guns and gun deaths through law and policy. In particular, I urge you to vote FOR HB 2744 that would prohibit the sale of weapons to persons under the age of 21, ban the sale of assault-type weapons and ammunition, and increase the penalties for violations.

This bill will provide safety for all Texans. I hope you will vote in SUPPORT of HB 2744.

Susan Anderson, Dr.

Texas UU Justice Ministry

Benbrook, TX

Uvalde, need I say more? Children would be alive today if the 18 year old shooter couldn't have purchased a military style gun. Teenagers brains are not fully mature. In fact it takes until age 25 for the human brain to be fully functioning . I can't think of a reason that any civilian should own a weapon that is meant for war, but I especially don't think teenagers should have them.

Amanda Vargas

Self

Uvalde, TX

I am a resident in Uvalde Texas and have family in law enforcement. Also a mother of two elementary school students, an 8 yrs old son & daughter 7 yrs. I am also the aunt of students who were taught by amazing teachers who no longer have their babies because we can't seem to make up our minds about agreeing on a solution to raising the age. We can agree that raising the age will help identify if an individual (male/female) is not mentally stable and happens to get a charge on their record, it will show up at age Twenty-One. Giving us a good three years to help them. Therefore saving lives by not putting a gun in their hand. My daughter is a Sailor (E.T.) in the United States Navy and has been for some years now. My 8 year olds God-mother is a Capital in the US Army and has been on deployments several times. My children father has been gone for months at times for training & I must say, I have never been so scared or cried as hard as I have this passed year and still do.. As I drop off our children in the morning and pray they are waiting for me safely when I return at 3pm after school. I pray you all never have to go through what these families have to endure. What these towns have to go through. Yes, there will still be evil human beings in this world. But would it kill you to help us, not help them kill our loved ones? Our babies? Close your eyes and imagine how many lives you can save in those three years (1,095 days) per individual ?

Jameson Watts
Self
Lakeway, TX

We need more gun control laws in place. What we've been doing (which is nothing) isn't working.

Latesa Guerra, DC
Self
Buda, TX

I support the intentions of this bill

David Bell
Self, retired
Lago Vista, TX

HB 2744 I support this bill to increase age to buy semiautomatic riffles from 18 to 21.

Kristen Whiley
Self
Colleyville, TX

Increasing the age of use and access to these weapons is a first step in the right direction. Certain parts of the brain responsible for proper decision making are not fully developed until after 25. The youth should not have access to these weapons.

Claire Selinger, MD
Self- Physician, Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist
Austin, TX

Please support this bill. As both a mother and physician of children in our Texas public schools, I think of all the lives we could save with this bill. We must do something and this is a great place to start.

Ginny Gustin
Self
Round Rock, TX

I support this bill

Lauren Ribelin
Self- teacher
Austin, TX

Please please make it safer for Texas children at Texas schools!!!!

Alicia Demla
Self/data scientist
Austin, TX

Hello, I support this bill. I am a concerned Texas resident. I think this could help future gun violence.

Thank you,

Alicia

Andrea Gonzales

Self

Tomball, TX

Texas has a gun problem. we need to do something about it. Please raise the age from 18 to 21 to purchase certain firearms, Improve the background checks for firearm transfers and expand safe gun storage education for parents and custodians of students. Please protect our children!

Cindy Fountain, Ms

Self, Retail Merchandiser

Cleburne, TX

I support this bill. It is a common sense measure that will bring less harm to people, especially our young people. I can look back and know that my 18 yr old didn't need to be thinking about buying a semi-automatic weapon. It's like driving and the teens get it. "You'll be able to drive legally at 16." "Yes, you'll be able to buy this type of weapon at 21." It's a logical bill and needs to be passed. Thank you.

Jennifer Frank

Self - Educator

Friendswood, TX

Please honor the victims of Uvalde and Sante Fe school shootings and protect our children, who are the future of our country, by voting for this bill.

Margaret Duran

Self, Retired Medical Office Administrator

Corpus Christi, TX

Please pass this bill. It is not a ban (which I personally would prefer), but it is a start. We know that young men are not fully mature emotionally until age 25. Texas has seen too much death by gunfire and the explosive effect of the ammunition of assault weapons which leave the victim nearly unidentifiable should be left only to the military. Please make a start. I have children and grandchildren and they are despondent about our inability to take baby steps towards a safer state.

Thank you.

Ferdinand Tschoepe, Mr.

Self

Austin, TX

This bill is a step in the right direction and should have the support of everyone in the state who cares about the safety of our children in classrooms and supports legislation to make our state a safer place to live. Weapons of war do not belong on the open market, and we need to do everything we can to restrict access to those weapons. Pass this bill and help make Texas a safer place.

Alfonso Viera

Self

San Antonio, TX

I'm in support of increasing community safety by restricting the transfer of these types of firearms

Greer May

Self

Austin, TX

I am in support of this bill to keep our community safe.

Laura Whiteside

Self

Austin, TX

Please pass this bill.

Wendy McRoberts

Self

Danbury, TX

The more control used to keep guns out of the hands of those that don't need access is the number one way to reduce gun violence.

Katie Fike

self

Austin, TX

Please do whatever is necessary to hear this bill and get it to pass. We need gun reform. It must be harder to get these deadly weapons into the hands of people who will use them for harm. I am a Texas resident, and I want my kids to come home from school safely. I want us all to be able to live our lives to the fullest without worrying about a mass shooting. We can change this. Please vote to pass this bill.

Sherrri Duchin

Self

Spring, TX

Please support HB 2744 to raise the age to 21 in order to purchase a semiautomatic rifle. This measure could have prevented the Robb Elementary mass shooting in Uvalde where an AR-15 purchased by an 18 year old was used. It is one step toward safer schools.

Lora Anne Ochoa

self, Retired

Lago Vista, TX

I support this bill to increase age to buy semiautomatic rifles from 18 to 21. Keep guns out of the hands of children.

Mandy Moore, Mrs

Self

Marion, TX

It is imperative that we pass laws designed to keep our schools and public spaces safe from gun violence. Enough is enough. We should not have to worry every day about whether or not we're going to get shot just going about our daily business. Nowhere else in the world has this concern. It is beneficial not just for our peace of mind but also for our bottom line to pass such laws as gun violence costs the state billions of dollars annually and the taxpayers pay \$1.1 billion every year because of gun violence. Let's fix this. This bill won't new the end all be all but it will be a start.

Melanie Greene

Self/tech consultant

AUSTIN, TX

I am in support of this bill that will raise the age to obtain assault-style weapons, and other semi automatic rifles to 21. We know that 18 to 20 year olds commit gun homicides at triple the rate of those 21 and older. This measure is the bare minimum that can be done to reduce the obscene number of gun deaths and injuries as well as mass shootings in Texas.

Jennifer Downing Hale

Self

Austin, TX

I support raising the minimum age for purchasing a semiautomatic rifle to 21. If people are too young to buy cigarettes at 18, then why are we allowing them to purchase semiautomatic rifles? I should only have to worry about STAAR tests, not shootings when I drop my 8 and 5 year old off at school every day. This measure would go a long way to making our schools safer.

Jeanne Mixon

Self retired

Pflugerville, TX

I am writing in support of HB 2744 which would prohibit the selling or transfer of assault rifles including AR-15-style rifles to anyone under the age of 21. I feel that in the wake of the shooting in Uvalde, among so many others, the need to implement this bill would be obvious. Simply putting an armed officer in a school is not going to prevent determined shooters from achieving their goals. There was an armed guard at both the Columbine and Parkland schools. In fact, there were two armed guards at Columbine. These armed officers did not prevent determined individuals from terrorizing those schools and murdering students. Preventative action such as keeping military grade weaponry out of the hands of teenagers is a far more effective deterrent to these mass killings than turning our schools into fortresses. Please vote to protect our children by preventing would be killers from accessing these powerful weapons in the first place. Research shows that 18 to 21 year olds are three times more likely than adults 21 and older to commit homicides. Putting armed guards in our schools is not the answer. I'm a homeowner and a registered voter in Texas and this is an issue I vote on and I vote in every election including primaries. Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

Peggy Harris

Self

The Woodlands, TX

I strongly support this bill to prohibit the transfer of semiautomatic rifles to anyone under age 21. There is rarely a need for citizens of any age to have them but at least this is consistent with Texas handgun laws.

Jeri Matthys

Retired Citizen Lee County Texas

Lexington, TX

I would like to go on record as being in favor of HB 2744. There is no reason we should not raise the age for these weapons. It's just common sense.

Maureen Voosen

self - architect

Austin, TX

I support HB 2744 to raise the age for certain firearms from 18 to 21. We are living in a war zone that is entirely preventable. 80% of Texans support legislation such as this.

Jessica Zimlich
self, salesperson
Austin, TX

My name is Jessica Zimlich and I'm representing myself in favor of HB 2744. I am an Austin resident, and a mother of a 3 year old son with another child on the way. My husband is a pilot in the US Marine Corps, serving 10 years of active duty and an additional 3 years to this day of reserve duty as a V-22 Osprey pilot. He is also a licensed gun owner who believes in common sense gun legislation. I have become increasingly appalled at the number of gun violence related deaths and mass shootings in this country, particularly as they relate to violence against children. Keeping my children safe is my NUMBER 1 priority in life. I urge congress to DO SOMETHING and pass this bill. Its a very very small step in the right direction, as we know that people under the age of 21 are three times more likely to commit homicide. These weapons are designed to kill and they must be kept out of the hands of people who are practically still children themselves. 80% of Texans are in favor of common sense gun legislation. Please do your jobs and respect the wishes of your constituents. Thank you for your time.

Sarah Kienle, Dr.
myself
McGregor, TX

Please support this critical bill that would make Texans - like my family, including my first grade son, safer in schools and the community. There is no reason 18 year old kids - whose brains and sense of reason are still developing - should have access to purchasing semiautomatic rifles.

Gun violence is the leading cause of death of children, and you have the power to make a real difference and save the lives of children. Use your power for good - support this, and other, common sense gun control measures.

Beverly Barshop
Self
San Antonio, TX

Please Raise the Age to buy Tactical weapons from 18 to age 21.

Bess Van Slyke
Self - High School student
Austin, TX

Hi, my name is Bess Van Slyke and I am a freshman in high school. I am writing in support of HB 2744 and the other common sense gun legislation that your committee is considering. The shooter in Uvalde bought his gun days after he turned 18. If he had not been able to buy that gun, those 19 kids and 2 teachers would still be alive. Please think about all those kids, and all of us going to school every day, as you consider this important bill that would keep semi-automatic weapons away from 18, 19 and 20 year olds - and help keep kids like those in Uvalde and all of us safe.

Daniel Zimlich, Maj

Self, Technical Product Manager, USMC Reservist (10 years AD, 4 years Reserve)

Austin, TX

I am in favor of this bill. I am a gun owner. I hunted last weekend. I am a member of the USMC Reserve and have been around guns all of my life. I have fired several rounds through several "assault" weapons. I cannot fathom why an 18-year-old should need to buy an automatic rifle.

To counter the inevitable headwinds this bill will face--specifically the argument that "if an 18-year-old can join the military, they should be able to purchase an assault rifle." This statement is baseless. Do not mistake my comments as speaking ill of our service members--far from it--I am one. That said, I have led several young service members and I can tell you that they are under far more supervision and restrictions that the general public would understand. When an 18-year-old is handed a rifle in the military, it is only after extensive training. Further, these weapons and their ammunition are highly controlled--for those who have not served in the military, "checking out a rifle" and ammunition from an armory isn't like walking up to an ATM to pull out cash. It raises eyebrows unless expected for a training exercise.

This is but one of several points to make on this issue that I am sure others will make in support of this bill. Please consider this as a small step in the right direction.

Amy Robinson

Self mother

New Braunfels, TX

As the weapon of choice in these mass school murders , and a statistically high number of murderers ranging in the underdeveloped brain age range of 18,19,20- please let us delay the ability to purchase semi automatic rifles - from age 18 to 21!

Ashlee Carter

Self

Dallas, TX

Thank you

Linda McCullough

Self

Lago vista, TX

Transferring any semiautomatic rifle between any people should be tightly regulated and there should be significant consequences for both parties if the rifle is used during criminal activity.

Jeana Foxman
Temple Emanu-El
Dallas, TX

On behalf of Temple Emanu-El in Dallas, a Reform Jewish congregation with over 2,700 voting-eligible members, we are writing to comment on legislation being heard by your committee on Tuesday, April 18 2023. Our specific positions on the legislation in front of your committee will follow our explanation of how our religious values and faith grounds our viewpoints.

“You shall not stand idly by while the blood of your neighbor is shed,” the Bible instructs us in Leviticus 19:16. Our neighbors’ blood was shed in Uvalde in May of 2022. Uvalde is not the first instance of mass murder; too many other Texas communities have been shattered by needless gun violence by individuals with assault rifles. In houses of worship, schools, medical offices, and grocery stores, at malls, on city streets, and in homes, families and communities are being shattered by gun violence.

The gun violence is not slowing or stopping, and instead continues to spiral out of control both close to home and across the country. As Jews working side by side with other Texans of many faiths, our shared ethical responsibilities as people of faith hold us all accountable for responding to this needless and heartbreaking violence with swift and meaningful action that will help us repair the world and the communities that have been devastated by gun violence.

We are in support of the following legislation and urge you to move the bills to the floor of the House: HB 22, HB 106, HB 236, HB 298, HB 2744, HB 3534, and HB 4472. We believe this legislation, and other similar proposed legislation, will help reduce gun violence in our state without denying lawful citizens their second amendment rights.

We oppose the following legislation: HB 1894. We believe this bill is detrimental to the safety of our communities, perpetuating the environment that allows gun violence to escalate.

We urge you to do everything in your power to bring bills to the House floor that promote the lifesaving work of gun violence reduction efforts and respond to the sacred obligations of the Bible. Working together, we can reduce the rising rates of mass shootings, suicide by gun shot and death in domestic disputes, and other gun-inflicted homicides.

Respectfully submitted,

The Clergy, Board of Trustees, and Advocacy Committee of Temple Emanu-El Dallas

Sally Anderson
Teacher / Self
Austin, TX

I'm a Texan and a teacher. I am writing because I support measures like this that will help keep our classrooms and communities safe. We should be doing everything we can to ensure our communities are kept safe. Students and teachers should be able to enter classrooms without fear. I implore you to help and take action and support HB 2744 and further protect students like mine.

Rebecca Baker
self
San Antonio, TX

As a Christian and a citizen of our state of Texas and the United States, I respectfully beg you to vote in favor of HB2744 which would raise the minimum age to purchase semi-automatic rifles to 21 (HB 2744). This is a reasonable safeguard to protect citizens of our state and help prevent gun purchases by those who should not have them, such as felons, mentally ill, those involved with domestic abuse, and young men and women under the age of 21 who don't have the maturity to own weapons. Thanks so much! Rebecca Baker

Anuj Demla
Self - GM
Austin, TX

I support this bill. I think it'll help prevent future gun violence.

Maria Viera
Self - Associate
Austin, TX

I support this bill and I think it'll help prevent future gun violence.

Melanie Greene
Self/Tech Consultant and Parent
AUSTIN, TX

As a parent and 4th-generation Texan who owns guns, I am asking you to support HB 2744. 18-20 year olds commit gun homicides at 3 times the rate of those 21 and older, and Texas now leads the country in the number of mass shootings. Please honor the victims and survivors of the Uvalde mass shooting and raise the age to buy certain semiautomatic rifles to 21.

John Love
Self, Student
Houston, TX

As a high school student from a gun-owning household and recently registered voter, I strongly encourage the committee to pass HB 2744.

This common sense measure would help us prevent future tragedies like what we saw in Uvalde. As a narrow measure that only applies to certain semiautomatic weapons, its effects are highly targeted and adequate exemptions are given to both peace officers and current and former military personnel.

There is no good reason not to pass this bill. The children of Texas deserve safety in their schools, and all Texans deserve a safer Texas.

Kalei Keith
Self
Austin, TX

I am for bill 2744.

Lauren Chinisci
Self, recruiter
Austin, TX

The minimum age should be raised to 21 at the very least. Kids cannot keep dying by guns. Guns shouldn't be in our schools.

Carol Jacony, Mrs
self
San Marcos, TX
: Against HB 2744

Alison Killian
SELF, SOFTWARE IMPLEMENTATION
Austin, TX

Putting firearms in the hands of the mentally ill or the mentally unprepared and immature is disastrous, as we saw with the Uvalde school shooting. A (very newly) 18 year old bought AR rifles and massacred 19 precious lives. The human brain is not fully developed until 25 and allowing 18 year olds to buy these guns is putting all our children's lives at risk.

George Brian Vachris, P.E.

self retired

Humble, TX

I am totally opposed to this bill as it could lead to a lack of training among youth in firearm use and safety and would reduce the knowledge base of recruits into the armed forces.

Mary Gomez-Rettie

Self

San Antonio, TX

Please make our schools and communities safer by passing this bill

FRANCES BRIGGS

North Shore Democrats of Travis County

LAGO VISTA, TX

I support HB 2744.

Jaime Estrada, Dr.

Texas Doctors for Social Responsibility

San Antonio, TX

My name is Dr. Jaime Estrada, I am a retired pediatric hematologist and oncologist from San Antonio. I am representing myself and Texas Doctors for Social Responsibility, a nonprofit founded in 2015 in San Antonio. We are a group of medical professionals and others concerned about the explosive rise in gun violence, a public health epidemic affecting our communities, and the unwillingness of our Texas legislators to enact common sense laws to stop it. We are here in support of HB 2744 by Representative King and urge this committee to raise the age requirement to 21 to purchase semiautomatic rifles, to match Texas handgun laws. Eighty percent of Texas voter are in favor of this measure. As you may know, firearms are the leading cause of death for American children and teens, but Texas law allows 18-year-olds to buy semiautomatic assault weapons, despite research that shows that 18 to 20-year-olds commit gun homicides at triple the rate of adults 21 and older. Furthermore, six of the nine deadliest mass shootings in the US since 2018 were by people who were 21 or younger, representing a shift for mass casualty shootings, which before 2000 were most often initiated by men in their mid-20s, 30s and 40s. This bill would prevent persons younger than 21 to purchase assault weapons and could prevent tragedies like the mass shooting at Robb Elementary school in Uvalde and many others. We are asking you, our representatives, to do your best to enact this bill into law, which will help keep these weapons from the hands of troubled and potentially homicidal teenagers.

