

Arming Teachers: A Dangerous Proposal



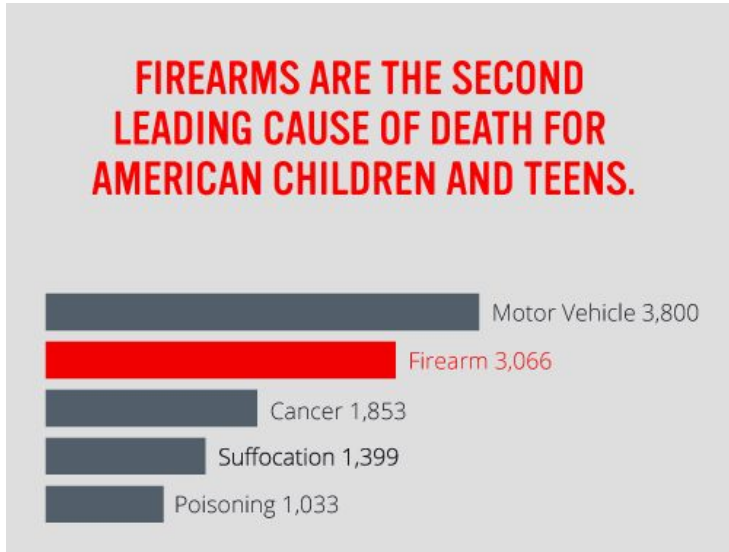
**Very few states
explicitly allow
for the arming of
teachers.**

There is NO evidence that arming teachers will increase school safety.

- Only 9 states have laws that are explicitly aimed at arming school personnel.
- This year, bills that would have allowed guns in schools were defeated in 15 states.

Arming teachers
ignores research that
shows the presence of
a gun increases the
risks posed to
children.

Research Showing Danger to Children



- A recent study shows that the majority of children are aware of where their parents store their guns.
- More than one third reported handling their parents' guns -- 40% of them without their parents knowledge.
- The vast majority of fatal unintentional shootings of children are self inflicted, or are by other children and involve an unsecured gun.
- Access to a firearm, irrespective of age, doubles the risk of death by homicide.

Many schools have
experienced the danger of
guns in schools already.

Incidents of gun discharges this year:

NEWS · CRIME & POLICE

Third-grader pulls trigger on Maplewood cop's gun, firing a shot

AMERICA

Georgia School Evacuated After Teacher Barricaded Himself In Classroom And Fired Gun

February 28, 2018 · 10:37 PM ET

Teacher accidentally fires a gun in California high school during class on public safety

School resource officer accidentally fires gun inside Virginia middle school

The gun lobby claims arming teachers will deter and stop active school shooters, but arming civilians is **not** an effective way to stop active shooters.

According to FBI reports on active shooter situations:

- Of 250 active shooter incidents, armed civilians **successfully stopped the shooter in only seven cases**. In contrast, unarmed civilians **successfully intervened in 22 incidents**.
- Of these 22 incidents, unarmed principals, teachers, other school staff and students confronted or restrained shooters to end the threat in 59% of cases (13 incidents total).

Armed civilians have put law enforcement in danger, delayed law enforcement responses, and posed a risk to innocent bystanders during active shooter crises.

Confusion about who is the good guy

**“WE DON’T KNOW
WHO THE GOOD
GUY IS VERSUS
THE BAD GUY
WHEN EVERYONE
STARTS SHOOTING.”**

-Dallas police chief David Brown

America's teachers,
school safety experts,
and law enforcement
oppose arming
teachers.

Expert opinion on the danger of arming teachers

- The President and Executive Director of the Major Cities Chiefs Association both agree that arming teachers is “*not a good idea*” and say, “***The more guns that are coming into the equation, the more volatility and the more risk there is of somebody getting hurt.***”

Expert opinion on the danger of arming teachers

- The National Education Association and the American Federation of Teachers say: ***“Guns have no place in our schools. Period. We must do everything we can to reduce the possibility of any gunfire in schools, and concentrate on ways to keep all guns off school property and ensure the safety of children and school employees.”***

Arming teachers would **burden** schools with large new costs for insurance and security.

The financial strain of arming teachers

- Schools that opt-in may face legal and liability issues related to arming teachers.
- Proposals to arm teachers will likely result in additional costs for training teachers, firearms, ammunition, and other costs, putting an additional financial burden on school districts and, ultimately, on taxpayers.

The **best** way to protect American children from school shootings is to pass gun safety laws that can prevent people with dangerous histories from getting a gun.

BACKGROUND CHECKS MATTER

Background checks keep guns out of the hands of people with dangerous histories and they are the foundation of any comprehensive gun violence prevention strategy. Currently, background checks are only required under federal law for sales conducted by licensed dealers. This gap in the law allows felons, domestic abusers, fugitives, and other prohibited purchasers to buy guns from unlicensed sellers without a background check, no questions asked.

BACKGROUND CHECKS HAVE BLOCKED MORE THAN 3 MILLION SALES TO PROHIBITED PURCHASERS SINCE 1994...¹

...BUT CRIMINALS EXPLOIT THE UNLICENSED SALES LOOPHOLE BY BUYING GUNS FROM STRANGERS ONLINE THROUGH SITES LIKE ARMSLIST.COM.²

GUN PURCHASE DENIED

In some states, as many as

1 IN 10

people seeking guns in unlicensed sales online have prohibiting criminal records.³

BACKGROUND CHECKS MATTER When Connecticut passed a law requiring background checks for all handgun sales, the state experienced:

40%
reduction in gun homicide rate⁴

15%
reduction in gun suicide rate⁵

BACKGROUND CHECKS ARE EASY AND CONVENIENT

Nearly 50% of NICS checks are determined immediately.⁶

Red Flag Laws: Helping Prevent Mass Shootings

FACT SHEETS

GUN VIOLENCE TRENDS

July 16, 2018

Bottom Line: Like many mass shooters, the 19-year-old suspected of shooting and killing at least 17 people and injuring 17 others at a high school in Parkland, Florida displayed warning signs prior to the shooting. According to media reports, the alleged shooter was known to have firearms, and his mother had contacted law enforcement regarding his behavior on multiple occasions. Unfortunately, at the time Florida did not have a Red Flag Law—a policy increasingly being adopted by states that empowers family members and law enforcement to seek an Extreme Risk Protection Order, a court order temporarily restricting a person's access to guns when they pose a danger to self or others. Like Florida—which enacted its own Red Flag Law with bipartisan support in March 2018—states around the country are turning to the policy as a common-sense way to help reduce gun violence and gun suicide. Thirteen states have now enacted Red Flag Laws in place—and at least 29 states and the District of Columbia have considered Red Flag legislation this year.