

Hello, my name is Don Macalady and I am a member of Hunters Against Gun Violence, a group of hunters and gun owners who are concerned about the proliferation of guns and gun violence in our country. We believe that gun ownership involves responsibility for gun safety and careful use and storage of firearms.

Arming teachers in schools does NOT represent safe or responsible placement of handguns. So, I am here to urge you to reject HB1036. This bill is a repeated attempt to provide the framework within which teachers, other school employees, and even parents and other school visitors would be allowed, even encouraged, to carry concealed weapons in the classrooms and hallways of our elementary and secondary schools. It does not even consider the fact that guns in schools is a bad idea, no matter what the prerequisites.

When teachers or other school employees carry handguns, the increase in the risk of adverse consequences is far greater than the potential benefit. Consider police officers, who are trained in handgun use far beyond any training that teachers would receive. They practice shooting accuracy regularly. Yet, they tell us that, in the heat of a crisis, there is less than a 20%

chance that they will hit the target of their shooting. Teachers and school employees have other jobs to do at the school. Do we want these persons to be shooting in the heat of a crisis filled with frantic children? I think not. Children will be at great risk due to the presence of multiple guns in any crisis. More guns increases, not decreases the danger to children, and others, in schools. Besides, if anyone in a school may be a person carrying a lethal weapon, how are teachers and other school employees going to assess the danger of an attack by a crazy intruder?

Every day in the US a child is killed through the accidental or careless use of a firearm in their, or a friends, home. Independent of the presence of a crisis, the inevitable careless or improper storage and handling of guns by teachers, visitors or other employees in schools will almost certainly increase the number of innocent and/or accidental victims. Certainly, schools should be protected against terrorist-type attacks. But the way to do this is through the presence of well-trained, professional security guards, not by arming teachers, even responsible, and sincere teachers.