Thank you.

Saami Baig

The Harris County Safe Schools Commission

Houston, TX

Please vote in favor of this bill. There should be no reason as to why people in high school should be able to purchase a firearm, which can put students in danger. If alcohol is too dangerous for consumption for 18 year olds, firearms should be too dangerous for purchase at this age as well. Too many kids are dying because of this issue. Implement common sense gun laws.

Michael Killalea

Self

Lago Vista, TX

I support this bill to increase age to buy semiautomatic riffles from 18 to 21.

Summer Rottinger

Self - homemaker

Austin, TX

We cannot sacrifice our most vulnerable on the altar of individual liberties. We cannot serve gun rights over and above the lives of our children. We must choose well what we will love in this country. Please choose our children. Choose their safety. I support this bill raising the minimum age to purchase semi-automatic weapons to 21.

Mayumi Waddy, Ms.

self

Pearland, TX

I support HB 2744. While an 18 year old is legally an adult, developmentally an 18 year old is in a stage known as late adolescence. The 18 year brain has an underdeveloped prefrontal cortex which is the region of the brain responsible for impulse control and helps us make good decisions. It is not surprising that research that shows that 18- to 20-year-olds commit gun homicides at triple the rate of adults 21 years and older. Firearms are now the leading cause of death for American children and teens. Research show that the fear of mass shootings is now one of the top stressors for teens and is impacting their mental health. Assault weapons do not belong in the hands of an adolescent. The gun lobby likes to point out that we allow 18 year olds in the military, but those teens are at a minimum screened before being allowed the privilege of enlisting in the military and trained for weeks. An 18 year old should never have been able to buy weapons that could keep hundreds of trained law enforcement officers at bay for over an hour. Weak gun laws in Texas are what allowed the tragedy in Uvalde to happen and you have the power to change this. Pass HB2744!

Emma Benjamin

Self, Independent Contractor (Travel)

Arlington, TX

Please vote yes on this bill.

Michael Short, Mr.

Self

Brookeland, TX

I am AGAINST this bill.

James Everard, Sgt. (Ret)

Self

Killeen, TX

I oppose this bill. There are already a host of things that keep an individual from owning a firearm under federal law. If an individual ever committed abuse against a child or family member, convicted of many drug charges, is a felon, or has a degree of mental health issues. This bill only seems to take away rights from more Americans. Targeting a specific type of weapon think it is somehow "more deadly" than another. Handguns are used in most murders and mass shootings in America, yet are the weapon least attempted to regulate. This is nothing more than an attention to restrict a group of weapons the author of the bill doesn't understand to gain political favor is their party. A sporting rifle is no more deadly than a counterpart that shoots the same round, but with a different looking firearm.

Cilicia Landers

self/caregiver

Austin, TX

The age to buy semiautomatic weapons needs to be raised to 21. If this had been the case, so many mass shootings could have been prevented. Uvalde wouldn't have become the site of tragedy that it will now forever be known by. Who does it really hurt to raise the age? 18 year olds bent on revenge? Gun sellers? If a person can't buy alcohol until they are 21, then why should they be able to purchase a semiautomatic weapon? If their brain isn't developed enough to handle one, why would we think it can handle the other?

Gretchen Pierce
self / stay-at-home mom
Austin, TX

I am a mom with two kids, one who is a kindergartener in public school. I worry every single day, particularly since the day that 19 children were murdered in Uvalde, that my child will be shot at his school. No parent should have to live like this. I urge you to pass this legislation to help prevent deadly attacks on our schools and communities. Eighty percent of Texas voters support raising the age to 21 to purchase AR-style semi-automatic rifles, and I am just one of those voters. Please act now. Thank you for your time.

Jonathan Windsor
Self
Celina, TX

I am against this bill. Pointless gun restriction of firearms "in common use."

Diane Chapa
Retired
Austin, TX

I support HB 2744 as a minimum intervention to future killings by disgruntled or thrill seeking young people. If they can't buy a beer they shouldn't be able to buy an assault weapon. I believe no one needs an assault weapon or weapon of mass destruction. We must act and work to keep these weapons in the hands of soldiers not citizens.

Cori Ferraro
Self
San Antonio, TX

I support this bill to raise the age to purchase or possess assault weapons to 21 years old. 18-20 year olds commit the most gun homicides. The Uvalde shooter waited until the day after his 18th birthday to purchase the gun he used to slaughter 24 children and teachers. Honor these victims and the survivors. The majority of Texans want the age raised. Please listen to us and pass this bill. It will save countless lives.

Carol Jacoby, Mrs.
self
San Marcos, TX
For HB 2744

Tara Watson
self, Engineer
Houston, TX

I am a lifelong Texan and from a gun owning family. I **STRONGLY** support raising the minimum age to purchase and have firearms. The data shows this will be a big step towards keeping our communities safer.

Breann Bruton
Self
Austin, TX

I fully support this bill and implore the honorable committee to support in the affirmative

Weston Clark

Self

Uvalde, TX

We must do something to stop gun violence. We must find middle ground and create common sense gun laws. I'm a teacher in Uvalde and the tragedy of the school shooting of May 24,2022 must not happen again to any more communities.

Maryann Riordan

Self, Retired

Livingston, TX

I support this bill

Susan Bufkin

Self

Austin, TX

Semi automatic weapons do not need to be in the hands of civilians ESPECIALLY one who is 18 years of age and is not mentally an adult yet!

McKenzie Gaither

Moms demand action

Pflugerville, TX

Please increase the age to purchase automatic weapons, this is a common sense bill. This is my number one issue as a Texas voter.

Georgia Denney

Moms Demand Action

Austin, TX

I would like to submit my support for this bill to raise the legal age to buy assault rifles. I am a mom of six amazing kiddos who I want to live in a world where gun violence is not the number one killer of children. Thank you for your time!

Cynthia Haegelin

Self

Austin, TX

Coming from a family of gun owners, there is no reason an 18 yr old needs an assault rifle. Raising the age to 21 is one small step. 3 years of maturity is huge at this age. I realize this is also a mental health issue and illegal weapons are still out there, but why not try one small thing. Doing nothing is not working so what do we have to lose? If this helps prevent one death it is a win. No one is trying to take away anyone's right to bear arms. We have moved way past that.

Selina Saenz
self, attorney
El Paso, TX

My name is Selina Saenz, I am a mother of 3, an attorney licensed in Texas, and I wholeheartedly support HB 2744. As a resident of El Paso I have seen how a shooting can affect a community. After the tragedy in Uvalde, it became apparent to me that semi-automatic rifles should not be available to everyone. Research shows that 18-20-year-olds commit gun homicides at triple the rate of adults over the age of 21. In Uvalde, the perpetrator could not legally purchase a handgun when he turned 18 in Texas he was able to purchase 2 assault rifles right after his 18th birthday without a problem. This cannot go on! Texas is currently the mass shooting capital of the United States and as a lifelong Texan I am not proud of the fact that we are number one in this category. Firearms are now the number 1 cause of death for children and teens in the United States. Twenty-two states have already raised the age to purchase some firearms, like semiautomatic rifles and it is time for Texas to do the same. This is not about infringing on anyone's 2nd Amendment rights, this is about the safety of our mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles, cousins, and most importantly our children. DO SOMETHING, you can make a difference, you can save lives. All you need to do is support HB 2744, vote it out of committee.

Nayelli Concha Minguet
self
Pflugerville, TX

I support this bill because we need this legislation in Texas who sadly is the #1 mass shooting capitol of America and most mass shooters happen to be 18-20 year olds. The perpetrator of Uvalde mass school shooting massacre waited to buy his semi-automatic weapon on his 18th birthday. We cannot change the past but we can change the future the ensure more protection for our communities with common sense gun regulation like raising the age to purchase and possess assault weapons. We owe it to the survivor of gun violance, we owe it to the families who lived this trauma, we owe it to our children who fear mass shootings every day and we owe it to our communities.

Evil will always exist in the world but we don't have to make easier for evil to acces these assault weapons. I firmly believe more gun control will save many lives. Thank you!

Doren Fein
self
San Antonio, TX

Three days before I turned 15 years old, 13 people were gunned down at Columbine High School, which looked a lot like my high school. Over 20 years ago, I still vividly remember how terrifying active shooter drills were because you never knew if it was a drill or for real. Then came Virginia Tech, Ft. Hood, the movie theatre in Aroura, and Sandy Hook. In the last 6 years- Las Vegas, Sutherland Springs, Parkland, Santa Fe High School, El Paso, Buffalo, Uvalde. Assault style weapons and extended magazines were used in all of these mass shootings, 3 of the shooters were under 21, and 4 of the more recent tragedies happened here in Texas.

Assault style weapons are made for war- for mass killing. We live in the best country and best state in the world where freedom is celebrated and protected. It is disheartening and discouraging that the freedom of a vocal minority has increasingly been a priority of our government over the freedom to live safe from gun violence. Children are not safe in their own schools. I cannot enter any building with my son without immediately scanning for the exits or where I could hide him in case of an active shooter. This is NOT ok. We live in Texas, not a war-torn country under attack or occupation.

I enthusiastically support HB 2744. For the good of society, please increase the age to obtain assault type weapons from 18 to 21 and limit detachable magazines. Enough is enough. Please act in the interest of safety and the freedom to LIVE without constant fear and growing threat. Thank you very much.

James Works

self

dallas, TX

House members: Are you on the right side or wrong side of history? Go get in your Bibles and pray about how Jesus would lead you on this question. It's time to protect kids with some common-sense regulation. Please vote FOR this bill

Rachel Dicker

self and all of our children!

Austin, TX

I fully support this bill. Something needs to be done about gun violence.

Carl Jones, State Field Coordinator

TDP Non Urban Rural Caucus

Spicewood, TX

Thank You Rep Tracy King for sponsoring HB 2744!! Raising the age to legally buy an assault weapon from age 18 to age 21 is a no brainer. I am fully in SUPPORT of this bill. We don't need assault weapons in our country in the first place. They are NOT needed for protection against intruders!

Stacy Bosse

Self

Houston, TX

Dear Committee Members:

I support HB 2744. As a mother of 3 and a former public school teacher, I know gun violence is a very real threat to Texas children. Gun violence is now the leading cause of death for children, and evidence shows that 18-20 year olds commit gun homicides at triple the rate of people aged 21 and older. The age to purchase certain semiautomatic rifles must be raised. The Uvalde shooter was able to legally purchase two semiautomatic rifles shortly after turning 18, and he used one of those rifles to kill 21 people within days of his purchase. We cannot do nothing after that tragedy. HB 2744 is an essential measure to prevent further gun violence. Isn't this committee's purpose to work towards safer communities for Texans? HB 2744 is an excellent step towards that. I support HB 2744, and I implore this committee to do the same.

Erica Lawrence

self

Spring, TX

Imagine a Texas free of gun violence. If enacted, HB2744 is a reasonable way to prevent many mass shootings, like that at Robb Elementary School. It will save lives. I'm Erica: a native Texan, a gun owner, a mother, and a concerned citizen. I support HB2744 and ask you to do the same. Just like raising the drinking age helped reduce vehicular crashes, I know raising the age to purchase firearms would curb gun violence. In the Uvalde, Texas, in the Buffalo, New York, and in the Parkland, Florida mass shootings, the shooter legally purchased a gun before he turned 21. Again, HB2744 will save lives and make Texans safer. We know that a majority of Texans support red flag laws, background checks on all gun sales, and raising the age of purchase to 21 for semi-automatic rifles. I ask you to support this legislation. Thank you, Erica

Aimee Ahiers

Self marketing executive

The Hills, TX

Do more. Do better. I support raising the age limit.

Kristin McFarland

Self

Austin, TX

Please pass this bill. I support an assault weapons ban. This is a good first step.

Heidi Gordon

Texas Democratic Women of Galveston County

League City, TX

Please vote in favor of this bill. The age to buy any firearm and especially semiautomatic rifles should be 21. People who serve in the military are trained on these weapons before they are allowed to carry them. They are safely stored in an armory.

If young people can't buy cigarettes or alcohol in the state of Texas until age 21, they should not be allowed to purchase rifles until age 21.

Andrea Ciceri

Self; Therapist and Owner of Andrea Ciceri Counseling PLLC

Austin, TX

As a mother of an 8-month old and a therapist of Texas children and teens, I urge you to pass this common-sense gun violence prevention bill. Raising the age to 21 will ensure that fewer preventable shootings occur. Brain science shows us that brain development continues up through age 25, especially the part of the brain involved with impulse-control and decision making. Please protect the lives of all Texans - young and old - by raising the age.

Lora Peters

Self

Sugar Land, TX

Raise the age to 21. 80% of Texans support this legislation. Think of the Ulvalde children when making your votes.

Camilla Ritchey

Self, owner Cibolo Creek Ranch

Bulverde, TX

Vote to raise the gun ownership age to 21. Teens and 20-year-olds do not have enough anger management to have firepower that resembles video games. The citizens of Texas don't feel safe. This is not a mental illness problem; it is giving access to anyone to have military hardware.

Amber Byfield

self, creative director

Austin, TX

I am writing to SUPPORT this bill to raise the minimum age for purchasing automatic rifles from 18 to 21. I am the mother to an elementary-aged daughter, who has to practice active shooter drills. Our children DESERVE to be safe in all places, especially their schools.

Beth Martinez

Self

Austin, TX

Please support HB 2744. Allow young people time for their brains to more fully develop before allowing them to purchase a semi automatic rifle. The passage of this bill will absolutely save lives.

Carlos Luevanos
Self Software Developer
El Paso, TX

If these guns are being purchased through lawful means, then make the lawful means harder for dangerous individuals to get a hold of.

Elva Mendoza
self; public health social worker
Austin, TX

HB 2744-SUPPORT. I applaud the author of this bill and the Chair and Vice chair for allowing public comment on this life-saving legislation. Assault-style rifles are the primary weapon of choice for mass shooters. They inflict catastrophic damage on the human body far beyond what a handgun is capable of inflicting. Children's bodies shot with the light, high-velocity rounds fired by an assault rifle in Uvalde were rendered so unrecognizable as to necessitate DNA samples to identify them. Can you imagine that horror? All of us should. These weapons are far too powerful and dangerous to be in the hands of civilian teenagers. Teenagers in the military are one thing; they receive training on these weapons and must follow strict guidelines for their storage and usage. But we know NO teenagers have fully formed prefrontal cortices. The prefrontal cortex governs decision-making and impulsive behavior. We know that as a result of their still-developing brains, teenagers are more likely to take risky and irresponsible actions. That's why it's so expensive to buy them auto insurance. Assault rifles belong on the battlefield. But as long as Texas allows them on the streets, they should be in the hands of people at least 21 and over. Please, for the parents of the massacred children of Uvalde, and to prevent the next Uvalde, pass this bill. Thank you.

Leah Raley
Self/mother
Austin, TX

I am a mother to a kindergartener. I worry every day that I drop her off at school that she might be shot, especially since the murder of 19 children in Uvalde. I urge you to pass HB 2744. Eighty percent of Texas voters support raising the age of purchase for semi-automatic rifles, used to commit mass shootings. I am just one of those voters.

Thank you,
Leah Raley

Laura Colburn
Self
Austin, TX

The ownership and use of Semiautomatic rifles serve no purpose for non law- enforcement & military other than to kill and maim large numbers of people. I am opposed to their being available.

Adam Raley
Self
Austin, TX

I support this bill, we need to take reasonable measures to protect ourselves from gun violence.

Delaina Bishop
SELF/Parent
Austin, TX

I HIGHLY SUPPORT this bill. Thank you Representative Goodwin for introducing this bill. We need more red tape for gun purchases. Law abiding responsible gun owners support training, licensing, red flag laws, raising the age, adding waiting periods, and banning weapons that make loved ones unrecognizable when murdered!

CLIFTON MCCULLOUGH

myself

LAGO VISTA, TX

As an Army veteran and lifelong firearms owner and shooter, I support this bill.

Erin Cody

Self

Houston, TX

I am a mother of a 9 month old baby boy. It is absolutely terrifying raising a child in the current state of our nation. He has years to go before he begins attending school, but I'm already having thoughts/conversations with my husband about, "how are we going to talk to him about school shootings? How will we keep him safe? Where do we buy a bullet-proof backpack? Is he safe at his daycare?" It is heartbreaking needing to have these conversations in order to feel like we have some sort of power in keeping our son safe - when in reality, we are powerless. We are powerless to our lawmakers and the people/organizations that ultimately make the laws, and make it so very easy for anyone to purchase semi-automatic firearms. It is the responsibility of our state government to keep our children safe. I strongly support raising the minimum age to purchase these firearms to 21. How many more children must die before we decide, enough is enough?

Jo Foley

self/none

Henderson, TX

I am AGAINST HB 2744. It is not fair to tell people between 18-20 years old that they are old enough to work, join the armed forces, enter into contracts, get married, be responsible for payment of bills, etc., etc., etc. YET they cannot own firearms. How about if someone commits any criminal act, just put them in jail and keep them there instead of letting them out because some DAs and officials don't believe in making criminals pay for their crimes. How about targeting Criminals, not law-abiding gun owners.

Haru Hatton

self

Cedar Park, TX

Please raise the age to purchase or possess assault weapons and semiautomatic rifles to 21.

Hayden Miller, Mrs.

self, Travel Advisor

Austin, TX

I support this bill.

Ashley Brodeur

Self, HR

Austin, TX

I support this bill.

Diane McMichael

Self

Austin, TX

This is common sense. 80% of Texans support this. 19 children and 2 adults may still be alive if this was put into place after Santa Fe. Please support and pass this bill.

Shannon Johnston

Self

Austin, TX

I support this - please pass for our safety.

Epi Camacho

self

San Antonio, TX

Greetings, I oppose this bill. It is a time honored tradition for me and many others to gift a rifle to our children. To teach them gun safety, how to shoot, and possibly even go hunting. The idea that doing so would become a crime is ridiculous. Even our children have a constitutional right to safely own, operate, or possess a firearm and this bill seeks to strip them of that right. Ask yourselves, would this pass the Bruen test? The very idea that an 18 year old can be sent off to war but can not exercise their right to purchase a firearm is unconstitutional and I strongly oppose this bill and others like it.

