

My name is Maurice K. Sanders. I am a resident of Dunes City which is located on the coast in western Lane County. I am an honorably retired law enforcement officer with 28 years of service. Additionally I served honorably in the United States Army in the Military Police.

I retired over a year ago as the Chief of Police for the City of Florence, Oregon. I am also an elected city councilor for the City of Dunes City however my comments today are not those of the Dunes City Council or the citizens of City of Dunes City. I am providing my own thoughts, beliefs, and opinions only. I am authorized to carry a concealable firearm upon my person pursuant to the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act which is commonly referred to as "HR 218". I am not licensed or permitted to carry a concealed firearm pursuant to Oregon law.

I am not supportive of this bill. I know there will be a response time involved for law enforcement to arrive on the scene, organize themselves into a two – three officer entry/neutralization team, enter the building or grounds to locate the active shooter, and ultimately stop the shooter or shooters. It is this time period before law enforcement arrives on scene and ultimately locates the shooter or shooters that killers who want to harm our children in schools the additional opportunity to kill/wound as many children and adults without fear of being stopped.

Again, the critical time during an active shooter event is during the initial period where the shooter starts his/her rampage until law enforcement is able to neutralize the shooter.

Examine what occurred at Sandy Hook Elementary School. Here is a transcript of the law enforcement radio traffic on that morning:

- 0935 Sandy Hook School. Caller is indicating she thinks there's someone shooting in the building.
- 0936 Units responding at Sandy Hook School. The front glass has been broken. We're unsure why.
- 0937 All units, the individual I have on the phone is continuing to hear what he believes to be gunfire.
- 0938 All units responding to Sandy Hook School at this time. The shooting appears to have stopped. The school is in lockdown.
- 0940 I will need two ambulances at this time.
- 0940 The shooter is apparently still shooting in the office area.
- 0941 Take exit 10... continue on Riverside Road, Dickerson Drive. Make sure you have your vest on.
- 0942 Last known shots were in the front of the (inaudible)

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- 0943 We have one fatal in room one... (inaudible) received a wound to the foot...
- 0946 I got bodies here.

Some of the radio traffic was encrypted, such as on scene time. News accounts put the response time from the 0935 hours alert of the in progress shooting as 1 min 39 seconds after the first alert was broadcast. The final shot reported by the dispatcher at 09:40 is thought to be the shooter taking his own life, supposedly when he heard the police sirens pulling into the school. The reason for including this information is to show the additional length of time not having or allowing an armed presence in our schools.

When you have some time, look at your wristwatches, just watch it for 1 minute and 39 seconds, and think of the carnage that can occur in that time period with any type of firearm. Continue to look at your wristwatches until 4 minutes has passed again, and think of the additional carnage that would occur in that time period. Now add to that additional time of your choosing that could have passed had the shooter at Sandy Hook not taken his own life but continued shooting, injuring and killing more children until law enforcement could find him and stop him.

If there is an opportunity for any person to stop a threat in those minutes before law enforcement arrives, my support is to seize any opportunity to stop or delay the killing of our children whenever and wherever possible. Any one or combination of the following approaches is what I support and encourage:

- Legislation that would require a person who possesses a concealed firearm to be required to disclose to the administrator in charge of the school they are armed. This would provide an opportunity to eliminate time for an active shooter to continue to kill, or;
- Allowing the current statute to continue without change to provide an opportunity to eliminate time for an active shooter to continue to kill, or;
- Authorizing school districts to determine if they want to permit teachers an option of whether to possess a firearm with them or not in school, and if the district does then law must require adequate training to provide an opportunity to eliminate time for an active shooter to continue to kill, or;
- Legislative mandating, along with the funding, for an armed law enforcement or private security presence in every school to eliminate time for an active shooter to continue to kill.

SB 347 will do nothing to prevent a committed violent criminal or a mentally deranged person from bringing any type or number of guns onto school grounds. In some cases, this bill would remove the opportunity to stop an active shooter on school grounds and save lives.

As a side note I would point out that the current statute states a person who knowingly discharges or attempts to discharge a firearm at a place that the person knows is a school commits a Class C felony. If any person were to see a person shooting our children on a school ground, who then grabs a firearm, enters the school grounds to engage the suspect by discharging a firearm, then that person trying to save children's lives commits a Class C felony per the statute, regardless if he/she prosecuted or not.

Respectfully submitted,

Maurice K. Sanders