

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on Youth Health & Safety, Select  
For HB 2976

Compiled on: Monday, April 3, 2023 7:44 PM

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Hearing Date: April 3, 2023 2:30 PM - or upon final adjourn./recess or bill referral if permission granted

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Self, Retired RN

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I am against using guns as the solution. HB3 would force guns in our schools.

“1) Guns on campus don't stop school shootings

Santa Fe, Parkland, and other schools were "hard targets" with armed security. That didn't dissuade mass shooters from killing children there. 300+ trained, armed officers responded to the Uvalde shooting but decided not to take on one inexperienced kid because he was armed with an assault rifle, which meant they were outgunned.

2) Guns on camps put our kids and teachers at risk.

There are well-documented instances all over the country of adults mishandling guns in schools, sometimes injuring children.

3) This bill would result in arming more teachers.

The bill comes with insufficient funding for every school to hire a trained law enforcement officer, so many schools will be forced to arm teachers to fulfill the requirement to have an armed adult on campus. The majority of teachers do not want to be armed, and are already overworked and stressed. Their job is to educate, not act like SWAT team members. If a whole calvary of LEOs took over an hour to stop the Uvalde shooter, why on earth do we think a teacher will fare better?

4) We've already tried throwing more guns at the problem.

It hasn't worked. For the past decade, I've watched the Texas Legislature weaken gun laws every single session, allowing more people to carry more guns in more places with less training. Big surprise - the problem has gotten worse, not better. Forcing guns into every public school in Texas only perpetuates the gun lobby myth that more guns make us safer. We know from research, and from all the violence around us, they do not.

5) This is not normal. We shouldn't have to live like this.

I can tell you as a Texan living in Spain, it is not normal to have guns on campus in other countries. It is not normal for children to feel like they must live under armed protection and to fear they may be shot to death at school. It doesn't have to be this way. Our kids deserve the same peace of mind as Spanish kids.

6) Individual school districts should decide whether to have guns on campus.

Many school districts already have armed school resource officers on campuses. Some have chosen to arm teachers, despite the risk and lack of efficacy, though the so-called "guardian" or "school marshal" programs. Why FORCE schools to do so? What happened to local control?

7) We deserve real solutions.

We don't need some movie-theater fantasy of a "good guy with a gun" saving the day. We need to PREVENT gun violence with evidence-based policies. And we can. Research shows requiring background checks on all gun sales, red flag laws, strengthening storage requirements, and raising the age to buy firearms can all save lives.”