Natalie OFlaherty

Self

Austin, TX

Support

Delaina Bishop

Self/ Parent

Austin, TX

I HIGHLY SUPPORT this bill. We need more red tape for gun purchases. Law abiding responsible gun owners support training, licensing, red flag laws and holds, raising the age, adding waiting periods, and banning weapons that make loved ones unrecognizable when murdered!
I meant to thank representative King for this bill.

Lorraine DeHaas

Me

Austin, TX

Please raise the age! Please push this bill through. Gun violence by our youth is kinng our youth

Alan Higginbotham

self

Reklaw, TX

I oppose HB 2744. It restricts the Second Amendment rights of young adults aged 18-20 by prohibiting them from purchasing most semi-automatic rifles. Besides most gun violence is committed using a handgun, not a rifle. This is just an emotional reaction to the scary "assault weapon". At age 18, citizens are eligible to vote, be drafted, serve in the military, serve on a jury, enter into contracts, sue and be sued, get married and own property. Restricting their right to purchase and own firearms is unconstitutional and will not reduce crime.

Lacey Sims

Self

Austin, TX

I support this bill

Courtney Moursund

self

Dripping Springs, TX

I support this bill. We must do SOMETHING to better protect our children and communities.

Meghann Bennett

Self

New Braunfels, TX

I support HB 2744. I support all common sense gun laws that would assist in keeping the public safe. There have been too many heartbreaking tragedies.

Clayton Cody

Self

Houston, TX

I am writing to support the passage of HB 2744. This bill provides actionable and easily implementable steps that will address the leading cause of death among minors in the United States- firearms. Reducing childhood mortality by limiting access to firearms is well studied and effective. Passage of this bill is a necessary minimum first step to reducing gun deaths.

Melissa Holmes

Self, law student

Houston, TX

I support raising the age for semiautomatic rifles from 18 to 21. We as a society have recognized in other contexts that people who have just achieved majority, and in many ways are still children (brain development, living at home, in high school), should not have access to harmful products until they are older and more independent. The data on mass shootings and everyday gun violence clearly show that these rifles - designed specifically as highly effective weapons of war - are a clear danger to our communities when owned by young people. Restricting ownership of these rifles to adults over 21 is an evidence-based step we can take to help reduce gun deaths, including deaths of other children.

Hayley Morrison

Self, Artist

Austin, TX

I support HB 2744 and am in favor of further gun regulation.

Thomas Sims

self - attorney

Austin, TX

I support this bill because it will help reduce the chance of a deadly school shooting. The majority of school shootings are committed by people who are under the age of 21, and so this bill will make it less likely that these terrible tragedies will occur.

Christa Rackleff

Self

Houston, TX

I support this bill. I would really like to see something stronger than this, but at the least can we require persons to be 21 in order to purchase semi automatic weapons. Please pass this bill to help protect our children and grandchildren.

EVE MARGOLIS

self

Austin, TX

Support HB 2744. Transferring rifles nullifies the entire idea of waiting periods, licensing, and keeping guns out of felons hands.

Carrie Waller

Self/ architect

Austin, TX

I support raising the minimum age to purchase semiautomatic rifles to at least 21, and increasing penalty against underage purchase

Sydney Young

Self/student/TDW

Bacliff, TX

Students deserve to be safe and able to attend school, we deserve to attend concerts, movies, places of worship and all things that are now clouded by the impending doom of gun violence. Legislation like this is first steps in making our state as great as we would like to be able to claim it is. The number one threat to the lives of our children is fire arms, we must do something. Elected officials must DO SOMETHING, or we will be forced to act with collaborative mobilization of resources toward efforts to make sure you never have the opportunity hold an office again. Texas residents deserve to feel like they have representation, actual representation that protects the life and liberty of ALL!!!

Jessica Jinkins

Self

Austin, TX

I support this bill to raise the age to 21 to purchase an assault rifle. This is an important issue and an important step to take to keep our communities safe.

Deanna Hollas, Rev.

self/ Gun Violence Prevention Ministry Coordinator for the Presbyterian Peace Fellowship

Dallas, TX

I want to speak in favor of this bill. For the safety of everyone, I beg the members of this committee to raise the age to own a semiautomatic rifle to 21. We know that a majority of school shooters are under the age of 21 and this bill will save lives by keeping guns that can do tremendous harm out of the hands of young adults whose brains are not yet fully formed. We don't allow people under the age of 21 to buy alcohol or cigarettes, so why should we give them access to a weapon that can take multiple lives in an instant. There is no place for the weapons in a civilized society that claims to be based on Christian principals. Jesus chose to die rather than kill. When you as lawmakers continue to fail to protect the people who put you in office by choosing gun industry profits over public safety, you align with the leaders who executed Jesus. Raising the age to 21 is the least you can do. Be the change, repent in this season of Easter, and put Texas on a new path towards public safety. Vote in favor of HB 2744

Craig CAMPBELL

SELF

AUSTIN, TX

18-YEAR-OLDS WITH AK -15S IS CRAZY PLEASE DO SOMETHING TO SLOW DOWN THE MADNESS

Patricia Garris, Ms

Self/retired

Spring, TX

At a minimum, the age requirement to purchase a semi-automatic rifle like an AR-15 should be raised to 21 to match Texas' handgun laws. This measure could have prevented the Robb Elementary mass shooting in Uvalde. In fact, due to the development of many young men, the optimum age should be 25. At that point they are more likely to have managed their emotions and matured enough to deliberate and not react in the face of disputes, disagreement or rejection. Please increase the age of possession if you are unwilling to eliminate this mass-murder weapon until it hits much close to home for all of us.

Brittany Murphy

Self

Austin, TX

Please pass laws like this making the ownership of guns more responsible and limited. Our children need to be protected!

Meg Jimenez

Self

Temple, TX

I fully support this bill. It is way past time to enact common-sense restrictions on the ownership of semi-automatic rifles. It is an abdication of responsibility to the innocent and vulnerable citizens of our state to do otherwise (which up until now has been to do nothing). Please pass this bill for the sake of our children and grandchildren.

Alexander Adell

self

Austin, TX

I support HB 2744. "Six of the nine deadliest mass shootings in the United States since 2018 were by people who were 21 or younger, a shift from earlier decades." - NY Times.

Tiffany Smith

Self

Austin, TX

As a former teacher and gun violence survivor, I couldn't be more in support of this bill. Texas has the most mass shootings of any state, and some of the most lax gun laws in the country which have led to an increase in sporadic shootings according to TX law enforcement. We need common sense gun reform, and this bill is a step in the right direction. As a TX resident, I am always concerned about the potential for gun violence wherever I go in this state. I'm sick of our state legislators putting the gun lobby ahead of our children's' lives and futures. Please, please, please, do the right thing and support this bill. We don't have to live in fear.

Diana Galindo

Myself, my child

Houston, TX

Texas has suffered some of the deadliest mass shootings in our amazing country, including Uvalde where parents could only recognize their dead children by their shoes. My daughter is the same age they were. We don't feel safe - at school, Walmart, or church (Sutherland Springs). PLEASE stand with the majority of Texans and raise the age to 21 to purchase/possess military-assault weapons. If you have to be 21 to buy a beer, you should be 21 to buy a weapon that can take multiple lives in minutes. Thank you for raising the age and protecting our lives

Melissa Waelchli

self

Austin, TX

I support this bill. Considering that we already restrict minors' access to lethal substances like alcohol and tobacco, it's only logical to do the same for firearms.

Sandra Sutton

RETIRED Educator

San Antonio, TX

I write in STRONG support of HB 2744. Texans are absolutely fed up with the gun violence in our country and state. This is the least we can do, based on what we've learned about the use of automatic weapons in mass shootings and the age of their purchasers. We are a nation of laws that must be created for the common good of the public. If I carry contraband to the airport, it is confiscated. If I drive too fast, drink too much while driving, or seriously injure or kill someone I will lose some of my freedoms (like running for office, voting, or certain occupations, (e.g. lose a teaching certificate) and possibly all of them by being incarcerated. It is time that we treated the second ammendment like we do all the others. It is not an absolute right, but one maintained by the common good, which is why "a well-regulated militia" is a prominent part of the text. Freedom of expression does not include libelous and slanderous expression, nor does it include terroristic threats. I cannot drive as fast as I want or vote as many times as I want. Our responsibility as citizens is to always consider the most important interests of our fellow citizens and the common good. The second ammendment is not an open-ended, blank check of "rights". Each ammendment includes responsibilities we must uphold and assurances that do not diminish the liberty of others. Most Americans are afraid right now and are intent on fighting "fire with fire", which is why we are a nation oozing gun and ammunition. The lack of regulation is overwhelming/outgunning our law enforcement, costing the citizens of this country and this state in lives lost, funds wasted on "hardening our schools", and frustrating/ traumatizing our teachers and students to the breaking point. I worked at virtually 75% of the schools in SAISD and I can tell you that basic and some enhanced security measures I've seen have only slightly helped. We can razor-wire the schools, install watchtowers, and have police cars patrol, but as long as there are public places with high-volume crowds (churches, malls, festivals, parties, parade,etc.). Children still enjoy outside recess, field trips, P.E., and have multiple fire and evacuation drills as well. They board and disembark busses on a schedule en masse. Prisons are hardened, not schools. Police officers know what an assault-style rifle can do to a body. It is not a typical injury. Ask Dr. Ronnie Stuart at University Heal Hospital/ SAMCC. Some powerful semi-automatics leave a 3.5 inch gaping hole and shreds bone and tissue. That is what they've done to our children and our adult citizens. Passing HB 2744, HB236, HB22, and HB 220 are the least we can do for those who have already lost so much.

Diane Ossenkop

Self

Keller, TX

I URGE this committee to heed the call of Texans who want the purchase of AR 15 type rifles to be raised from 18 to 21. I am looking for a hero here. Please be the heroes we all need. Raise the Age!

Amy Balaich

Self

Austin, TX

I support this bill! We need more gun control to keep our citizens, especially our children, safe.

Katherine Regis
self / engineer
Wimberley, TX

Please pass HB2744.

I'm a veteran and served as naval officer. When I was 20 years old I carried an M16 while training with the USMC. But every evening after we stripped down, cleaned, and lubricated our weapons they were locked in an armory.

HB 2744 simply limits ownership of semiautomatic weapons with detachable magazines larger than .22

18, 19, and 20 year olds have no need for these weapons of war. HB2744 is a common sense limited measure to help save lives. This bill should be unanimously passed by this committee.

Olivia Gray
Self
Hockley, TX

I am in favor of this bill.

Adele Barnett Mueschke
Self
San Antonio, TX

As an educator, parent, and person concerned about all of our safety in daily life, I am in support of this bill.

Cindy Samuelson
self
Dallas, TX

Writing in strong support--it's past time to take action--there's no easy solution but the TX-lege needs to whittle away at the problem of gun violence in our state NOW. This is a good step.

Nancy Lacoste
Self
Austin, TX

Support!

Timothy Brosnihan
Self
Austin, TX

I am writing to voice my support for HB 2744. We need sensible gun laws to help address the current gun violence problems in Texas.

Kim Callaway
self, licensed psychologist
Austin, TX

* 18-20 year olds commit gun homicides at triple the rate of those over 21

* Texas is the #1 mass shooting capital of America

* The Uvalde mass shooter waited until the day after his 18th birthday to buy the weapon he used

Sarah Gilbreath

Self

Austin, TX

My name is Sarah Gilbreath, I'm a wife, advocate for children with special needs, CEO, Philanthropist and most importantly mother to preschool and elementary aged children. I formed Texans for Sensible Gun violence with a group of women who are sick and tired of living in a country that does not respect or reflect our hopes, dreams, morals or values. Sensible gun safety is a political issue but it not partisan. Democrats and republicans largely agree that we want reasonable protections with regards to gun ownership, sales and legislation. We all agree that our children being picked off and slaughtered in our schools is not ok. And we largely agree that no one is listening to what we want or acting on behalf of their constituents.

Increasing the minimum age to purchase a semi automatic weapon to 21 is common sense. 18-20 year olds commit the most homicides with guns each year. Why not make it harder to access these kinds of weapons. The safety of all of our children is more important than 3 years of unnecessary and dangerous gun ownership for some.

Without special accommodations, you can not easily rent a car in the US under 25. Some states even have laws against renting under 18 or 21. Why? Because it's not safe and the perceived rights of some are not more important than the safety of us all and the greater good of society. Sure. But the real reason, is because it rescued a point where the cost exceeded the financial upside.

The US universally increased the minimum age to drink to 21. In fact there are a whole set of coordinated laws called the "minimum legal drinking age" or MLDA related to alcohol legislation. This change was made to protect young people, protect other drivers on the road and to keep more people safe. We all know about the work MADD did in this space. But the real catalyst for change was the insurance lobbies fought to increase the legal age because the cost was too high to them.

I am not anti gun. I have guns in my home. I am not anti second amendment. I am married to a lawyer and run a law firm that advocates for individuals rights every single day.

I AM anti-prioritization of profits of gun manufactures, lobbies and politicians that benefit from and are beholden to over the safety of society as a whole and most importantly our small children.

Because seeing these acts isn't enough, seeing parents burry their small children isn't enough, fearing for our safety as we stand here today isn't enough, I hope you all recognize the cost to do nothing is too high. This country is built on the unpaid and underpaid labor of women. We are now out earning men and make more consumer spending decisions than men. And we are angry and fed up are we are activating and organizing to effectuate change. We are planning walkouts and days of no spending. And that is just the beginning.

Both sides want to blame the other. Grow up, be brave and do something. Because you have the chance to and many of our kids won't.

Allen Dinsmore

self

Mineola, TX

UNCONSTITUTIONAL!!!! End this bill and burn it to ashes! Stop attempting to add more laws that only law-abiding citizens will comply with! Only armed good law-abiding citizens, or first responders, can save peoples lives or stop armed bad people from doing much harm to the innocent. This bill is ludicrous on all fronts!!! THANK YOU!

Terri Purdy

Self - project manager

Austin, TX

Please raise the minimum age for purchasing firearms to 21.

Heidi Ross
Self
Austin, TX

Please raise the minimum age to purchase semi automatic weapons to 21. This is just basic common sense.

Patricia Goforth
self- real estate agent
Austin, TX

I strongly support this bill.

Bergan Casey
Self communications and nonprofit consultant
Austin, TX

I wholly support HB 2744:

* 18-20 year olds commit gun homicides at triple the rate of those over 21

* Texas is the #1 mass shooting capital of America

* The Uvalde mass shooter waited until the day after his 18th birthday to buy the weapon he used.

Raising the age on, it is the least we can do to honor the victims of Uvalde and other mass shootings and prevent more deaths.

Ashley Matthews
Self
Houston, TX

I am in support of this common-sense gun safety solution.

Gloria Long
AAUW Texas
Fort Worth, TX

Thank you, Representative King, for promoting this message. In Texas - in the entire USA - we must find a way to control the use of guns and stop the slaughter of our children. Guns should not be the leading cause of death for children anywhere! This measure is not the final answer, but it is a start.

Gloria Long, Registered Voter

Kim Brewer
Self
Buda, TX

Hello, I am a Texan and a mother to 3 boys. I am fearful for the day I have to enroll them in public schools. We have a crisis in this country and our state with the number of mass shootings. The majority of these are done by males under 21. Please support raising the age to buy assault style weapons and other semi automatic rifles from 18 to 21. Please take these firearms out of the hands of young kids that are just 18 & 19 years old. Please help in protecting the children of Texas. Thank you for your time.

Dena Smith
Self
Manvel, TX

100% support this! The rational thinking part of our brain is not fully developed until 25 years of age. This could potentially minimize gun violence in schools.

Denise Kotrla

Self

Austin, TX

I am in strong support of this bill, HB 2844, because we need to raise the age of individuals who are allowed to purchase semiautomatic rifles to a minimum of 21 years old.

The part of the adolescent brain involved in critical decision making, the prefrontal cortex, is not fully developed until the mid to late 20's, so a person should not be purchasing semiautomatic rifles before 21 at the least, if not later.

Statistics show that a large percentage of shooters in mass shootings are males under the age of 21, who used semiautomatic weapons as their weapon of choice.

This is a priority for public safety in Texas, & especially for our schools' safety. Thank you for taking the time to read my statement.

Lauren Scott

Self

Dallas, TX

Increase age for sale
Of weapons to 21!!!

Darrell Whitney

Self, Corporate Retail

Houston, TX

I SUPPORT the bill to raise the min age to buy an assault rifle to 21 in TX.

Leyla Megreidze, Mrs

self

Dripping Springs, TX

Sending our kids to schools like to the war and arming the teachers and staff to combat potential shooters is unacceptable. I demand to raise the age of purchase an AR-15-type rifle from 18 to 21.

Abbey Gray

Self

Austin, TX

I support this bill and hope to see it reach the floor. This is not a red or blue issue. I support the second amendment but also support gun regulation (the word "regulation" is even in the 2nd Amendment). We have to try something. Maybe it works, maybe it doesn't, but doing nothing is no longer an option. I feel sick to send my kids to school every morning. We must do better and we need leaders with the courage to do so.

Rachelle Siemes

Self - Fin Tech

Austin, TX

I support the raising of the minimum age to 21 to sell of transfer assault-style weapons. Far too many of the mass shootings in the past 20 years have been committed by young adults. Please, parents and children have been begging for something to be done to make them safer. This is one small step to protect us.

omega baker

Private citizen

Pflugerville, TX

Enough is enough. Texas has lost too many lives to gun violence. It's time we regulate gun sales. Do the right thing—support this bill.

Ashley McClary, MD
Self. Mother and Pediatrician
Austin, TX

As a pediatrician and mother, I support this bill. Raising the legal age to legally buy semiautomatic rifles is one, common sense, step towards ensuring these weapons if war do not make their way into our schools.

Julie Marinucci
self - Tax Accountant
Houston, TX

I support this bill. After the mass shootings in Buffalo, NY and then Uvalde 10 days later by 18 year old males that had just recently purchased assault rifles shortly after turning 18, this makes sense. The age of the shooters in school mass shootings has been decreasing and assault rifles are their weapon of choice. If you can't buy a hand gun until you turn 21 in Texas, why should those under 21 be able to purchase or possess an assault or battle rifle. These weapons are threat to law enforcement and public safety due to the injuries they cause. The purchasers are generally not old enough to have any kind of record, so they can pass a background check, if they happen to purchase the weapon thru a licensed gun dealer. Passing this bill would be a step in the right direction to start getting Texas out of the hole we are now in due to irresponsible loosening of gun laws over the years that has made the public less safe.

