

Opposing SB 442

My name is Anthony Patrick. I am a Lansing resident. I am pastor of Mt. Hope Presbyterian Church in Lansing. I am a grandfather of a student in the Lansing Public Schools. I am a concerned citizen. Our country seems to have a fascination for guns. While I support the right for non-law enforcement people to own guns to hunt, I do not support the sales of weapons that have high ammo magazines or sales to people without thorough background checks and waiting periods and gun safety training. And I do not support the Senate Bill 442 that would allow people to carry a concealed pistol into previously named concealed carry free zones.

The bill before this Senate wishes to change from allowing open carry pistols in schools to carrying concealed pistols in schools. I know that there are two cases before Michigan judges right now where schools have challenged the open carry law. The problem is, schools want neither open carry nor concealed pistols in an environment that is supposed to be reserved for learning. The problem is anyone other than trained security guards and law enforcement officers carrying guns in schools bring on an additional burden to principals, teachers and students. The primary tasks of school administrators and teachers are to teach and lead students to better choices. They are already burdened with discipline issues and now you want to add another layer of watching out for hidden and loaded pistols that may be found by anyone. The logic of going from open to concealed is flawed. Knowing there are hidden pistols on the property increases anxiety not decreasing it. Bottom line is schools and the other places like libraries, sporting events and churches do not need guns in them without the experience and wisdom of law enforcement officers.

I feel true empathy for you. You are trying to put the genie back in the bottle. But rather than protecting safe zones with bills like HR 4261 and HR 4944 which keep both concealed and open carry guns out of the previously mentioned public places, you are trying to hide the problem by letting it be concealed. This is a Band-Aid approach that doesn't eliminate the guns or protect your constituents. Please reconsider this approach as it only seems to support the growing desire to arm people with guns (fight fire with fire) which compound the problem by adding more guns and fueling our fears.