

From: Theresa Clark <terrie.clark@gmail.com>
Subject: Request for March 22, 2017
Date: March 17, 2017 at 1:39:59 PM MDT

Can you please ensure that the following is read into public comment on March 22, 2017? I am unable to provide the comment in person due to a previous family commitment. Thank You!

As a former NRA member I have taken gun safety, marksmanship and gun proficiency courses. My retired hunting dog, a beautiful Golden Retriever named Tula, sleeps at the foot of my bed every night. I come from a family of folks who hunted for our food because we were poor. I am the first woman in my family to graduate from college, so it feels like, for now, we can afford meat from the grocery store. Which is good because I am also a Mother of seven year old twins. I come from a military family with every generation of my family having served since my ancestor, a Minute Man, rode with Paul Revere. All of these factors make me an unlikely person to be discussing gun violence prevention. None-the-less, here are my concerns:

SB17-005: Handgun Safety Training For School Employees is a bad idea. This legislation has an understandable assertion, but its logic is flawed: 1.)

Approximately 300 hundred children a year are shot and killed by other children who found an adult's firearm. Imagine a group of curious students searching a teacher's purse, backpack or briefcase and finding a firearm and discharging that firearm; and 2.) The most well trained, non-military entities, i.e. police, etc. shoot their intended target, a perpetrator, in only 18% of live fire situations. Which means they miss in 82% of live fire situations. A child in a classroom of children would, most likely, be shot and killed by a casually trained civilian carrying and discharging a firearm in a live fire situation. And, children have a very low chance of survival after being shot.

SB17-006 Concealed Carry for Military under 21 Years Old is another bad idea. It feels like this bill was designed by the NRA and its surrogates with the intent to scorn any citizen who opposes a serving soldier, sailor, Marine or airman carrying a concealed weapon. After all, what could go wrong with a young service person carrying a concealed weapon off base? Suicide rates for this age

group are higher than average. The Department of Defense recognizes this threat to both public and personal safety by limiting access to firearms to personnel on military bases. This quote from Army General Peter Chiarelli eloquently states why this bill is a bad idea, "I am shocked that some in Congress are currently supporting a new piece of misguided and dangerous legislation that would make it easier for veterans who are at risk of facing a mental health crisis to get their hands on a gun." Even our great military leaders oppose this type of legislation.

SB17-007: Repeal Ammunition Magazine Prohibition makes no sense in terms of preventing gun violence nor mass shootings. In fact, the proposed legislation will make mass shootings much worse. Many previous mass shootings were stopped by bystanders when the perpetrator had to reload their weapon. So, if you are going to permit citizens to carry high capacity, military assault weapons, then force a perpetrator to reload more often when attempting to murder citizens. As an experienced shooter, I can tell you that it does not hold true that an individual would need more than 15 rounds to disable a perpetrator attempting to harm them. If someone cannot disable their intended target with only two shots, then they have no business owning a firearm much less a high capacity magazine weapon. I would prefer an additional ban on civilians owning high capacity, military assault weapons.

I am irritated by the NRA and it's mission because they have not kept up with the science of and research for gun violence prevention. The NRA has prioritized gun ownership over the 33,000 per year lost human lives in our country due to gun violence. That devaluing of human life should sicken us all.

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