Laurie Heller
self, graphic designer
Houston, TX

I support YES votes on HB2744. Please please listen to the overwhelming majority of Texans who support this gun safety legislation. We can keep responsible gun ownership protected while increasing safety for everyone by raising the age for obtaining semi-automatic and assault style weapons.

Kristin Jarzombek
Texas Moms Making Decisions
Austin, TX

As a physician in the community and a mom to 3 young children I strongly support passage of this bill

Bonnie Adell
Self; lawyer
Austin, TX

Six of the nine deadliest mass shootings in the U.S. that occurred since 2018 were by people who were 21 or younger: Buffalo. Uvalde. Boulder. El Paso. Santa Fe. Parkland. Three of those shootings occurred in Texas. If we had a law on the books prohibiting young people from purchasing assault style weapons, then those shootings might not have happened. Now's your chance: prohibit people who are younger than 21 from purchasing killing machines.

Tina Kotrla, Ms.
self/professor of visual art
Houston, TX

I am in strong support of this bill, HB 2844, because we need to raise the age of individuals who are allowed to purchase semiautomatic rifles to a minimum of 21 years old.
The part of the adolescent brain involved in critical decision making, the prefrontal cortex, is not fully developed until the mid to late 20's, so a person should not be purchasing semiautomatic rifles before 21 at the least, if not later.
Statistics show that a large percentage of shooters in mass shootings are males under the age of 21, who used semiautomatic weapons as their weapon of choice.
This is a priority for public safety in Texas, & especially for our schools' safety. Thank you for taking the time to read my statement.

Stephanie Abiassi

Self, Lawyer

Austin, TX

I am strongly in favor of restricting the ability of the public to access semiautomatic rifles. There truly is no reason for such a weapon to be available for use to average civilians and their presence in the community only makes us less safe. I am in favor of a total ban on semiautomatic rifles, and this is a step in the right direction. Responsible gun ownership is critical to the safety of our society, and an increased age requirement would also ensure that fewer immature young people could get their hands on such a dangerous weapon.

Harper Klamian

Self

Pflugerville, TX

I strongly agree that raising the limit to purchase these weapons will save many lives. These weapons in the hands of untrained individuals is dangerous but putting them in the hands of young people who have not developed the skills to think through decisions is disastrous.

Elizabeth Ayala

Self; Attorney

Austin, TX

On behalf of myself and my three-year-old son, I am submitting a comment to request the House pass HB2744 to protect not only my son, but all children in the State of Texas. The minor increase of age from 18 to 21 to be able to lawfully purchase a semi-automatic weapon is extremely limited in scope, but allows for some protection against heinous crimes taking place against some of the most vulnerable members of our society and who we should all be striving to protect. I have lived in Texas for 32 years and have attended public school throughout my educational career, including law school at the University of Texas. I have always been a proponent of the public school system. However, with the current status of untreated mental illness among those still in school as well as those shortly after high school graduation (or otherwise after the age of emancipation), I am faced with the inability to garner the courage to send my son to a public pre-school or kindergarten program for fear of receiving notice through news channels or the school that a shooting took place. I am asking for at least an iota more of protection for our children. While I hope this to be but a first step towards protecting school children, it is truly the least that can be done. Thank you for your time.

Benjamin Kennedy, Mr

self, engineer

Houston, TX

I am writing because I support HB2744 to raise the minimum age to purchase or possess assault style weapons. I am one of the supermajority of Texans who support this legislation and others like it.

carol saucedo, ms

self

Austin, TX

I support this bill and urge all to be braver than the cops in Uvalde and protect our children by making this bill into law.

Mary Escamilla
self lawyer
AUSTIN, TX

In Texas you cannot purchase or consume alcohol until age 21. Why? Because young people don't always have the best judgment. Young people will underestimate their abilities to handle alcohol. They may drive after drinking, or act out. We have laws on the books to prevent young people from making huge errors in judgment when it comes to alcohol, and those same laws should apply to the purchase of semi-automatic rifles. At 21, you are no longer a teenager. You are no longer in high school. You have had some life experience. Raising the age to 21, for the purchase of a semi-automatic weapon is common sense. It is not preventing gun ownership, it is just a common sense regulation to prevent young people from obtaining a massively destructive weapon and exercising errors in poor judgment. Pass a common sense regulation on an automatic weapon. No teens should own semi-automatic rifles.

Rima Burrus, Mrs.
Self
Austin, TX

Please increase the minimum age to purchase a semi automatic gun from 18 to 21. I am a concerned mother and citizen and in light of recent events the sensible, moral, and logical next step would be to limit who can purchase a semi automatic weapon. Research has shown that the prefrontal cortex is not fully developed until age 25, and allowing a teenager who cant even legally purchase alcohol purchase an extremely dangerous weapon is reprehensible. The average age of most mass shooters has been under 21.

Please show courage and do the right thing by voting to increase the minimum age.

Al Lindsey, M.D.
Moms Demand Action, Texas Gun Owners for Safety
Austin, TX

This bill would raise the age to buy an assault weapon in Texas to 21. Statistics show that young men ages 18 to 20 years, 11 months and 29 days are 3x as likely ro commit homicide as men aged 21 and older. This measure would have prevented most of the mass shootings in this nation over the past 5 years plus.

Norma Hackler
SELF
Austin, TX

am in favor of this bill. Prohibiting a transfer of semiautomatic rifles to certain recipients should be a criminal offense if that person who receives the weapon is a danger to himself (herself) and/or others.

Katy White, Gun Safety Legislation
Self
Rowlett, TX

As a resident of Texas it is my highest concern that this legislation be passed. A piece of legislation like this would have saved the lives of 19 children and their teachers. It might save my children's lives too. These weapons of war should not be available to anyone, let alone 18 year old children. I am one of 80% of Texans that support this bill and others like it. Thank you Rep. Tracy King for introducing this bill and to the select committee members reading this: I am begging you, please listen to the people of Texas and protect our children!

Lauren O'Neil
self, technical recruiter
Austin, TX

I come from a family of first responders, teachers, veterans, and responsible gun owners. I stand in support of HB 2744 as a common sense reform that does not infringe on the rights of responsible gun owners, but will go a long way to prevent mass killings the likes of which we saw last year when an 18-year-old legally purchased an automatic weapon and successfully carried out his plot to murder innocent children and school teachers in Uvalde. We can respect the second amendment while also acknowledging that certain weapons that were created for wartime just should not be accessible to people under 21.

Amelia Vasquez
Self/Housekeeping
Uvalde, TX

Texas has a HUGE PROBLEM with Guns!

Jill Odonovan
Moms Demand Action
Austin, TX

I am a resident of Texas that supports this bill. I am concerned about the safety of all Texas residents and feel that gun laws in this state are too relaxed which causes unnecessary violence. Prohibiting the transfer of semi automatic rifles would help prevent some of these weapons from falling into the wrong hands.

Annette Martinez, Ms
Self Retired Teacher
Austin, TX

FOR!!! No one needs these weapons of war, least of all people under 21 who are not trained and whose brains are not fully developed.

Zoe Lassiter
Moms Demand Action
Austin, TX

To Rep. Guillen, I'm writing to you in support of HB 2744. Please consider supporting this bill in committee and through to the floor. If we by law and reasoning limit alcohol use to people under 21 because we know the logical brain has not fully formed before then, we can make the argument that automatic firearms should also be limited to people over the age of 21. People between the ages of 18 and 21 commit the most homicides, including the Uvalde shooter/mass murderer who bought his automatic weapon the day after he turned 18. This is a bill that protects our 2nd Amendment rights while also providing protection for gun owners and our communities at large. It will save lives. Thank you.

Selina Moran
Self
Austin, TX

There are mass shootings happening every day in the United States - in our children's schools, at family barbecues, at birthday parties, in malls, at concerts, and so on. We have to do better. We have to recreate the safety once felt sending our children to school, going out to enjoy live music, or shopping. Instead a large portion of the nation is crying sending our kids to school every morning, and choose to be reclusive in our homes because it's just too dangerous to enjoy life outside anymore. Other countries have enacted stricter gun laws and they've been effective. The United States needs to follow suit in this instance because people ARE killing people, with firearms of all calibers. And we deserve better. We deserve to feel safer. Our children and teachers deserve to feel safer and focus on learning rather than safety drills.

Joellen Peters
self
AUSTIN, TX

I am in favor of HB 2744. The hard data supports the fact that we can save lives if we raise the age for individuals to purchase these semiautomatic weapons. The Uvalde shooter is commonly known to have waited until he turned 18 to purchase his weapon. If the world had 3 more years, maybe he would have been stopped in that time.

Submitted respectfully,

Trent Juarez
Self
Richardson, TX

The state of Texas should not allow citizens under 21 years of age to purchase or operate most if not all semi-automatic weapons. This comment intends to promote the safety and general welfare of Texas residents and owners of firearms who intend to secure and utilize them with appropriate caution and responsibility. Thank you for acknowledging this comment.

Sean Kienle
Inflammatix
Mc Gregor, TX

I am in favor of this bill

Denise Kotrla
Self
Austin, TX

My previous comment referenced HB 2844 but I meant HB 2744. I am in strong support of HB 2744, which will raise the age to purchase semiautomatic rifles to 21. Thank you.

Alyse Meyer
self
Cedar Park, TX

Support.

Aubrey Byfield
Self, self-employed
Austin, TX

We need to protect Texas children and raise the age to buy an assault rifle in our state – just as we have with handguns – from 18 to 21. You can help prevent an extremely preventable attack and honor the lives of those lost in so many senseless acts in the United States. Please do the RIGHT thing.

Amelia Considine
Self
Austin, TX

I am in favor of raising the age limit for gun purchases to 21. Please do what you can do protect our children and keep firearms out of the hands of inexperienced hands.

Hibiscus Rozuk

Swlf

Austin, TX

I support raising the age for purchase as well as background checks on all guns.

Craig Kahle

self - Technical Sales Engineer

Austin, TX

This is an absolute no brainer based on the terrible tragedies that continue to happen weekly in this country. Lead the nation by setting an example.

Ashley de Jong

Self, Property Manager

Austin, TX

I strongly support this legislation. If the law insists a person must be 21 or older to purchase alcohol (arguably because a human's brain is not fully developed or matured) then that should apply to purchasing a weapon that can kill people.

Cathy Elmore

Self, retired CPA

Houston, TX

I strongly support HB 2744 to make our children, communities and state a safer place. Please vote this bill out of committee and encourage calendars to schedule it for the full house.

Thank you for your service.

Cathy

Sidney Coffin

GOA

Spring Branch, TX

Hi, my name is Sidney coffin and I compete in competitive shotgun sports, including USA Shooting to represent our country in upcoming Olympics.

We have 18-20 year old men and women serving this country and foreign countries with honor. Using M-16's and M1 Abram tanks. Fighting for YOUR freedom.

We cannot function as a military without them.

I am a competitive shooter and honed my skills with a shotgun. I am responsible with any firearm whether it's a shotgun, an AR15, or and AK47.

How does a gun described in this bill make me more or less safe, make me more or less responsible, or dangerous, than with my shotgun. Why is my life less valuable to protect with whatever firearm I choose, than someone who meets the magical age of 21. Why should I not be able to protect myself and others around me with whatever gun I am comfortable with, just because I have not attained the age of 21. Maturity isn't in the age, it's a mindset. And neither is mental illness. We have to realize it is not the firearm that is the problem, it is the person using the gun.

I recently heard a saying that said "if you're not capable of extreme violence, you're not peaceful, you're harmless. And I choose to be peaceful."

FBI statistics say there are more people being killed every year by hammers than rifles. Are you suggesting that 18-20 year olds should not be able to own or use a hammer?

I urge this committee to not pass HB2744 because my life is just as important as yours.

Drury Stevenson, Profesor
myself
Kingwood, TX

I am writing to support HB 2744 and to urge the Texas legislature to pass it. This is a bill that would prohibit the transfer of certain semiautomatic rifles to certain recipients; it would also create a criminal offense and increase a criminal penalty. These are common sense safety regulations and do not infringe on the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding citizens, as even those who cannot buy these rifles can still acquire other less-lethal firearms to use for self-defense, if necessary. WE NEED STRICTER GUN SAFETY LAWS because too many innocent children are dying from gun violence in Texas. I strongly support this bill.

Kristin Escamilla
Self
Austin, TX

Definitely for this. As a gun owner myself, this is just making sure everyone sells, transfers, and uses guns safely and responsibly. If we have to wait to smoke marijuana, drink alcohol, drive rental cars until the age of 21, it just makes sense to not be able to own deadly weapons until the age of 21. The brain doesn't fully form until the your mid20s, let's make our state safer for those that we love!

Charlene Shafer
Self, Retired Teacher
Cypress, TX

We must make it more difficult for the proliferation of the semiautomatic weapons that are killing Texans. Raising the age to 21 would at least HELP stem the overwhelming number of mass shootings. Increase Community Safety now!

Wendy McRoberts
Self
Danbury, TX
Raise the AGE!

Kim-Marie (Hernandez) O'Driscoll, Dr
Self/Psychologist/Mother
Austin, TX

I am making this comment because I cannot attend in person as a working mother. Let it be known, I am very concerned about the gun violence and resulting anxiety that the children/adolescents in the great state of Texas have to endure every day as they walk, bus, drive to school. The constant questioning about what will be next? Which festival, public pool, beach, mall, theatre, library, restaurant, place of worship, SCHOOL, etc. will be next. We all want to Texas to rank #1 in a variety of things...Gun violence is not one of them. We are the shooting capital of the United States. That is both shameful and gut wrenching. We have to start somewhere, and that somewhere is increasing the legal age to buy a firearm. There is no reason for an 18-year old to possess firearms without any restrictions. They do not have the impulse control or executive functioning developmentally to responsibly own or use firearms. As we learned from Uvalde, that boy bought his artillery the day after his/her 18th birthday. We know 18-20 year olds commit gun homicides at triple the rate of those over 21. But you know all of this information already. So please, start here - for the sake of our children and families in Texas.
Thank you.
Kim-Marie Hernandez O'Driscoll

Laura Flores

Self

Dripping Springs, TX

HB 2744 has my full support. As a Uvalde native whose niece was in a classroom at Robb Elementary on 5/24/22, I have seen firsthand the consequences of being able to legally obtain these firearms at a young age. I am a gun owner myself and this bill is not an attack on the second amendment. It is a bill that will protect all society, especially our children. I ask that all representatives support this bill to help prevent future mass shootings.

Eve Myers

self--Consultant

Tomball, TX

A majority of Texans support common-sense restrictions on gun purchases, according to UT polls going back to 2015. This includes age-restrictions on the purchase of semi-automatic weapons. Texas already has age-related restrictions on the purchase of hand guns--that's common sense. Texas should impose the same restrictions on the purchase of semi-automatic weapons. An age limit of 21 would have prevented the tragic shooting in Uvalde, where the gunman legally purchased the weapon on his 18th birthday. Please honor the memory of the 21 people who lost their lives, including two teachers and 19 children. Prioritize honoring their lives and protecting the lives of other Texans over the "rights" of a small population who want to own weapons that were intended for a battlefield, not a civil society. Prioritize the rights of Texans who want to safely go to church, to school, and to the grocery store, like the victims in Sutherland Springs, Uvalde and Santa Fe, Odessa, and El Paso. Extend the existing common sense age restrictions on the purchase of hand guns to assault weapons by raising the age limit to 21. Those who wish to hunt or have weapons for protection, would still be able to do so, in keeping with our Texas values. Assault weapons do not belong in the hands of 18--20 year olds.

Kristin Graham

Self

Georgetown, TX

I have 3 kids in school. I have four nephews in school. Enough is enough. It is time we stop allowing people too young to even drink, to buy weapons of war. We are tired. The people of Texas are tired. We want to see our lawmakers protecting our kids but instead you run away or worse, you make our great state even more dangerous for them. Stop this insanity and do the right thing so we can be safe and love our state again.

bill kelberlau, CAPT USN Ret

T4T

georgetown, TX

dictating what parents and families can do is fundamentally unconstitutional

Pat Jones

Texas citizen

Katy, TX

Get these assault rifles off our streets, out of schools, theaters, shopping malls, churches, places of work.

German Amador

Self

Houston, TX

Please vote for and pass HB 2744. This bill could have recently prevented 19 precious children and 2 loving teachers from being killed. Raise the age. This is important! Thank you.

Molly Culver

Self

Austin, TX

I support this bill!

Tara Cummings, Dr.

Self, psychologist

Cypress, TX

Our children are being slaughtered in school. Texans are being gunned down in churches and stores. Texans deserve safety and reasonable gun reform. Raising the minimum age for semiautomatic weapons to 21 is a simple, reasonable, effective measure that we MUST take.

Elizabeth Steele

clinical social worker

HOUSTON, TX

Please support this bill to help aid gun ownership and public safety!

Gloria Cazares

Uvalde Families

Uvalde, TX

Hello, my name is Gloria Cazares, my daughter Jackie Cazares was on of the victims of the Uvalde School shooting on May 24, 2022. I am writing to say I'm am in favor of Rep King HB 2744. I can sit hear and talk all day about common sense gun laws, but anyone reading this should already be aware of them. So I'm going to tell you a little bit of how a parent of a child taken away too soon tries to deal with the tragedy. First thing is the fact that they can't find their way in life after the death of their child. This truth is my reality right now. My life was completely turned upside down, while the rest of the world moved on. I no longer feel like a complete mother to my two other children. I feel lost and broken. And I still can't face the fact that my daughter is no longer here. There are lots of emotions like anxiety, loneliness, fear, hopelessness, the unknown, and depression. The only thing that helps us get though this is overworking, staying up all night, sleeping too much, alcohol and numbness. And of course we realize none of this actually help. Then you wake up every morning, just to realize you're missing a very big part of your heart. Yet you have to show up to hearings, rallies, marches and meetings hoping someone will listen, actually listen, to your testimony. Jackie left behind her parents, grandparents, brother, sister, nephew, aunts, cousins and many many friends. Please to the right thing and help me prevent another parent from being in my shoes.

