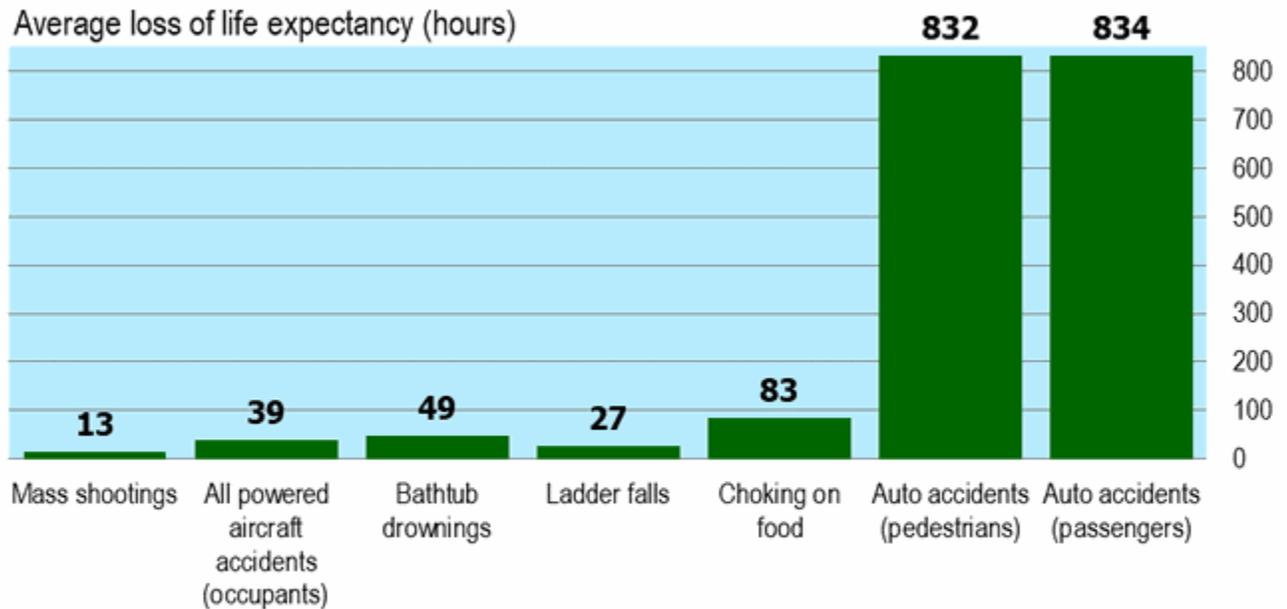


Mass shootings reduce the life expectancy of the average American by 13 hours—far less than common, everyday risks



Dear Senators:

I am compelled to send this testimony in opposition to SB978. This is NOT a “common sense” bill, despite its name. There are huge flaws in the logic presented for this bill.

First, I am not insensitive or blind to the suffering of those who have lost loved ones due to some deranged person committing a single or multiple (mass) murder. But, just like deaths from airline accidents, these deaths from mass murders are a tiny minority compared to deaths from multiple sources that no one has any expectation that we will enact laws to prohibit: for example, see the chart above. A person is more likely to die from choking on food than in a mass murder committed using a gun. And all of that pales against deaths by automobiles. Further, that vast majority of gun-related deaths are from suicides, which account for two-thirds of all deaths by firearms.

In 2017, there were 39,773 gun deaths. Contrast that with the >70,000 deaths by opioids that same year. The point is, SB978 is not going to have any significant impact on these statistics. Further, if enacted, it will turn law-abiding, responsible fire-arm owners into potential criminals if they chose to

keep their protective firearm on their bedside table at night.

And, regarding increasing the age to 21 for purchasing firearms and ammunition, this just flies in the face of our brave young men and women who are serving our country in the military. On one hand, you are basically saying they aren't mature enough to purchase a firearm, and on the other they are legally required to sign up for the selective service, are held to adult standards/punishment if a crime is committed, are accountable for legal documents for life—including student loan debt. This is insulting to presume they are then not mature enough to buy a firearm or ammunition. On top of that, this legislature is also considering lowering the voting age to 16—quite hypocritical, in my opinion. Either they are mature and accountable as adults at 18 or not. Can't have it both ways.

And, lest you think all firearm owners are members of the NRA and are part of some "right wing" group, you need to know there are MANY self-identified liberals who own and use firearms. Many like to hunt, many like to compete in target shooting—and limiting magazines or monthly purchases to some absurd minimum is an affront to their mature adult privilege and an attack on their Second Amendment Rights.

Lastly, where is the evidence that this law will make any difference in the incidences of deaths by firearms? It only takes one bullet for successful suicide—so nothing in this bill will affect those two-thirds of gun-related deaths. It will only be a hardship for responsible gun owners—and it may make a few people feel better.

I respectfully urge you to oppose this bill.

Sincerely,

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