

Linda K. Brundage, Ed.D

Licensed Psychologist

Executive Director , Michigan Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence

October 13, 2015

Testimony for Senate Bill 442

Thank you very much for the opportunity to Address the Senate Judiciary Committee. Thank you, Chairman Jones. I am Dr. Linda Brundage, a mom, grandma, psychologist and person of faith. Since Dec. 2012 when the tragedy of Sandy Hook took place, I have been a gun violence prevention advocate. I am currently the executive director of the MICHIGAN COALITION TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE. Our coalition is a newly formed coalition whose mission statement is " We are a grassroots organization working toward the prevention of gun violence through community education and stronger gun laws" Together with members of our coalition, I want you to know that I am unequivocally opposed to SB 442. I don't want guns in schools, day care centers, bars, stadiums, entertainment venues with seating over 2,500, places of worship, hospitals, and dorms and classrooms at universities and community colleges. I do of course make an exception to this statement for our well trained Law Enforcement.

I want you to consider these scenarios . In a high school, a teacher is having a

terrible day, maybe an argument at home before school, a migraine: a student verbally threatens the teacher, perhaps even raises a fist...the teacher is armed...What might happen? A parent comes to school to pick up a child, is carrying a gun, drops it and it discharges. In a packed emergency room, it is Saturday night, there has been gun violence in the community and people on both sides of the conflict are waiting treatment as are their friends and guns are allowed in hospitals. Students in dorms are allowed to carry concealed weapons and there is a keg on the floor. An argument ensues...What might happen? A student carrying Concealed goes to speak to a prof about a grade dispute....What might happen? No doubt you could imagine your own scenarios. The point here of course is that Guns in these volatile unpredictable situations do more do more harm.

I want to share with you several similar scenarios that did in fact happen:

- * an elementary school teacher who was carrying a concealed firearm at school was struck by fragments from a bullet and a porcelain toilet when her gun accidentally fired in a faculty bathroom

- *a student pulled the trigger of a police-issued AR-15 rifle during an anti-drugs event at an elementary school.

- * A criminal justice instructor accidentally discharged a handgun during a class

- * A school police officer while in his office, inadvertently discharged his

firearm,"

Accidents do happen. Eric Frazier offers a useful thought about "the unforeseen ways violence can enter our lives. As any police officer will tell you, it doesn't generally arrive with an intruder in the night. It blooms when everyday interactions spiral out of control. "

We must also address suicide in this testimony. There is a significant relationship between access to firearms and the suicide rate. There are more than 1,000 suicides on college campuses per year. Suicide is the second-leading cause of death among people aged 25 to 34 and the third-leading cause of death among people aged 15 to 24. A very good study was done comparing states with the highest gun ownership with the states with the lowest rates of ownership. This study shows that states with the highest rate of gun ownership also have the highest rate of successful suicides. 90% of suicide attempts using a firearm are successful. **Easy access to guns is deadly.** Do we really want concealed carry on college campuses given these numbers?

Some of what drives this issue is the question of mass shootings. 62 mass shootings were analyzed by Dr. Stephen Hargarten, a leading expert on emergency medicine and gun violence at the Medical College of Wisconsin. He concluded that There is no evidence indicating that arming Americans further will help prevent mass shootings or reduce the carnage. and further that Armed civilians attempting to intervene are actually more likely to increase the

bloodshed, says Hargarten, "given that civilian shooters are less likely to hit their targets than police in these circumstances." A chaotic scene in August at the Empire State Building put this starkly into perspective when New York City police officers trained in counter terrorism confronted a gunman and wounded nine innocent bystanders in the process. Minimally trained CpL holders are not likely to perform better than extensively trained Law enforcement.

il want this committee to hear some review of the material that presented by John Lott in many publications. Lott published the book *More Guns, Less Crime*, which argues that states with RTC laws experienced significantly lower crime rates than those without such policies. For analysis of this information I turn to Evan DeFilippis and Devin Hughes published in the Trace October, 12, 2015. "Since the publication of *More Guns, Less Crime*, at least three major reviews of Lott's work have debunked his findings. One particularly decisive critique, a 2003 study published in the Stanford Law Review, used a superior statistical model and extended the time frame under analysis. With those adjustments, the paper found that the alleged reductions in crime rates evaporated. Another critical analysis, this time issued from 15 of the 16 panel members of National Research Council (NRC), concluded that **"with the current evidence it is not possible to determine that there is a causal link between the passage of right-to-carry laws and crime rates."** Then, in 2011, a team of researchers analyzed the NRC panel's findings and conclude that RTC laws, in fact, **increase crime**. And these three studies represent only the tip of the iceberg —

there are many more cataloging the numerous ways in which Loft has erred."

DeFilippis and Hughes in the same article inform us that

"The NRA and gun advocates frequently tout surveys conducted by criminologist Gary Kleck indicating that there are around 2.5 million defensive gun uses every year, which would mean millions of criminals being directly deterred from crime. However, widespread defensive gun use is a myth.... In fact, as we have detailed in previous articles, not only is defensive gun use no more effective at preventing injury than taking no action at all during a crime, but the best empirical evidence to date from the Gun Violence Archive could also only find 1,600 verified DGUs in 2014. This means that 99.936 percent of Kleck's claimed DGUs are nowhere to be found, despite those very surveys stating that more than 50 percent of DGUs are reported to the police (meaning there should be a record of them). With so few DGUs, it is not possible for permit holders and concealed carry laws to be reducing crime through direct deterrence.

And in addition, again DeFilippis and Hughes:

Research published last year by Dr. Fortunato of the University of California concluded that by passing concealed carry laws "we get no criminal deterrence, but still bear the additional risk of increased firearm carrying....

at best, we increase the probability of accidental discharge. At worst, these policies open the door for more violent, potentially deadly, escalations of

altercations — altercations that may have ended peacefully if not for the presence of a firearm" I would like to repeat this.... . at best, we increase the probability of accidental discharge. At worst, these policies open the door for more violent, potentially deadly, escalations of altercations — altercations that may have ended peacefully if not for the presence of a firearm.

""what we do know is that rigorous studies on RTC laws and permit holders, combined with empirical data on defensive gun use and studies of people's perception of gun prevalence, provide powerful evidence that **concealed carry does not reduce crime.** "" Thanks to DeFillippis and Hughes for these summaries.

I wish I could show you photos of deaths by gun violence, statistics and studies are at least once removed. In the absence of pictures, I will share with you a statement made by a friend of mine, Sandy Phillips, on viewing the autopsy of her daughter for the 1st time. "I gathered the strength to read my daughter's autopsy report for the first time. I knew, of course, about the six gunshot wounds that killed her, about the armor-piercing bullet that slammed into her head. But I did not know the details. I felt it was time to know. On the autopsy, my husband and I didn't look at the photographs. We looked at a diagram of what was done to my beautiful daughter's tiny body. Her right leg was ripped apart and rammed into her left leg. Her abdomen received four bullets and additional fragments. Fragments were lodged in her right wrist and other places. Her left clavicle was

broken by a bullet. In her head, a bullet left a five-inch hole. The bullet entered through her left eye, ripping apart her brain."

SB 442 is a travesty. Michigan does not want guns everywhere. Michiganders must be allowed to go to schools, universities and community colleges, places of worship, seek medical attention, enjoy entertainment with friends and family knowing they are safe from gun violence. I urge a NO vote on Senate Bill 442.