Karen Frey

Retired teachers

Lakeway, TX

Please support and pass HB 2744. It is the very LEAST you can do to limit shootings in our schools.

Anne Miller

Self

Austin, TX

Please approve this legislation to limit access to semiautomatic rifles to protect Texans from these weapons that are used for mass killings.

Kathy Ponce

self

Maypearl, TX

I strongly OPPOSE this bill

Christela Mendoza

Self

Uvalde, TX

Hello, my name is Christela Mendoza I am the cousin of Jacklyn Cazares and Annabell Rodriguez victims of the Uvalde massacre. If 21 would have been the legal age to purchase a rifle they would still be here today. The sad part is, that I probably wouldn't be here fighting for this now. One of my biggest regrets is that I wasn't here before May 24th fighting for more gun reform. I hope that you will do what is right to prevent this circumstance from happening to another family. I hope you also realize that your family is not immune to this circumstance. As you vote I hope you vote in favor of this bill so that you don't have to live with the regret that you could have helped save someone's life.

Ann Edgerton

Self

Fredericksburg, TX

I support HB 2744!!

Sandra Muscle

Self

Lantana, TX

A product for war has no place in community hands. Please, we must keep our citizens safe.

Kate Stal

self

Houston, TX

Please vote to raise the age to purchase a semiautomatic rifle from 18-21. Our lives depend on it. Thank you.

Harold Waters

self

Houston, TX

This is excessive and imposes unnecessary burdens on the citizens of this state. Please do not vote for this bill.

Harold Waters

self

Houston, TX

This is excessive and imposes unnecessary burdens on the citizens of this state. Please do not vote for this bill.

Ken Rygler, Mr.

Self Retired

Round Rock, TX

"Hi, my name is Ken Rygler. I am a Texas resident and I live in zip code 78665. I'm writing about the Community Safety Select Committee's hearing of House Bill 2744. After Uvalde and the unending daily list of other shootings of and by immature children, the absolute LEAST you can do is lower the age to buy a weapon. I live in a community of some 600 seniors, the vast majority of whom vote and support this very modest step to reduce gun violence. Please support it for my nine grandchildren.

Hector Gonzales
SWTJC
Uvalde, TX

In support of HB 2744. As a gun owner and speaking with other gun owners, I have yet to hear anyone opposed to this modest change to increase the age to 21 for the purchase of a semiautomatic rifle. While there is no single solution to eliminate gun violence, this bill would help curb some gun violence. I urge the committee members to pass this legislation.

Prianna Pat
self
McKinney, TX

My family and I are from Collin County and we're looking to see some positive, common sense gun control legislation come out of the Texas legislature. I'm specifically reaching out to get HB 2744 out of committee and on to the floor to get it to become law. I am in support of increasing the checks and infrastructure around gun purchase and owning in the state of Texas to reduce the senseless violence we've seen across the country in recent years.

Ashleigh Lawrence
Self/retail clerk
Lake Jackson, TX

Hello, I am writing in support of HB2744. I believe that raising the age for purchasing a semiautomatic firearm is an important step in reducing gun violence in our state. Gun violence is the leading cause of death of youth 18 years of age or younger. If the legislature values the lives and safety of children as much as they say they do, this bill must pass. Thank you.

Casen Combs
Self
San Antonio, TX

I want to strongly voice my support for House Bill 2744, specifically raising the age to purchase or possess certain firearms from 18 to 21. I am one of the 80% of Texans who support legislation like this. I sincerely ask the committee members to honor the victims of Uvalde and their families by fulfilling their deep desire to turn this bill into law, and in doing so, honor all Texas gun violence survivors and protect Texans from further gun violence. Thank you.

Lisa Londergan
Self, Attorney
Georgetown, TX

Anxiety and depression are at an all time high among young adults. Some statistics are 1 in 3. The prefrontal cortex continues to develop from 18-21 and controls 'higher' brain functions of the frontal lobes, including decision-making, problem-solving, impulse control and emotional regulation. Many young shooters are looking for fame and notoriety. We should not be arming young people when their brains have not yet developed and many are suffering from mental health issues and looking for attention.

Louise Sanchez
Self
Austin, TX

I support this bill. When will there be enough blood and sorrow for our state leaders to take action. Our state has suffered enough heartbreak due to these guns. Pass this bill!!!

Shelli Robinson

self

Austin, TX

To Rep. Guillen, I'm writing to you in support of HB 2744. Please consider supporting this bill in committee and through to the floor. If we by law and reasoning limit alcohol use to people under 21 because we know the logical brain has not fully formed before then, we can make the argument that automatic firearms should also be limited to people over the age of 21. People between the ages of 18 and 21 commit the most homicides, including the Uvalde shooter/mass murderer who bought his automatic weapon the day after he turned 18. This is a bill that protects our 2nd Amendment rights while also providing protection for gun owners and our communities at large. It will save lives. Thank you.

Emily Vilamar-Robbins

Self, attorney, parent

Dallas, TX

It is essential to raise the age to access semiautomatic weapons. No individual under 21 who is not serving in our military should have access to these weapons. If someone is not old enough to purchase alcohol, they are not old enough to access weapons designed to kill as many people as possible as quickly as possible.

Melissa Selden, Ms.

Self-teacher

Austin, TX

I am for this bill. I think raising the age for semi-automatic rifles makes developmental sense. Thank you.

Kim Farbisz

Self

Grapevine, TX

I am in favor of this bill.

Frances Peterson

Self

Austin, TX

Please help keep our kids safe. Stop the irresponsible purchase of guns.

Hanna DelToro

Self social worker

Austin, TX

Please do all you can to choose our children over ARs.

Nickolle Preaseau

Self sales

Houston, TX

I support this bill

Lindsay Chapman, Dr.

Self

Fort Worth, TX

I'm tired of taking care of these young gunshot victims- the amount of influx in 10 years I've seen is insane. This is one of the many reason I stopped pt care. I can only see so much knowing there is nothing being done. The only people needing these guns are our military. No one hunts with these guns and if they do, they destroy the meat and are a terrible shot and know nothing about guns. If best we can do is 21 right now, I'll take it, better than nothing.

Louise Ferry

Self -- retired CPA

Highland Village, TX

Please pass HB 2744 and raise the age to buy semiautomatic weapons -- which have no place in the hands of civilians, and certainly not in the hands of teenagers.

Denisce Palacios

self

Brownsville, TX

I support HB 2744. Teenagers shouldn't be in possession of semi-assault rifles. This bill is a step in the right direction towards reducing gun violence and protecting our communities

Bradford Freeman

self / power system technician

Austin, TX

The U.S. Constitution's 2nd amendment begins with, "A well regulated militia..."

For the past 20-some years, we have loosened regulation of weapons, and the consequences have been horrifying. Freedom comes with responsibility, and we as a society must well regulate our people who wish to belong to our militia. And the purpose of our militia must first be to serve and protect our children. Other societies that have militias of free people are not tolerating the slaughter of their own children. We can learn, we can change how we regulate weapons. We must do better.

Bradford Freeman

Paula Alvelo

Self

Austin, TX

Increase the age from 18 to 21. Teenagers do not have the wisdom or self-control to prevent causing harm to themselves and others. Law enforcement and military know that extended training and consequences are necessary before trusting someone with this much lethality.

Rachel Huskins

Self

Italy, TX

On September 1, 2019, Texas raised the age to purchase tobacco to 21. An article from the Texas Tribune includes a quote from a representative saying, "The idea behind this bill is essentially to move that risk away from those people that are most susceptible to it." <https://www.texastribune.org/2019/05/14/texas-legal-age-tobacco-21-senate-bill-21/>

Cigarettes are dangerous to youth because they're addictive - it seems reasonable to allow kids to grow up a bit before they can legally develop an addiction.

On May 24, 2022, I received a notification from CBS that there was an ongoing school shooting in Uvalde. About an hour and a half later, we left and I checked for any updates. There still wasn't a body count released. I thought this was odd.

I kept checking Facebook and the news all day. Nothing. When I got home from work, I saw a Facebook post with photos of kids who were still missing after the shooting. The post said they were potentially hiding in the neighborhood, as many children ran from the school once they got out. I kept refreshing the post. I watched families and friends of the family notify the public that these children were dead - live. My heart shattered.

As more information has been released, one thing has been clear: we had uniform regulations for each of the things we KNOW to be a major threat to young people, 21 people would not have been murdered in that school.

You took cigarettes away from my class because they cause cancer. You gave us the opportunity to avoid a horrific, slow death.

Please give the next generation the opportunity to avoid death as you did mine.

I support the 2nd Amendment, but should I ever have children, I have no intention of raising them in a state that thinks my child should die to support their right to own a firearm. As a state, we have failed the families of the victims who lost their lives in the most horrific way possible. If you choose to support the agenda of the NRA over saving the lives of children, you cannot call yourself "pro-life" since we know gun violence is the leading cause of death among children.

DO SOMETHING - I'm tired of seeing this trend on Twitter, so please listen and DO YOUR JOB.

Jane Baudouin

Self

Austin, TX

This seems like a no brainer to me. I know it sucks that HUNDREDS of people have ruined your right to own and shoot an AR 15 or AK 47 for fun but that's what it's come down to after THOUSANDS of people and children have died. When is it going to be enough!?!?

Carol Kirst Sanders

Self, former Texas public school teacher

Dickinson, TX

Please, do something. Raise the age from 18 to 21 for these weapons. Give citizens and law enforcement a chance. We all want to make it home.

Tyler Lange, Ms

self , Therapist-LPC

Webster, TX

I support house bill 2744. Our communities need to be and feel safer for everyone especially our children in schools. Our brains are not fully developed until the age of 25 which means that young adults struggle with emotional regulation and impulse control as during these pivotal developmental years. Let's promote safety across the board and decrease access to dangerous firearms.

Sara Dryden, Dr

Self

Austin, TX

I am a pediatrician in Texas and have personally seen children and families ripped apart by gun violence. I am strongly in support of this bill. This bill will not stop all gun violence, not even close, but even if it stops one shooting, saves one child's life, it is a good law. Please pass this bill.

Wendy Cone

Self

Dallas, TX

The cerebral cortex of the brain is not fully developed until age 25. The kids that are buying these guns are not mature enough to handle them.

Cliff Karnes

Self

Early, TX

I support this bill as a constitutional conservative. There is nothing unconstitutional about this bill. This is good public policy that will benefit Texans.

Pranav Jaganathan

self - student at the University of Texas at Austin

Austin, TX

Good afternoon everyone. Thank you to the chair for recognizing me. My name is Pranav Jaganathan, and I am a freshman at the University of Texas at Austin studying economics and government. I am representing all of the young people that have grown up with an uptick in gun violence, and I am supporting this bill.

I am testifying for HB 2744 to raise the age to purchase certain firearms from 18 to 21. I am privileged to say that I personally have not been affected by gun violence. But that isn't true for a vast number of people across the state. Now, in no way should guns just be taken up; it is our constitutional right to bear arms. But, that doesn't mean we can't make it harder for dangerous individuals to commit violence in our Texas communities.

The legal age to drink is 21, and immediately following, we saw an immense drop in drunk-driving related deaths. Suicide rates have gone down immensely with handgun sales being limited to 21 and older. Raising the age for certain semi-automatic rifles can certainly make a difference in keeping our communities safe. Additionally, there might be a preconceived notion that 18 year olds want to purchase and use semi-automatic rifles. Going to one of the largest public universities in Texas and being friends with people in universities across the state, I can confidently tell you that the vast majority of us simply don't have time, money, nor motive to actually purchase a firearm. In fact, most of us are trying to go to school get good grades, work, and start our career. It is simply not a priority for us.

Everyday, as I walk to class, I pass the memorial for the UT Tower shooting by the turtle pond. Everyday, I pray that something like that never happens again, but everyday, I see a new incident in the news about people, namely children, dying from gun violence. Parents should not be burying their children. This bill has the power to make our communities, schools, and parks safer, and therefore, I urge you to vote to pass HB 2744.

Hearing Date: April 18, 2023 9:00 AM

Karla Crabtree

Self

Bellaire, TX

I am writing to the committee in support of this bill.

As a parent I know that there are certain things children whose brains are not yet fully developed are not ready to handle. To me, this includes the ability to use an assault rifle in a civilian setting without proper training or oversight. There is strong evidence that our teenagers are in the midst of a mental health crisis the likes of which we have not experienced before. Giving children access to assault weapons is not responsible and during this time may only continue to exacerbate the mass shooting problem we have here in the US.

KAREN BROWNING

Self, Parent, Texas Citizen, Software Consultant

Austin, TX

Please support this and more bills related to restricting semiautomatic weapons from young people and people who have had no training in how to use them. I support licenses to own guns just the same way we require people to get a driver's license. It's a public safety issue not an issue of curtailing rights. Common sense gun laws are way overdue.

Emily Settle

Self

Austin, TX

Let's focus on sensible gun reform to protect each other.

Laura Downing

Self

Uvalde, TX

Mom in Uvalde, Texas FULLY supporting this bill. Thank you, Rep. King for making this happen!

GABRIELLE Volkmer

self

Schertz, TX

I am writing in support for HB 2744. No 18 year old should be able to legally purchase a semi automatic gun, as the Uvalde shooter did. Texas law sets a dangerously low minimum age for buying firearms, despite research that shows that 18- to 20-year-olds commit gun homicides at triple the rate of adults 21 years and older.

Texas should raise the age to purchase assault weapons and other semiautomatic rifles to 21. This great state has the opportunity to protect its citizens from preventable gun violence by passing HB 2744. Thank you for your consideration.

Elizabeth Winterroth

self, physician

PFLUGERVILLE, TX

I am writing in favor of HB 2744 to raise the age to purchase semi automatic rifles. Research shows that 18- to 20-year-olds commit gun homicides at triple the rate of adults 21 years and older. As a pediatrician and a mother, I see the physical and emotional toll gun violence takes on our communities. Please do whatever you can to strengthen gun laws and keep us safe.

Amy Stephens

Teachers

Austin, TX

Please pass this crucial piece of legislation! As a kindergarten teacher in Austin I should not fear for the lives of my students as well as myself.

Charles Stephens

Self and Realtors

Austin, TX

Please pass and adopt this legislation for raising the minimum age to purchase an assault style weapons to at least the age of 21.

Sheryl Abrahams

Self- Parent and Community Volunteer

Houston, TX

As a parent, I know that our children's very lives depend on ending the current epidemic of mass shootings, including enacting basic and common-sense regulations on the sale and purchase of firearms. I support HB 2744 as a common-sense approach to regulating semiautomatic weapons. Semiautomatic firearms are a specialized and particularly deadly class of weapon, and one that has made possible the killing of thousands of people in mass shootings in the United States. Such shootings include last year's massacre of children and teachers at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde Texas by a teenage shooter. While the right to bear arms may be protected by the US Constitution, public safety absolutely requires us to place reasonable restrictions on these rights. It is reasonable, proper, and necessary to public safety to ban the sale of semiautomatic rifles to individuals under the age of 21.

Christopher Sauter

Retired U.S. Army

El Paso, TX

Since Texas' restriction on 18 to 20 year olds under the Constitutional Carry Law was struck as UNCONSTITUTIONAL, how the hell do you figure that this is NOT unconstitutional? Florida's age restriction is under litigation currently and will most likely end up at SCOTUS. So why not put a pause on this before us taxpayers have to foot a bill we don't want nor need. You are claiming safety and crime prevention but you are full of SHIT on that account. It is about control, PURE AND SIMPLE. You want safety, then lets bring back school firearm safety classes where the school controls the firearms themselves, their possession by students, their operational status and et al. This Bill not only violates the Constitution but by you proffering this, YOU ARE VIOLATING YOUR OATH OF OFFICE!!!!!!!!!!!!!! I for one take my oath so serious that I even changed how I see the legality of Abortion. Though my morals on the issue haven't changed

James Baker

Texas Resident

Georgetown, TX

As a Texas Resident I oppose this bill and any such language thereof.

Jennifer Hanie

Self

Jonestown, TX

I fully support this bill. It is imperative we take steps to keep weapons of war like semiautomatic rifles out of the hands of mentally ill people. Our children and citizens deserve this responsible step towards gun safety.

Samantha Hanie

Self

Jonestown, TX

It is imperative our elected officials listen to their constituents and pass this bill to protect us from gun violence. I fully agree with the passing of this bill and the promotion of better gun regulation.

Karen Hanie

Self

Hideaway, TX

No one outside of the military needs any semiautomatic rifle!! Please support HB2744 as a start.

trevor smith, mr

self - retired

johnson city, TX

please adhere to the second amendment of the constitution and stop trying to subvert said constitution. You were elected to uphold the laws of Texas and support the constitution of the United States - not to impose your personal left wing anti-conservative views on the Texas citizens.

Debbie Carrico

SELF AMERICAN

League City, TX

NO TO THIS BILL INFRINGING ON CITIZENS RIGHTS UNDER CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES

Emily Davis

Sept

Pilot Point, TX

I absolutely support the lowering of age from 21 to 18 in order to purchase assault rifles.

Chelsie Garanzuay

Self

Houston, TX

We need better gun control for safety.

Joan Carney

self

Lago Vista, TX

I support this bill to increase the age to buy semiautomatic rifles from 18 to 21.

Mary Tipper

Self

Plano, TX

I support the passage of HB 2744. Raising the age to purchase semi-automatic weapons from 18 to 21 is common sense. It can help prevent future school shootings. We should be doing everything we can to make our schools safer and this bill is a step in the right direction.

Susan Pollard

self

Porter, TX

I support this bill. As a psychologist I see first hand the impact of gun violence. I also have a son who teaches in Texas public schools. We know that firearms are now the leading cause of death for American children and teens surpassing car accidents and cancer. Most gun deaths are preventable. Federal laws prevent anyone under 21 years of age from buying a hand gun from a gun dealer but Texas law sets a dangerously low minimum age for buying firearms, despite research that shows that 18- to 20-year-olds commit gun homicides at triple the rate of adults 21 years and older. Texas law only prohibits a person from selling a firearm to someone under 18 years old and sets no minimum age for possessing firearms, meaning that 18 year olds in Texas are able to purchase and possess assault weapons and other semiautomatic firearms. Given the statistics that show that many of the recent mass shootings at schools have been carried out by those in the 18-21 year old age range it is imperative to raise the age to 21 years old. Please pass this bill into law. Thank you.

