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To: [SJUD Exhibits](#)
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I'm a veteran who served two tours, one before and one after 9/11. I was an American red cross first responder at the pentagon that day. I'm also a Foster parent to some of the most aggressive kids in the state under the age of 10 who have been severely traumatized.

It's not lost on me that the people opposing this bill are operating on a different set of facts. I'll share my real life experience.

I was at Clackamas Mall the day we keep talking about. As I was preparing the leave, gun fire erupted very close to me. Honestly, my first thought was, "No f**king way..." and I grabbed my coworker, Paulina, and pulled her to the ground so the kiosk was between us and the gunman. As we laid on the ground, I was looking to my left and the gunman appeared. He lifted his rifle, pointing it at my face. I stared at him for a moment, I turned my face away and felt like I fell six more inches to the ground, despite the fact that I was already lying down. A moment later, we weren't shot. I didn't know why, but I did know that there was another woman lying on my right. I picked her and Paulina up and said, "let's go" while we all scooted around the short side of the kiosk. There we found another woman. I laid on top of Paulina, scanning the area for the shooter. He was still there, fiddling with the AR-15. One of the women kept poking her head up trying to find him too. I pushed her head into the ground and told her she needed to keep her head DOWN. She resisted me and I said, "If you can see him, he can see you. KEEP YOUR HEAD DOWN." As she continued to resist, I told her, "I spent nine years the military and I need you to trust me right now." She submitted and became very still.

I had my chin on the butt of the woman I worked with, she was mostly under the kiosk. I looked at her face and she was in complete shock. Her eyes were glazed over and she dripped tears and drool. Her gaze was directed at the man next to us, Steve Forsyth, whose head was split in two. I put my hand over her face and told her to look away. She complied. I watched a couple people give cpr to Cindy Yuille by the escalator.

A young man in the store behind us whispered, "Hey! Come in here!" and he opened the gate to Zumi's. We all got up and run inside. He closed the gate. There was a young man in there texting with his father who was on the responding SWAT. We got minor play by play updates that way.

Clackamas could have been prevented if that law abiding gun owner was required to lock his weapon up. A couple days later the same thing happened at Sandy Hook, killing dozens. My foster kids have been through enough, but they also have to worry about a school shooting. A few days after that I secretly went to Steve Forsyth's memorial service and listened to his daughter say goodbye. Today I'm here for my kids who probably don't have anyone else to protect them.

As an experienced Marine corps veteran, I know that the way to respond to quickly to a scene is to drill it until it's fast and easy. Opponents can quit sniveling and start practicing.

At what point will our freedom from bullets be important than their ineptitude and

unwillingness to practice opening their lock?

I don't want your thoughts and prayers, I want policy and change.

PS the good guy with a gun at the mall did NOTHING because he didn't know how.