

Bob Kaser
Castle Pines, Colorado

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Chairman Foote and distinguished Representatives,

I am Bob Kaser, representing myself. I earned my POST certificate by graduating from the San Diego County Sheriff's Academy and am a Vietnam veteran. I believe I have some basis to recommend three necessary and friendly amendments to this bill.

I feel a significant number of Citizens are looking at this Bill through the "lens" that allows a school staff member to be trained and armed, combating a perpetrator entering the school with a firearm.

I urge you to look at this Bill as the weapon is already present in the school – carried by the trained employee authorized by this Bill, and is removed from their control and used on them or the students!

A recent study published by John Hopkins University, determined over a fourteen year period, 79 of the Police Officers killed in the line of duty were SHOT WITH THEIR OWN WEAPONS (Reference "A"). These were highly trained professionals and the assailant took the weapon from the Officer and killed them! Allowing concealed weapons in the hands of school employees without "hands-on, defensive, physical training" is a design for disaster! At the Sheriff's Academy, we spent numerous hours in the gym on defensive, physical training to insure that we could keep our firearms in our control.

Amendment One: ALL TRAINING CURRICULUMS MUST INCLUDE A MINIMUM OF FOUR HOURS OF HANDS-ON, DEFENSIVE, PHYSICAL TRAINING WITH THE FOCUS OF MAINTAINING CUSTODY AND CONTROL OF THE CONCEALED WEAPON.

Time is critical in an active shooter case. During two horrific Colorado school shootings, they occurred in the common areas. Having a firearm in a drawer, attaché case or purse back in the classroom won't be of any value. Even more concerning is when the weapon is observed by a student in those detached areas, and the teacher is occupied elsewhere. A very inquisitive or a disturbed student could take possession of the weapon and start firing - resulting in grave injury to others.

Amendment Two: "CONCEALED CARRY" MEANS THE WEAPON MUST BE CARRIED ON AND IN CONTACT WITH THE PERSON AT ALL TIMES WHILE ON SCHOOL PROPERTY.

According to the U.S. Department of Education; 197,400 public school teachers (5.8 percent) were physically attacked at school ... during the 2011-12 school year (Reference "B"). When a student, no matter the reason, starts wrestling with a school employee and the employee's concealed weapon drops on the floor, I can forecast the tragic outcome. At the Sheriff's Academy, the type of holster for handguns was specified (in my case, clam-shell) so as to be resistive to an aggressor, yet could be released by the officer (educator).

Amendment Three: **THE SHERIFF OF THE LOCAL JURISDICTION WILL PROVIDE THE NAMES OF AT LEAST TWO OR MORE APPROVED, CONCEALED WEAPON HOLSTERS OF A DESIGN THAT WILL REDUCE THE POSSIBILITY OF INADVERTENT LOSS AND CONTROL OF THE WEAPON.**

Sadly, there will be an "event" where students and/or teachers are going to be shot and killed with a school employee's weapon. **I believe you will reduce the probability of such an event - if you include these three amendments.**

Thank you for your consideration, Bob Kaser

Reference note "A":

<http://hub.jhu.edu/magazine/2013/fall/guns-kill-cops-statistics/>

John Hopkins University

Behind the numbers: How guns kill cops

By Elizabeth Evitts Dickinson / Published Fall 2013

Reference note "B":

https://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/d15/tables/dt15_228.70.asp

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics.

Table 228.70.