Mike Larsen

self

Austin, TX

I fully support this bill

MELVIN BLACKBURN

Self. Teacher

Austin, TX

I am in favor of HB 2744.

Jacqueline Lambiase

Self; educator

Arlington, TX

Please help keep these weapons out of the hands of young and/or rash recipients. This is part of cause of Uvalde slaughter. And Texas has too many mass shootings when compared to any place on the planet. It's the least we can do.

Tracy Everbach, DR.

Self/professor

Dallas, TX

We need more common sense gun legislation to stop gun deaths.

Tessa Minicozzi

Self

Killeen, TX

This is unconstitutional. Even more so if you're going to raise the age for legally owning a gun of any kind. Many semiautomatic rifles are used for hunting and home protection. There are also 18 year olds in our military who use these kinds of weapons. Why should they not be allowed to own a gun? Passing this bill would be a direct violation of the second amendment.

Zoila Rosales

Self

Corpus Christi, TX

I support.

Joanne Guarino
PAVE
Houston, TX

Please vote for bill HB2744. This bill can save lives, it is so important to require the age of purchase be raised, For the safety of the public, For the safety of all, young and old. The voice of the public needs to be heard. Thank you for listening with your heart!

Maria Burdick
Self
Houston, TX

Please support and pass HB 2744. Research shows that 18- to 20-year olds commit gun homicides at triple the rate of adults 21 and older. Data shows that we need to raise the age. Please pass this bill.

Judy Schockling
Pave
Sugar Land, TX

Please support and pass HB2744. This bill will help stem the widespread gun violence in our country, especially the shootings committed by youths under the age of 21. Raise the age. This is such an important step to take.

Sylvia Campbell
self, retired
The Woodlands, TX

Dear Members of the Community Safety Committee,
Please support HB 2744. This bill makes a lot of good, common sense. Young people under the age of 21 years should not be allowed to own semiautomatic rifles. This has been the cause of numerous mass shootings, including at schools, over the past few years. And these tragedies are becoming more and more frequent. It is time to take action that will work. Please vote for HB 2744, so that it can get a fair hearing in the House of Representatives.
Thank you,
Sylvia Campbell

Mary Weems
Self
Katy, TX

Please vote for, and pass HB 2744. One thing this bill does is raise the age to obtain a semiautomatic rifle to 21. Data shows that raising the age to 21 will save lives. We must pass this bill. We must act to save lives.

Elba Wilson
Myself
Round Rock, TX

I support raising the age and I hope you will support this bill, too.

WARREN WILSON
Self
Round rock, TX

I'm calling to voice for HB 2744 raising the age for purchasing automatic weapons.

Yvonne Myles

Self, retired

Houston, TX

Please vote for and pass HB 2744. Now is the time for meaningful, effective legislation to prevent needless death when youths under the age of 21 -- whose sense of self is not yet fully formed but who can legally buy lethal weapons -- have the ability to arm themselves and take their rage out on others. The 19 innocent children and two devoted teachers of Uvalde stand as a recent and searing example of the deadly status quo. Our state can do better. I implore you to raise the age to purchase deadly semi-automatic weapons to a minimum of 21. This is important for the future of a Texas that is safe for all.

Arianna Moravits

Self, Educator

San Antonio, TX

Dear Committee Members,

My name is Arianna Moravits and I was born and raised in South Texas and I currently reside in San Antonio, with my family. I am a mother, an educator, and a responsible gun owner. I am unable to attend the hearing in person, so I am submitting my testimony in support of HB 2744. I fully support this bill, along with any bill designed to make it more difficult to purchase or carry a firearm in the state of Texas. Please do everything in your power to pass this bill into permanent legislation.

I would like to remind you of a few things: Firearms are the number one killer of children and teens in the United States. Texas has some of the highest occurrences of mass shootings in our country. It is extremely apparent that if more access to guns made us safer, Texas would be one of the safest states in the nation. We are not. Research shows that where there are more guns, there are more gun casualties. Texans have endured mass shootings in churches, schools, supermarkets, not to mention the lives we lose everyday to general gun violence, accidents due to improper storage, and suicide. On average, we lose almost 4,000 (3,996 according to everytown.org) Texans every year to guns. Many of which could have been prevented if it was more difficult to obtain a firearm. You must do more to protect your fellow Texans, especially those who are most vulnerable, children and young adults.

The data is clear. The solution is clear. We have to make it more difficult for irresponsible individuals to obtain weapons with the sole purpose of ending as many lives as quickly as possible. I urge you to consider all the lives you could save and support the passing of this bill to raise the age to purchase and possess assault-style rifles from 18-21, along with supporting any bill that expands universal background checks for every gun sale, supports red flag laws, and safe storage education and legislation.

Please vote yes to HB 2477.

Mark Russell

Self

Houston, TX

I am writing to register my opposition to HB 2744.

I strongly oppose HB 2744 because it will restrict Second Amendment rights. HB 2744 will restrict the Second Amendment rights of young adults aged 18-20 by prohibiting them from purchasing most semi-automatic rifles. At age 18, citizens are eligible to vote, be drafted, serve in the military, serve on a jury, enter into contracts, sue and be sued, get married, and own property. Restricting their right to purchase and own firearms is unconstitutional and will not reduce crime.

Therefore I respectfully ask the committee members to vote against HB 2744.

Thank you.

Melinda Shaw

Self

Dallas, TX

In favor of this bill and any other that would promote common sense gun control. The carnage happening on a daily basis by guns must be stopped. Children are afraid to go to school. Outrageous.

Teresa ODonnell

Self

Houston, TX

Please vote for and pass HB 2744. This bill could have prevented 19 precious children and 2 loving teachers from being killed. Raise the age. This is important.

Brittney Womack

Self

Grapevine, TX

I am in support of this bill. It is another step in keeping our kids and community safe. It also is a great compromise between parties that respects the second amendment while creating common sense gun safety. Please pass this bill forward.

Amy A

Self

Austin, TX

I support this bill! We must raise the age. 18-20 year olds commit the most homicides with guns. The perpetrator of the Uvalde mass shooting waited until the day after his 18th birthday to buy the semi automatic weapon he used. Children's lives are on the line.

Sandra Penoucos

self

Houston, TX

Please pass HB 2744! Surely, we have learned from the killings in Uvalde! Raising the age for the purchase of semiautomatic guns is a start. This is an important step.

Kate Weaver

Self

Austin, TX

For the safety of our community and children.

Phylliss Chappell MD MS FAAHPM, Dr.

Self/Physician

Houston, TX

Please support and pass HB 2744. This bill could have prevented 19 precious children and 2 loving teachers from being killed. Research shows that 18- to 20-year-olds commit gun homicides at triple the rate of adults 21 and older. This bill will help stem the widespread gun violence in our country, especially the shootings committed by youths under the age of 21. Please raise the age for the purchase of semi-automatic weapons. This is such an important step to take. Please pass this bill!

Emily Weems

Self

Houston, TX

Public safety is the cornerstone of a just, thriving society and we do NOT have anything near public safety with the lack of regulation on firearms. This bill would be impactful in keeping military grade weapons out of hands of young people and one step closer to a society where school children are not planning escape routes during math class. Facts clearly show that gun violence is an epidemic and not passing this bill would signal to Texans that lawmakers do not care about Texans lives.

Denise Stasio

PAVE

Houston, TX

Please support and pass HB2744. This bill will help stem the widespread gun violence in our country, especially the shootings committed by youths under the age of 21. Raise the age. This is such an important step to take.

Brittany Thomas

Self- teacher

Lewisville, TX

Please consider raising the age to buy any type of gun. I am so tired of seeing the amount of people die every day and the amount of mass shootings that occur in our country. Our second amendment was not intended for times like these.

Margaret Lauck

none

Sugar Land, TX

Please, please pass this bill. It is time to stop those under 21 from gaining access to a semiautomatic rifle. We could have saved all those precious children and teachers in Uvalde and this will help us save future innocent children and adults. Please do the right and the smart thing for a safer Texas. This law will make a difference and it is long overdue. Thank you

Elysse Chappell-Dolby

Self

Houston, TX

Please support and pass HB 2744. Research shows that 18- to 20-year olds commit gun homicides at triple the rate of adults 21 and older. Data shows that we need to raise the age. Pass this bill.

Please vote for and pass HB 2744. This bill could have prevented 19 precious children and 2 loving teachers from being killed. Raise the age. This is important.

Please support and pass HB2744. This bill will help stem the widespread gun violence in our country, especially the shootings committed by youths under the age of 21. Raise the age. This is such an important step to take.

Shalini Toopran

Self

Pflugerville, TX

I'm a resident of Travis County in Pflugerville, TX. As a concerned mom of two young children, I strongly urge you to vote YES on this bill. Your actions will save lives. Thank you.

Gina DeBottis Metts

Self

Houston, TX

Please support and pass HB2744. This bill will save lives as research shows that 18-20 year olds commit homicides at triple the rate of adults aged 21+. Please Raise The Age.

Jaclyn Leka

Self

Dallas, TX

Protect our children. It is time to raise the age to 21. Texas ranks second for highest number of school shootings per state. Texas has a gun problem. I'm asking that the Representative cosponsor...

[House Bill 2774 to raise the age to purchase certain firearms from 18 to 21.]

[House Bill 236 to improve background checks for private firearm transfers.]

[House Bill 4472 to expand safe gun storage education for parents or legal custodians of students.]

Save our kids!!!

Lucy CAIRE

PAVE, HOUSTON, TEXAS

HOUSTON, TX

Please support and pass HB 2744. Research shows that 18- to 20-year olds commit gun homicides at triple the rate of adults 21 and older. Data shows that we need to raise the age. Pass this bill.

Ginny Gustin

Self

Round Rock, TX

I support this bill

Paige Magner

Self, Educator

Austin, TX

As a Texas native, educator and mother I support this bill. Me and my child deserve to go to school without fear of gun violence and death. Our children deserve the education promised to them and as Texans and Americans we deserve to live life in peace without fear that basic activities might be the cause of our death. If it was your child would you only offer prayers or would you demand action? Listen to your constituents not your donors.

Calista Herbert

Self/Retired

Houston, TX

Please support and pass HB 2744. This bill could have prevented 19 children and 2 teachers from being killed in Uvalde. Research shows that 18- to 20-year-olds commit gun homicides at triple the rate of adults 21 and older. This bill will help stem the widespread gun violence in our country, especially the shootings committed by youths under the age of 21. Please raise the age for the purchase of semi-automatic weapons. This is such an important step to take. Please pass this bill!

William Ross Pumfrey

Self

Austin, TX

I urge committee members to vote "Yes" on HB 2744.

Many mass killings in recent years have involved the use of semiautomatic weapons. I served in the U.S. Army in Vietnam. I am familiar with semiautomatic weapons. Like many other types of armaments used in war, they have no business being in the hands of civilians under the age of 21. This is common sense. Please bring sanity to our wonderful state.

Thank you for your attention.

Ian Kress

Myself. Engineer.

Nassau Bay, TX

I am against this bill. This bill would criminalize the sale of a semi-automatic rifle to those Texas citizens between the ages of 18 and 21. These citizens are fully legal adults, with all the responsibilities of being a citizen, and it is wrong to attempt to deny them the rights of adulthood, including the ability to buy and possess the same firearms that other adults can purchase. In addition, this proposed law is in violation of findings of the Federal 5th Circuit Court of Appeals, which has found that firearm rights, including the ability to obtain an LTC, are full Constitutional rights that can not be denied to citizens between the ages of 18 to 21.

Yvette Pintar

Self - n/a

Houston, TX

Please support and pass HB 2744. Research shows that 18- to 20-year olds commit gun homicides at triple the rate of adults 21 and older. Data shows that we need to raise the age. Pass this bill.

Leslie Ausburn

Komet

San Antonio, TX

Vote yes for this bill. We need to strengthen our gun laws and raise the minimum age to purchase semi-automatic rifles to 21.

Rosanne Friedman

Texas Women for Justice

Spring, TX

Policy must conform to limiting high powered semi-automatic firearms with mass shootings happening almost every day in America. The police want it. Most folks want it. Let's start here.

Thanks,

Rosanne Friedman

joelle Murphy

Self

Austin, TX

I support this bill

Lana Brewer

Self

Midland, TX

Can't buy liquor nor cigarettes until 21

Makes sense for guns too.

Absolutely no reason to own any AK guns unless at war

Dondi Thomas

Self

Leander, TX

Raise the age from 18 to 21 for semi-automatic weapons.

Lindsey Ramirez

TX Moms Making Decisions

Austin, TX

I am submitting comments to express my support behind Bill 2744, raising the legal age to purchase firearms to 21. If we, by law and reasoning, already consider people younger than 21 to be too young to handle drinking alcohol because their logical brain has not completely formed, we should think this would extend to use of automatic firearms. Most homicides are committed by 18-20 year olds. The uvalde shooter/mass murderer bought his weapon legally after turning 18 years old. This bill does not limit all firearms but just those that create mass death and do not serve a hunting purpose.

Thank you.

Dee Carduner

Self

San Antonio, TX

Raise the Age to buy Tactical weapons from 18 to age 21.

Edward Douglas, Mr.

PAVE

Houston, TX

Please support and pass HB2744. This bill will help stem the widespread gun violence in our country, especially the shootings committed by youths under the age of 21. Raise the age. This is such an important step to take.

Nancy Schlirf

Self

Colleyville, TX

I support this bill. Children under 21 should be prohibited from owning weapons of mass destruction.

Shelley Craig

Atascocita Presbyterian Church, Retired

Humble, TX

HB2744 - Your opportunity to prevent another mass shooting. Support HB 2744.

Maureen O'Connell
Self/ Social Worker
Houston, TX

Please support and pass HB 2744. Research shows that 18- to 20-year olds commit gun homicides at triple the rate of adults 21 and older. Data shows that we need to raise the age. This bill could have prevented the senseless murder of 19 children & 2 teachers in Uvalde and numerous other innocent victims around the state and elsewhere.
RAISE THE AGE! Do something to stem the tide of violence in our communities.

Lynn Matherne, Dr.
Self—Retired Psychologist
San Antonio, TX

I beg you to pass HB2744. Without it our children will continue to murder our children. Only adults without a history of or potential for violence should be permitted to own and carry firearms in public to curb the epidemic of gun violence in our state. Please restore sanity to our gun regulations and my sense of pride in Texas.

Maria Cazares, President
American Legion Auxiliary
El Paso, TX

Stop the gun violence. Teenagers are not responsible enough to own weapons

Mary Taylor, Ms
The Majority of Texas Citizens-pharmacist
Austin, TX

Please protect us from the rampant gun violence. Raising the age limit for purchasing a semiautomatic rifle to the age of 21 would be a good place to start. I'm for this bill.

Sarah Mills, Dr.
Self, Physician
Austin, TX

I very much support this bill. As a mom with two children in elementary school, it is joyful getting to watch my sweet children walk into a place of learning, with backpacks almost as big as they are and their smiling faces as they greet their friends and teachers. And it is horrifying how frequently parents around the country find out their child has died in this place that should be preparing our kids for their future. We need fewer assault rifles, and particularly fewer in the hands of young people who are not even old (responsible enough) have an alcoholic beverage.

Arianne Tafreshi
Self - IT SOX Analyst
Houston, TX

Texas ranks 2nd for the highest number of school shootings per state. Texas has a gun problem. Please raise the age to purchase firearms from 18 to 21.

Mary Ellen Wahlheim
Self
Spring, TX

Please support HB2744. There is no justification for a person under 21 to own an automatic weapon of any kind. This bill will save lives. This measure could have prevent the shooting in Uvalde. This bill is reasonable and does not infringe on anyone's 2nd amendment rights. It makes common sense.

Jessica Lamberg
Self, UX Content Designer
Round Rock, TX

I fully support this measure to raise the age to buy an assault weapon from 18 to 21. We need to do something to protect our children and our community and this is a way to do that. Please remember the innocent children murdered with these weapons and raise the age to prevent these tragedies from happening again. Parents throughout Texas support this measure. Thank you for listening.

Katherine Dotsey
self, Retired
Houston, TX

I write you today to ask you to vote for and pass HB 2744. Research shows that 18- to 20-year old individuals are three times more likely to commit gun homicides than adults 21 and older. Data shows that we need to raise the age. Pass this bill.

Lisa Gertsch
self
The Woodlands, TX

I can't even believe this is in question. You can't buy beer until 21 but can't buy semiautomatic weapons. This law definitely needs to be passed. This and many more laws in this area. Please pass this law. LSG

Carol Ortiz, Ms.
Self/retired
Montgomery, TX

Please support HB 2744. This action is a reasonable way to prevent many mass shootings, like that at Robb Elementary School. It will save lives.

James Leiber
Self
The Woodlands, TX

People under the age of 21 should not be able to get automatic weapons. This would be the same requirement as handguns. This may be able to help stop future mass shootings. Thank You for your consideration

Michelle Real
Self
Hutto, TX

On average, 3996 people die by guns in Texas every year. People between the ages of 18-20 commit the most homicides with guns. I am for raising the age to 21. Please pass HB 2744.

Elizabeth Chennell
Self - Businesswoman
AUSTIN, TX

I support this bill and strongly encourage the committee to move it forward. If we by law and reasoning limit alcohol use to people under 21 because we know the logical brain has not fully formed before then, we can make the argument that automatic firearms should also be limited to people over the age of 21. People between the ages of 18 and 21 commit the most homicides, including the Uvalde shooter/mass murderer who bought his automatic weapon the day after he turned 18. This maintains our 2nd Amendment rights while creating protections for the safety of gun owners and our communities.

Karen miller
Retired
AUSTIN, TX

Yes! Restrict all transfers of semi automatic weapons!

Deborah Leiber
self
THE WOODLANDS, TX

Good morning,
I respectfully request that you support HB 2744 that would prohibit the transfer of semiautomatic weapons to anyone under the age of 21. While I fully believe that no one outside of law enforcement should be allow to legally own a semiautomatic weapon, at a minimum, the age requirement to purchase a weapon like an AR-15 should be raised to 21 to match Texas' handgun laws. We are currently suffering an epidemic of mass shootings in American, and while I understand the reluctance to prohibit gun ownership under the Second Amendment, enacting common sense gun laws will help prevent mass shootings like Robb Elementary in Uvalde. Please support HB2744 and any other common sense gun regulations.

