

TESTIMONY - HB442
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13
3:00P.M.

Good afternoon, my name is Kathy Frank, registered gun owner, President of the Michigan Chapter of the Brady Campaign, mother, grandmother, and retired School Psychologist. I am honored to testify today to bring what I believe is common sense to the issue of firearms in our schools. Schools are presently gun-free zones, but they have recently been challenged by a loophole that allows CPL holders to open carry in our schools. This has caused fear and outrage in more than one school district in Michigan with the community outcry consistently the same - we do not want guns in our schools. In my opinion, this means the majority of the parents of Michigan, the educators of Michigan, and the citizens of Michigan are trying to tell YOU, the lawmakers of Michigan, to keep guns out of our schools and away from our children. We do not understand what you do not understand about the words, "GUN-FREE ZONES!"

According to the FBI, there is misinformation out there that mass attacks occur only where guns are banned. This is not true in general or even in the most recent tragic Umpqua College incident. Umpqua College was not a gun-free zone as Oregon is one of 7 states to allow guns on college campuses. In fact, there were armed students on campus who later told media that they were far from the building and worried about becoming targets, and so chose not to intervene.

It is SO intuitive and appealing that a good guy with a gun will stop a bad guy with a gun. This has been the case in other true scenarios where the "legendary good guy" stops a shooting but unfortunately only after it is already over, or only after the gunman has exhausted all his ammunition, or only after the

gunman has killed himself. Further the armed good guy is not sure who the perpetrator is in all the confusion or is killed himself.

Dr. Peter Langman, a clinical psychologist and author of SCHOOL SHOOTER'S: UNDERSTANDING HIGH SCHOOL, COLLEGE AND ADULT PERPETRATORS, does not think rampage shooters consider presence of guns when they plan their massacre. Many intend to die by their own hand or suicide by cop. There were armed guards at Columbine and VA Tech. No armed civilian has ever stopped a school shooting. Shooters choose schools, theaters, and churches because of the abundance of victims and not the absence of guns.

There are some who say, "Let us arm everyone because sooner or later someone will stop these shooters." Unfortunately, according to the recent FBI Crime in the U.S. 2014 Report, one is more likely to be shot by one of these ordinary gun owners with his or her full range of emotions. The report shows that most shootings happen as the result of arguments not related to a felony. These far outnumber shootings related to gang violence and drug trafficking combined. Let us not add armed confrontations to teacher conferences about grades, fraternity hazing, and college break-ups.

Please listen to common sense and to the Michigan citizens. A September 2015 Poll by Quinnipiac University in Connecticut shows that ninety-three percent of Americans want to expand background checks to gun shows and online sales. There is House Bill 4261 languishing in the House Judiciary Committee that would do just that. I will wait and I guess wait some more for something so reasonable as expanding background checks. Thank you.

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