

re: Senate Bill 347

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From: Kay Bridges

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As a Mother and Grandmother at age 76 I remember when Marksmanship was a great achievement.
I remember when we didn't think twice about our class mates bringing a gun to school.
It was fun to gather at the local rock quarry and shoot cans off a log or stump.
We had a "healthy" respect for guns.

Where did we lose our way ... was it when the draft was discontinued?
Was it when the Conscientious Objector was given so much media attention?

My dad shot squirrels during the depression to eat.
But he didn't like guns in the house, except as a tool ... to get supper.
I don't like the sound of guns, I don't like the smell of gun powder....
but that doesn't mean I don't like what they represent.

If a person doesn't know how to drive a car ... it's dangerous and scary.
If a person doesn't know how to navigate a boat ... it's dangerous and scary.
If a person doesn't know how to fly an airplane ... it's dangerous and scary to try to fly.
They are all tools and in the wrong hands they kill even more readily than a gun.

If a person hasn't learned how to perform surgery ... they better not operate on someone.

Emotions run high when things are "scary". It's only our ignorance that makes them scary.

My husband was an armament specialist in the Air Force. My grandson was just sworn into the Air Force and he wants to be a gunner.
It is an honored profession. Those who carry concealed weapons do it with a "healthy" respect for the weapon.
Many "carry" ... not EXPECTING trouble ... but knowing they have the capability and capacity to help someone else should the need arise.
They know that many are "uncomfortable" with a weapon ... because they haven't been properly trained. They carry a gun like some people carry a hunting knife in their belt or a pocket knife in their pocket... to use if needed. The exception is rare ... and that person should probably not have gotten a Concealed Carry Permit in the first place.

But people with permits don't commit murder ... usually. CHL holders are usually more careful than most because they respect the right to carry and don't want that right taken away.

I would like to know that there was a responsible person on the school property to defend the children and teachers should a deranged person with a gun attempt mayhem. There are MORE crimes prevented by

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someone with a gunmillions statistically than crimes committed by a person with a legal firearm.
THIS BILL WILL DO ABSOLUTELY NOTHING TO PREVENT THE PERSON WITH AN ILLEGAL WEAPON FROM COMMITTING MURDER ON SCHOOL PROPERTY. IN FACT, I FIRMLY BELIEVE IT WILL DO EXACTLY THE OPPOSITE.... IT WILL MAKE OUR CHILDREN AND TEACHERS EASY TARGETS.