Thank you,
Deborah Leiber
713-851-0750

valerie Musick
Self speech language pathologist
Houston, TX

My name is Valerie Musick. I am a licensed speech language pathologist and a mom of two boys. I urge the community safety committee to please support HB 2744 as this would help keep our children and communities safer. Something has to be done about the gun violence in this country. This bill is low hanging fruit that the Majority of Texans support! Thank you!

Nancy Johnson, Ms
None
Spring, TX

Current multiple mass shootings are out of control and reasonable, sensible limits are necessary for the safety of our citizens.

Kim Peterson
N/A
Round Rock, TX

Hi, I am a Texas resident and I live in zip code 78665. I'm calling about the Community Safety Select Committee's hearing of House Bill 2744. I support raising the age and hope you will support HB 2744.

Thank you,

Kim Peterson

Amy Carbajal
Self / Project Manager
Austin, TX

I am in favor of this bill

Maria Cazares, President
American Legion Auxiliary Unit 36
EL PASO, TX

Protect our children by educating the parents first

Tara Watson
self, engineer
Houston, TX

I am a lifelong Texan and a gun owning family. I STRONGLY support HB 2744 to raise the minimum age to buy a gun in Texas. The data clearly shows this is a reasonable, attainable step to making Texas safer for everyone, especially our children.

Jackie Santillan
self/ sahm & parenting content creator
Rosharon, TX

My name is Jackie Santillan. I'm a parent, a former teacher of 11 years with my masters degree in school counseling, and a content creator who teaches parents about their children's brains and development.

Because a human's brain is not fully developed until the age of 25, and because the prefrontal cortex which has the ability to help a person make rational decisions is one of the last parts to form; I agree very strongly that the age to purchase a firearm should be raised. The impulse control of a 21 year old is better than an 18 year old and we would see a decrease in violence if it was more difficult for 18-20 years to obtain a weapon.

Please help to keep my child safe by passing this common sense restriction.

Joanna Rogerson
Personal
Austin, TX

As a voter in Texas I am in strong favor of HB 2744. This is my number one issue.

Claudia Roo
Self
Crowley, TX

I demand to raise the age to purchase or possess a gun. It doesn't make sense that to buy alcohol the minimum age is 21 but to buy a gun it is 18, what is the logic based on? Haven't there been enough shootings already? (shootings that could have been prevented with safety gun reforms/laws) How many more need to die before they will at LEAST consider raising the age? I don't want my children to be the next victims.

L Quentin Dixon
Self/concerned citizen
Spring, TX

Please support HB 2744. This bill will align Texas laws on semi-automatic rifles with those regarding handguns, raising the age of legal purchase or ownership to age 21. If passed, this bill will save lives by keeping dangerous semi-automatic rifles out of the hands of young Texans whose brains are still developing executive function, or the planning and understanding consequences functions of the brain. If this law had been in place previously, it would have prevented the elementary school shooting in Uvalde. With so many mass shootings occurring in Texas and across the US, we need to take action to place common-sense restrictions on who can own deadly weapons.

Kathryn Earle
myself
Houston, TX

Please support and pass HB 2744. Research shows that 18- to 20-year olds commit gun homicides at triple the rate of adults 21 and older. Data shows that we need to raise the age. Pass this bill. We need to do what ever is necessary for there not to be a repeat of the tragedy in Uvalde.

Christine Cupp
Self
Plano, TX

Hello my name is Christine Cupp. I am a constituent from Plano, ZIP code 75074. I am concerned about the state of affairs in Texas in terms of public safety and, more specifically, the safety of our young and adolescent population affected by gun violence.

I urge you to support HB 2744.

Texas leads the country with 43 school shootings since 2012. Even more disturbing is the fact that since 2020 firearms have become the leading cause of death among youth and adolescents, surpassing number of deaths from car accidents.

In the context of the Uvalde shooting, as well as the numerous acts of gun violence in this state alone, the time to act is now. We must come together and make changes to address gun violence. As a member of the select committee on Community Safety, we are counting on you to start this difficult but necessary process.

We must change the status quo in our state. Please vote for HB 2744. Thank you for your hard work to keep all Texans safe!

Bryce Cottle
Self
Round Rock, TX

Pass this bill and then ban assault weapons outright!

Randy Trevathan, Mr
Self
Round Rock, TX

This house bill is a step in helping curb the multiple killings that are occurring weekly. Please pass this bill to protect the kids and people of Texas. Something must be done. Thank you for your consideration.

Christina O'Brien
Mothers Demand Action
Houston, TX

I have four children in the ccisd public school system. It is a living nightmare to think of any of my children being gunned down while trying to simply live their life. Please can we take every possible step necessary to provide a safer environment for our kids.

Jennifer Newton
Self
Houston, TX

I support this bill. Teens don't have a fully developed frontal lobe and they don't need devices that were made to murder efficiently.

Nora Parkhurst
Self
Houston, TX

I support changing the age from 18 to 21 and believe it will make our communities safer.

Joy Brionees
Self
McKinney, TX

Please support raising the age to 21. This will increase safety of our students and teachers making it harder for those under 21 to legally obtain automatic riffles.

Frank White
self retired
Houston, TX

I support HB2744.

Annie Livingston
Self
Austin, TX

Please make this change to help our children be safe. There is no reason semi automatic guns should be sold, but definitely not to people under 21.

Macleay Martinez
Self/ school administrator
San Antonio, TX

As a parent and a school leader, I feel strongly that we need to work to ensure safety of children by limiting access to dangerous weapons in an intelligent way. That does not mean getting rid of gun rights, but instead thinking of ways that we can ensure that seriously dangerous guns (for example, assault rifles) are not ending up in the wrong hands. I support smart and common sense gun laws like this one.

Diane Hall, Mrs
Self/Financial Advisor
Lampasas, TX

This is illegal. At 18 you can vote, serve in the military, get married, own property, enter into a contract. You should also be able to have whatever gun you want if you are not a felon. Gun ownership is a right of adults. You cannot randomly change the legal age on this and not change it on everything else.

JAMES McCabe
self, retired
Round Rock, TX

"Hi, my name is James McCabe. I am a Texas resident and I live in zip code 78665. I'm emailing about the Community Safety Select Committee's hearing of House Bill 2744. I support raising the age and hope you will support HB 2744. I am for all sensible gun control for any automatic weapons. No one other than police or military should have access to this type of weapons.

Nicole Barnett
Self
Sugar land, TX

I support this bill as a common-sense way to help protect residents of Texas.

Rick Miller
Self Retired
Sugar Land, TX

Semiautomatic rifles belong in the military, not on the streets or in our homes. This is especially true for young people under the age of 21 who do not have the necessary maturity or training.

Please support and pass HB 2744.

Thank you.

Flynnne Rooney
Myself
Houston, TX

As a constituent of Harris county and the state of Texas I believe that the age for firearms should be increased to 21 at the bare minimum. You can't rent a car until your 25, but we aren't here for that. Gun safety is important and we need to make changes to current laws to protect the people of this state not the NRA. We especially need to protect children while in school, at a library, at home...everywhere. This bill brings us one step closer to that protection. It's time do something! Do your job as elected officials

!

Carol Mayes
Self/Educator
Houston, TX

Please support and pass this bill which is a small common sense beginning to protect our communities. Research shows that 18- to 20-year olds commit gun homicides at triple the rate of Adults. This bill will help stem the widespread gun violence in our country, especially the shootings committed by youths under the age of 21. Such a bill would have made it more difficult for a young man to snuff out the lives of children & adults in Uvalde. Please listen to your constituents and the vast majority of our citizens.

Rachel Rehwinkel
Self - At home parent
Austin, TX

In December of 1997 I was shot by a young adult male in a random act of violence. I was a 17 year old high school junior. Thankfully I survived without any major physical injuries but not without lifelong trauma.

Now as a mother of 3 school aged children there is not a day that goes by that I don't worry about their own safety from gun violence. And in fact that risk has only grown since my own childhood growing up in Texas.

My husband and I often discuss whether it's time to leave Texas (and our extended family) and move to another state that's more committed to protecting our children from gun violence.

We must do more to protect our children's rights and freedom to live in communities free of violence. They deserve a childhood free of the trauma and terror of school shootings and random gun violence.

That's why I'm writing to support HB 2744.

Renée Lastrapes
Self
Houston, TX

Please raise the legal age to buy an assault rifle from 18 to 21.

Amber Byfield
self, creative director
Austin, TX

I am the parent of an elementary-aged child who attends public school in Texas, and I am asking you to vote in FAVOR of HB2744. Raising the age to buy an assault weapon from 18 to 21 will be a brave, bold step in the right direction. Please, for the safety of our children, support this bill. Every step we take toward keeping our children safe in their schools is a positive step.

Liz Fike
Self- Homemaker/Volunteer
Houston, TX

I am a grandmother of nine children, 7 of which live in Texas. I am supportive of this bill and would be favorable to other bills which indicate concern for the safety of our children and those who teach, administrate, and serve in 100s of other ways in our school system.

Veronica Burns
Self/Retired
Round Rock, TX

Hello, I am a Texas resident who lives in 78665. I support this House Bill 2744 to raise the age to purchase or possess assault rifles or semiautomatic weapons to 21 years of age. It's a small but significant step. I urge you to do it. Thank you.

Myra Lugo
self, unemployed
Del Rio, TX

I support the age requirement going higher than how it is currently! Hopefully it can reach at least 25 years of age (or maybe even older) at some point, but it's a big step to even make the age higher for this type of thing!

Marie Huizar
Self registered nurse
San Antonio, TX

I support this bill & plead for its passage. We need more sensible gun laws. We need to do whatever we can to protect our society from gun violence. I fear for mine & my children's lives whenever we go out in public or when my kids are at school. This is no way to live, I used to be proud to live in texas. Now I loathe it for the way our governor has put the public in danger with its lax gun laws. Please do the right & sensible thing and restrict easy access to firearms by young people whose brains are not fully developed.

Jennifer Bishop
Self; Healthcare IT Project Manager
Katy, TX

I highly support this bill. With the daily increase of violent actions by citizens, we must restrict the accessibility of over powered weapons getting into the hands of young people who may put others at risk. There is no logical or political reason any citizen - especially underage - would need to own and wield such weapons. We must increase the penalty for them when they are caught in possession of such devices. While this is a small step towards minimizing general public from having access to military grade weapons, it is a critical path to preventing needless deaths. I implore you to do your job & vote accordingly. Protect your constituents.

Laura Dechert
Self
Southlake, TX

I am a Texas citizen, responsible gun owner, and a mother of 3 kids from Carroll ISD in Southlake. I SUPPORT voting to reform gun laws, and believe the minimum age to purchase semiautomatic rifles should be raised 21. It is too easy for individuals with nefarious intent to buy a gun, and more checks should be put in place to make sure that stops happening. Responsible gun owners like myself would NOT have our constitutional rights infringed upon by supporting measures like this!

Kristin Giesecker
Self / small business owner
Pilot Point, TX

I think this bill is a great step in a positive direction towards more common sense firearm measures.

Madeline Hartgraves
Self Project manager
Dallas, TX

I support this bill to limit access to semiautomatic rifles for those under 21 due to statistics of recent mass shootings and age of shooter and neuroscience of prefrontal cortex not fully developed until closer to 25 years old. Please help make common sense changes to protect Texan children and citizens.

Chelsey McGee
Self-sahm
The Woodlands, TX

I am in support of this bill

Karen Rubio
Self healthcare worker
Converse, TX

I support this house bill

Mark Ledesma
Self
San Antonio, TX

Texas needs to become a leader in passing legislation for reducing gun violence while at the same time preserving our 2A rights. They are not mutually exclusive and it is what is needed to protect our children and citizens from mass shootings and gun violence. Be committed in serving the people of Texas and support this measure.

Bindu Jose
Self
Houston, TX

As a Texas resident, I am so exhausted, traumatized, terrified by the gun violence in this state. I am a mother of 2, and was once a proud Texan, but am quickly becoming convinced that Texas has lost its way. PLEASE RAISE THE AGE TO OBTAIN SEMIAUTOMATIC RIFLES TO 21!!! It's ridiculous that we think 18 year olds have the mental and developmental capacity to handle these firearms. Please do your job- protect your residents! Research that shows that 18- to 20-year-olds commit gun homicides at triple the rate of adults 21 years and older. The shooter in the Uvalde mass shooting could not have purchased a handgun from a dealer, but was able to purchase two highly lethal assault rifles shortly after he turned 18 years old. Gun violence costs Texas \$51.3 billion each year, of which \$1.1 billion is paid by taxpayers. As a constituent, I urge you lawmakers to support efforts to raise the age to purchase and possess firearms in Texas as outlined in HB 2744.

Michaela Rodriguez

Self/ data analyst

Wilmer, TX

I would definitely feel more comfortable with the age limit being raised to 21 in order to buy semiautomatic weapons, my 4 year old starts kindergarten next august so this is something that weighs heavy on my heart every day. Fully support this.

Emily Williams

Self

Houston, TX

I am in favor of this bill. This just makes sense. It's really the bare minimum, and it must be done. Thank you!

Arvin Paul

Self

Beaumont, TX

Semiautomatic rifles should be prohibited and increase criminal penalties should be sought. Keep kids safe!

Isha Archer

Self, Volunteer

Houston, TX

Dear Committee Members,

My name is Isha Archer, and I live in Houston. It is deeply unnerving to live in a large city, where large public gatherings are the norm, knowing these semiautomatic rifles are in circulation. Weapons such as these demand a higher level of responsibility on the part of the gun owner, and young adults - documented to commit murder at a higher rate than any other group - do not meet that threshold. I hear a lot of about gun rights, but what about gun responsibility?

I urge you to support HB2744. Please consider what the current law permits. What societal problem is solved by allowing young adults access to these powerful and dangerous assault weapons capable of murdering dozens of people in mere minutes or leaving victims unrecognizable and often unable to be saved? What problem has a constituent come to you with and you thought "well it's a good thing 18-20 year olds can access semiautomatic assault rifles, that's the perfect solution to that problem"? What data supports that as the best solution to anything?

Even if you think that giving 18-20 year olds access to these semiautomatic rifles is the perfect solution to a problem that you have heard (and I'd be very interested in hearing that problem and the data behind the solution), surely the apparent downsides outweigh the benefits. Surely there is a better way to solve whatever problem the current law is trying to solve.

Texasans want data driven solutions to our gun violence epidemic. The data on homicides clearly shows that HB2744 is one of those solutions. I urge you to support HB2744 to help keep Texasans safe.

Thank you,

Isha Archer

Sophia Quinter

Self

Flower Mound, TX

I am in support of prohibiting the transfer of semiautomatic rifles to certain recipients.

Laura Weaver
retired/self
The Woodlands, TX

Please support HB 2744. There are many gun-related subjects that people disagree about, but if there is one thing that we should be able agree on, it is that Texans under the age of 21 should not be able to get a semi-automatic rifle through purchase or transfer. Haven't there been enough school tragedies to support this one compromise? How many more children are going to have to die? Semi-automatic rifles are dangerous in any hands, but especially in the hands of someone who does not have the maturity and restraint of age. Please support HB 2744 to prevent future mass shootings by young people.

Jessica Schauffert, Mrs.
self & Mom's Demand Action, Cyber Threat Intelligence Analyst
Austin, TX

I was raised in Texas and the product of the public schools; but now I'm the mother of a 2yr old and I'm crippled by fear at the thought of sending my son to public elementary school. The children and young adults of Texas deserve more from the adults with the power to try and save lives. We must TRY to decrease gun violence. Laws work. Please, I beg you to raise the age to 21 to try and prevent mass shootings and suicides. Please try and protect our children and public spaces. This is a bi-partisan issue that the government has made political to divide us. But we all agree on raising the age to purchase WAR WEAPONS. President Reagan even pleaded to ban them.

Erica Paniagua
Self, property manager
Austin, TX

I'm on board with this. Need higher Age limit on sale of semiautomatic weapons.

Nikki Berry, RN
self, Retired/Disabled RN
Lago Vista, TX

Dear Committee Members,

I am Nikki Berry writing in support of HB 2744. I am writing for myself, but in honor of and fear for my disabled twin grandbabies. They have Type 1 Spinal Muscle Atrophy, the most severe, genetic, rare form of Muscular Dystrophy. Gray and Adelaide turned 5 in January, which in itself is a major miracle. The life expectancy for these children is less than 2 years, some very much less. Many die after birth before they ever get diagnosed.

And even though it's a fatal diagnosis, Adelaide can't get Medicaid. Her brother did after spending over 3 months in Dell ICU, almost dying multiple times. He came home with a hole in his throat and one in his gut. That's the only reason he qualified, with the same fatal diagnosis. Same parents, same jobs, same money. There will never be enough money for all these kids' needs.

I wish I could be there to testify with their pictures, they are so precious. That was my plan, but I'm not well enough now. Our children were luckily born after the first real treatments and gene therapy were developed, or they would be dead now in most circumstances.

In this moment, I'm thinking back over all the children and adults who've been slaughtered, in just the last month, by these rifles and other guns. I think about the profound grief of their families and circles of influence.

In this moment, I'm visualizing my grandbabies, so excited to be in kindergarten next August. Sitting in their wheelchairs in their cutest clothes, in front of the class. They are incredibly excited and very smart. Having been so sheltered their entire lives due to their conditions, and Covid. They've never even had a birthday party with other children. And NOW, they'll have friends, real friends. Socialization with their peers. They can hardly wait!

In this moment, I'm horrified at the thought. I can see the maniac blasting away into their classroom, obliterating every five or six year old there. Mine will be first. Who will protect MY kids in wheelchairs? Who will protect any disabled kids who will be sitting ducks?

In this moment, as an RN, my heart is racing, and I can not visualize the sickening carnage. All those kids who will need DNA for identification because their bodies are scattered all over the room. But my precious grandbabies, the only ones I will ever have, won't need DNA. Half of their bodies will still be strapped into those wheelchairs.

Meredith Cordaro
Self
Houston, TX

I strongly support this bill and believe it will save lives.

Jo-Anne White
self retired
Houston, TX

I support HB2744. I am terribly concerned about the proliferation of and easy access to deadly weapons, particularly assault rifles, in our country.

Olivia Borland
Self
San Angelo, TX

I support this bill!

Kate Harrison
Seld
Austib, TX

As a mother of school aged children in Texas, and with a family of proud law abiding gun owners, I ask this bill be based for sensible gun ownership.

Tessa Roten
Self
Irving, TX

Please vote to raise the limit to 21. Fewer guns in the hands of people with brains that aren't yet fully developed is always positive.

Katie Barrett
Self
New braunfels, TX

I am a resident of Comal County. I urge you to pass this important bill to raise the age limit for buying assault weapons. This is a simple and logical measure to take in order to keep our children safe in schools (and beyond). PLEASE understand that this change will go a long way in protecting valuable human lives. We CANNOT live in a society where assault weapons are available to people who aren't even old enough to buy alcohol yet. It is illogical and nonsensical. Thank you for considering this very logical and practical bill and working to pass it.

Beverley McClure
self-retired
San Antonio, TX

HB 2744's rationale is that at the age of 18, our children's brains are not fully formed and they are therefore not mature enough to have the responsibility of possessing semi-automatic weapons. Age 21 compared to age 18 is much more appropriate for owning any firearm. Given that semi-automatic weapons are so dangerous and deadly, we need a gun owners to be mature enough to own these type of weapons. Since we feel 21 is appropriate for handguns and for alcohol, it makes sense to have the same minimum age for these type of weapons. This bill has appropriate exclusions and is supported by 80% of Texans and 72% of Republicans. Please do something to address this epidemic in our state.

Tracy Calhoun-Boeckman
Self. Quality Improvement Coord
College Station, TX

I support the increase of age for gun ownership.

Akshata Pandit, MD, MBA
Self, Physician and Mother
San Antonio, TX

I am **STRONGLY** in **SUPPORT** of this HB which would raise the age for certain semiautomatic rifles. I am a Mom of 2 and a physician and I am tired of seeing senseless gun deaths and gun related injuries. It is imperative that we increase the age to mitigate that such a dangerous weapon could end up in the wrong hands. I strongly urge you to vote **YES** in favor of this bill.

Aanand Mehta
Self, Lawyer
San Antonio, TX

I am fully in favor of this bill which will raise the age for those who are able to obtain certain semi automatic weapons. Wielding these weapons is a major responsibility and additional age and experience is required to make sure these weapons are safely kept and used.

Stacey Mycko
Self
Fort Worth, TX

This bill needs to raise the age higher. Preferably to age 25

Amanda Johnson
Self- Appraiser & Teacher
San Antonio, TX

I don't want guns to be taken away! But I DO want for the brains of those purchasing them to be fully developed to fully understand the consequences and responsibilities of gun ownership. If we can't rent a car or have a beer, we shouldn't be able to purchase a semiautomatic rifle. No, this doesn't keep 100% of people from breaking rules. But neither do seatbelts, and those sure save a heck of a lot of lives every year. PLEASE vote for the age to be raised to 21!!!

Payal Pagni
Self
Richmond, TX

I support this bill! Please raise the age to 25 before being able to acquire a firearm.

Harriet Webb
self -project manager
Austin, TX

I am onboard with this House Bill. I believe it is important to regulate the sale of firearms in order to protect our children.

Melinda Luevanos
Self
El Paso, TX

I support this bill. I believe we should do all we can to keep Texans safe and this bill would help. The shooter in Uvalde was able to purchase two highly lethal assault rifles but would have been unable to purchase a handgun from a dealer because of his age. It does not make sense. Raise the age and make it harder for guns to get into the wrong hands. Lax laws should not be aiding rash decisions and by keeping the age low, that is exactly what is happening. I strongly urge you to pass this bill.

Louise Hennvall
Self - Procurement
Austin, TX

I am supporting this bill. IMO no semi automatic weapon should even be legal but this is a great step forward.

Mary Beth Reagor, Mrs.
Self/teacher
North Richland Hills, TX

To whom it may concern,
I am Texan through and through. I love our great state, and I want it to be the best in the nation. However, there is one thing in our state that I'm not proud of. I believe our current gun control laws are too lax. As a teacher, I see the constant barrage of school shootings and can only imagine what that feels like. I wonder when it will be my school. If it came down to it, I would give my life for my students in a second. How much are you willing to risk to keep your constituents safe? Is funding from the NRA and other gun organizations worth more to you than my life? Please make a decision that will lead to me feeling safer when I go to work each day.
Thank you and God bless,
Mary Beth Reagor

Samantha Howell

Self

Austin, TX

I support the passing of HB 2744. As a mother and born & raised Texan, please pass this bill to help take a small step forward in supporting the safety of our children. We are counting on you as our elected officials to do as your constituents wish. Please. Save. Our. Children.

CAMERON CACERES

Meta/GM Culinary

AUSTIN, TX

You can't buy other dangerous things such as alcohol, or tobacco under 21; why 18 with semi-automatic weapons? Maybe this will help alleviate the stupidity and regret that comes with teenaged angst. Perhaps the fact that hundreds of families are left suffering, broken, and entangled with both fear and anger each year towards a system that falsely claims to protect its citizens, will change the minds of those who are seemingly just as guilty, and asinine as the perpetrator themselves. Protect our youth (and others) in lieu of selfishness, and cowardice; as THESE are the true crimes against the society some of you proclaim to protect and serve.

Kimberlie Zeller

Self

Richmond, TX

Hi,

I support HB 2744 to raise the minimum age to purchase and possess assault style weapons to 21 years old. 80% of Texans support raising the age, and I hope the committee will honor the 21 lives killed during the Uvalde shooting.

Thank you.

Diane Larsen

PAVE

Houston, TX

Please support and pass HB 2744. Research shows that 18- to 20-year olds commit gun homicides at triple the rate of adults 21 and older. Data shows that we need to raise the age. Pass this bill.

James Skopal, Mr

PAVE

Houston, TX

I would prefer to see semiautomatic rifles banned raising age of purchasing these rifles to 21 is a small step to help save lives.

Erin Dempsey, Mrs.

Moms Demand Action AND Self

Austin, TX

My name is Erin Dempsey and I live in fear every, single day in Austin, Texas. I have lived in Texas nearly my entire life and it has slowly become a place I do not recognize. A place that I loathe. A state that I do not want my girls to attend college in nor begin to raise their families in, should they want to have children. I am not sure what the end goal in Texas is right now other than to hope we all get murdered by some semi-automatic killing machine or that women die because they no longer have the healthcare necessary and required to live healthy and productive lives.

Texas is a dangerous place and it is getting more dangerous with each passing day. I am telling you right now that Texans cannot live in constant fear. We cannot worry every moment of every day that something terrible could happen to our children, our families and our friends while we are just going about our daily lives. Not only is it cruel that you are willingly putting us through this, but it is also the most selfish thing you could ever be doing. You are willingly and knowingly ignoring facts and data about gun violence and the repercussions such violence has on our communities. You care nothing for the people of Texas. All you want to do is maintain power, and somehow you have convinced yourselves that selling your soul to the gun lobby will help you to stay in office. And we are here to prove you wrong.

Our lives and our well being matter. We matter. We want to go about our daily business without constantly assessing how we could escape from where ever we currently are should some person walk in with a semi-automatic killing machine. And let's call it what it is- a weapon of mass destruction. These guns are designed to kill as many people as possible in the shortest amount of time possible and no good guy with a gun is going to change that. We saw many so-called good guys and good women with guns frozen in fear in Uvalde while precious children and their beloved teachers were murdered in cold blood. We witnessed this recently in Nashville when teachers and staff were actually armed and they still could not keep 6 people from dying. In addition, the police did every, single thing they could possibly do to prevent this tragedy and they still could not keep 6 people from losing their lives. We also saw this at the bank in downtown Louisville where there are armed guards posted daily and 5 innocent people still lost their lives. More guns equals more death and I know you know this, which makes all of you some of the worst human beings on the planet. You perpetuate pain and suffering. You create communities of people where they live in the "before" and the "after." Your cowardice leads to our despair, and we can no longer live in this violent society where anyone and everyone can have access to a gun, with little or no training. What kind of people are you?

Please, please, do the right thing and raise the age to buy a semi-automatic weapon to the age of 21.

Bethany Hills

Self, homemaker

Austin, TX

I am in favor of this bill. Please take action to protect our children and our community with common sense gun control.

Jenny Johnson

self

Houston, TX

Raise the age. The majority of Texans want it, and we will support you. Y'all can do this. Do it for our kids and for the Uvalde families who have suffered so much. If guns everywhere with no limits made us safer, we would be the safest country in the world and we aren't. We don't want an arms race in all our public places with ever more firepower standing around waiting for the bad guys. We want to live in peace like other societies get to. Please, just vote it out of committee. The people of Texas deserve a full vote on this.

O Benton

Self/retired

Round Rock, TX

Dear Committee, My name is Ora Benton, a Texas resident in Round Rock, 78665. I'm commenting on the Community Safety Select Committee's hearing of House Bill 2744. I support raising the age to purchase or possess assault weapons and other semi automatic rifles to 21 years of age. I hope you will support this bill.

Brenda Thompson
self - bakery owner
SUGAR LAND, TX

As a resident of Texas, I am asking that you vote YES to increase the age minimum from 18 to 21 as it relates to the purchase of semiautomatic rifles when this bill is reviewed. Thank you!

Coleman Davis
Self
Austin, TX

I support the HB 2744 by Tracy King. And I implore the house to take action immediately.

Leslie Arnold
Self, Nurse Practitioner
San Antonio, TX

Please support this bill to raise the required age to purchase or possession of semiautomatic firearms to 21.

Forrest Myane
Self/Non-profit Executive
San Antonio, TX

There is nothing more critical that the House can do in this session than protecting our children from gun violence. My friends lost their children on May 24th in Uvalde and my child is more likely to die from gun violence than any other cause of death. It's unacceptable that we allow this to continue in our state and country. This bill is a step in the right direction to protect our children.

Elizabeth Cazares
Self
Pflugerville, TX

There has been numerous number of shooting massacres being done by individuals that proof to everyone they have lack of common sense and maturity who are buying semi-automatic weapons under the age of 21. We absolutely need to take into consideration that if alcohol cannot be purchased until the age of 21, for the same reasons as not being mentally mature enough to handle it, it should not be allowed as well for a very powerful and deadly weapon that can take innocent people in a matter of seconds.

Peggy Roscoe
Self
Conroe, TX

I support HB 2744.
No one under the age of 21 should have access to a semiautomatic rifle either by purchase or transfer.

Crystal Poole
self
Austin, TX

I support this semiauto rifle firearms bill for measures of harm reduction. Enough blood has been spilled.

Dana Best
My family
Keller, TX

Please have the courage to stand up for common-sense gun laws.

Amy Ghiselin

self

Pearland, TX

I support HB 2744. We must raise the age to purchase or possess weapons or other semiautomatic rifles from 18 to 21 years old. 18, 19 and 20 year olds commit the most homicides with guns. The frequency of gun violence in Texas is alarming, and raising the age to purchase these firearms would reduce incidents of gun violence in our communities and help make our communities and families safer. Survivors of shootings continue to advocate for this necessary change. Please support this bill. Sincerely, Amy Ghiselin, Pearland, TX 77584

Claudia Harding

Self-Self/Employed

Manchaca, TX

Hello,

I am a constituent of this great state and am asking that Texas do its part to solve the gun problem here and in the U.S. We are asking for common sense gun laws like

H.B. 2744 which raises the age to purchase certain firearms from 18 to 21.

Thank you

Jordan Hills

Self, Designer

Austin, TX

I am absolutely in favor of this bill, and other gun reform bills

Kirk Moravits
Self
San Antonio, TX

Dear Committee Members,

My name is Kirk Moravits and I currently reside in San Antonio, with my family. I am a proud father- I have one child currently in public school with my second going in August. I am a husband to a public school teacher. I am also a responsible gun owner. I am submitting my testimony in support of HB 2744.

I fully support this bill, along with any bill designed to make it more difficult to purchase or carry a firearm in the state of Texas. Please do everything in your power to pass this bill into permanent legislation.

I am appalled that the politicians in our state have not done more to protect the children of Texas. Firearms are the number one killer of children and teens. My son endures active shooter drills at school and my wife does them at work with her students. I see the toll it takes on the both of them. It shouldn't be this way and it doesn't have to be.

Texans have endured mass shootings in churches, schools, and supermarkets. You must do more to protect your fellow Texans, especially those who are most vulnerable, children and young adults.

The Uvalde shooter legally bought his weapon just days after his 18th birthday. Legislation like this could have prevented that purchase.

The majority of Texans support raising the age. I urge you to consider all the lives you could save and support the passing of this bill to raise the age to purchase and possess assault-style rifles from 18-21, along with supporting any bill that expands universal background checks for every gun sale, supports red flag laws, and safe storage education and legislation.

Please vote yes to HB 2744.

Kellie Sedgwick
Self
Austin, TX

Keep our communities safe!

Juenelle Wade
Mothers
Spring, TX

I am a resident of Montgomery County. I have 3 children 18,8 and 7. I am concerned everyday for their safety. My 7 and 8 yr old participate in active shooter drills the kids know them as "Lock Down Drills". Adults don't do active shooter drills like the kids do. That's because we all know our gun laws are the most dangerous for the children. I hope sthat our representatives really voice our concerns. We need stricter laws surrounding purchase and ownership of all firearms especially weapons of war. Please make my children's safety a priority. By increasing the age limits from 18 to 21. The brain is still developing at 18 affecting impulse control. It makes sense to increase the age as a practical measure .

Phyllis Roberts
PAVE Nonpartisan political action group
Houston, TX

Please support and pass HB2744. I'm so horrified by the more than daily reports of gun violence in our country. This bill will help reduce the senseless violence, especially the shootings committed by youths under the age of 21. Please act now to raise the age. This won't solve the problem, but it will definitely help. All of those poor kids and teachers in Uvalde would still be alive today, if there had been a law in place like this.

Jordan Hayden-Schultz

Self, esthetician

San Antonio, TX

Yes! I fully support this! And y'all need to also! As a 25 year old myself, I finally understand that the brain doesn't fully develop until they are 25! We have to do this! We owe this to our children, if y'all are really about "saving the children" then show it and sign some legislation that proves it, raise the age.

Athena Alexander

self

Round Rock, TX

I'm in favor of this bill. It is a step in the right direction at the very least. I appreciate that it would raise the age limit on some weapons and firearms to 21, which is a good thing. We don't let persons under 25 rent a vehicle, so it makes zero sense that we let 18 year olds buy weapons (or that they can be gifted!) This bill would address that and I am all for it.

James Tilton

Self, Chef

San Antonio, TX

The use of semi automatic weapons has been so normalized that anyone with an interest has the right to pursue. That doesn't mean that everyone with a positive interest has positive intention. Age is not only a reflection of a person's time on our planet, but also among our society. Without the time to truly understand the world around you and the impact others and yourself have on the world, it means less to own the power of an automatic weapon that can be used to inflict power on the world around you.

Courtney Crum

Self

Houston, TX

I support this and it should become a bill. Childrens lives depend on it.

Patricia Sumrow

Self

Frisco, TX

I am in full support of this bill and ask the committee to send it to the floor for a vote.

Liz Neff

Self

Austin, TX

This bill is a first step to common sense gun ownership. No one is taking guns away, but we are all for making public places, especially schools safer. As a mother of 2, I never thought I'd raise my kids in a world where I have to worry about them, their friends and teachers getting shot when I send them to school everyday. If our 2 parties can't come together on this, we are failing our kids and our citizens. Please consider the step in making Texas a bit safer and help take worry away from our kids and our teachers and administrators. They work hard everyday and the last thing they should have to worry about is their safety at school or in public places. Please show us that collaboration can happen.

Danielle Woche
Self/ Hospitality
Austin, TX

Hello, I would like to encourage you to vote yes on HB2744. As mass shootings are rampantly taking the lives of innocent people around the country, this bill is a step in the right direction to prevent more senseless violence. As a concerned citizen, I walk in fear every day of my life while I'm in Texas, not knowing if or when I could be the next victim. My heart breaks for the families that are grieving for the loved ones that have been lost. We as a country have to come together and stop allowing young people to purchase semi automatic weapons. I want to live in a country where I feel safe to exist and lives aren't stolen. I encourage you to please vote yes so we can begin to heal and move forward.

Thank you.

Hannah Schaeffer
Self
Alpine, TX

I support HB 2744 for the safety of all children and all Texans. Thank you.

Kimberly Hammond
Self
Kingwood, TX

I support bills that raise the minimum age to purchase semi-automatic rifles to 21 (HB 2744)

Sarah Newton
Self-teacher
Austin, TX

The legal age to buy firearms should be 21. I practice monthly active shooter drills in my school and this is just absolutely repulsive to watch kindergarteners have to learn.

Hearing Date: April 18, 2023 9:00 AM

Eric Mata
Texas Organizing Project
Dallas, TX

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to express my strong support for HB 2744, which prohibits the transfer of certain semiautomatic rifles to certain recipients and creates a criminal offense while increasing the criminal penalty for violators. As a concerned citizen of Texas, I believe this bill is necessary to promote community safety and reduce gun violence in our state.

Transferring certain types of semiautomatic rifles to certain recipients has been a cause for concern among many community members. These weapons have been used in numerous mass shootings across the country, including here in Texas, where we have seen too many tragic incidents of gun violence in recent years. The proposed legislation would help prevent individuals at a higher risk of committing acts of violence from obtaining these weapons, thus reducing the likelihood of future tragedies.

Furthermore, creating a criminal offense and increasing criminal penalties for violators of this law will serve as a strong deterrent for those who may attempt to transfer these weapons to prohibited recipients. This will send a clear message that Texas takes the issue of gun violence seriously and is committed to taking meaningful action to address it.

I urge you to support HB 2744 and to work towards its passage through the TX House Committee on Community Safety, Select. By taking action to prevent the transfer of certain semiautomatic rifles to certain recipients, we can help ensure our communities' safety and prevent future tragedies. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Wendy McRoberts
Self
Danbury, TX

I support common sense Gun laws that will help keep criminals from accessing guns.

Amanda LEsperance
Self
Cooper, TX
OPPOSE