

From: Christy Overcash <christyovercash10@gmail.com>
To: Lt. Governor's Office LtGov@scstatehouse.gov
Date: 2/23/2018 4:20:50 PM
Subject: Re: Carrying guns in schools

Let me ask you this:

If a teacher who carries is in a classroom and a shooter walks in, how is the teacher going to access his/her weapon, load it, and fire it while protecting his/her students?

If a teacher who carries leaves his/her students to "run towards the line of fire", what happens to his/her students? Who will be there to protect them?

If students who are in the room of the teacher who carries find out he/she is carrying, how can you assure me that the student won't try to access the weapon?

If a teacher who carries is faced with the decision to shoot his/her student because he/she is the shooter, how do you know the teacher will be able to do it?

How can you assure me that a teacher who carries won't accidentally shoot me as I am trying to protect my students and myself?

How can you assure me that a teacher who carries won't accidentally shoot innocent students because he/she think that person is the suspect?

How can you assure me that a colleague who carries won't be shot by the police when they arrive because they will be looking for the shooter and they will be looking for someone not wearing a uniform holding a firearm?

How can you assure me that a fellow teacher won't get upset one day and turn the gun on me?

How can you assure me that my school will remain a place of learning?

I know that some of you all who support the NRA think that people like me pollute students minds with propaganda. You would be wrong. I never talk politics or guns or anything else with my students. I know some people will say that I don't care enough to protect my students. You would be wrong there as well. The reason I am speaking out against this legislation is because I DO care about my students. I care about their well-being, and I want to make sure that their school environment stays conducive to learning. Arming teachers will not solve this problem. I truly believe it will only make it worse. Would you like to add more SRO's? Fine. I've worked with some great ones over the course of my career. They can do wonders for children and for the community, but please do not arm teachers. Please, please, please do not arm teachers.

Sincerely;
Christy Overcash

On Fri, Feb 23, 2018 at 4:02 PM, Christy Overcash <christyovercash10@gmail.com> wrote:

Teachers carrying weapons is not the better decision. I will not work in a school where teachers carry weapons.

On Fri, Feb 23, 2018 at 3:47 PM, Lt. Governor's Office <LtGov@scstatehouse.gov> wrote:

Dear Ms. Overcash,

Thanks for your email. I support two bills that address school safety. The first removes the mandate on school districts that only law enforcement may carry weapons in the school. That would allow local districts to decide whom, if anyone, else should be armed in a school. May that would be no one or maybe that would be state constables, retired law enforcement or someone else. The goal is to give districts options. My other bill frees up current funding streams, such as EIA and Lottery money, to be used for school security, including SROs. This too is an effort to increase local control and decision making. Each of these will empower local districts to make better decisions.

Best Regards,

Kevin L. Bryant

Lieutenant Governor

LtGov@scstatehouse.gov

803-734-5280

From: Christy Overcash [mailto:christyovercash10@gmail.com]

Sent: Thursday, February 15, 2018 7:48 PM

To: Lt. Governor's Office <LtGov@scstatehouse.gov>

Subject: Carrying guns in schools

Dear sir,

I am a teacher here in South Carolina. I understand you want to arm school staff. I am telling you if that happens, I will quit teaching. Guns have NO place in a school unless they are being carried by a school resource officer. Sir, if you think arming school staff is the solution to the school shooting issue, you have no idea what goes on in a school and the type of environment that is necessary for students to learn in. Students will not feel safer knowing that their teachers may or may not be carrying a gun. I will not feel safer knowing that guns are being carried by my colleagues who are not trained law enforcement agents. Teachers don't sign up to be deputies of the law. We sign up because we love education and we love young people. We love being part of the journey students take to their next level. I've always said that the Army got it wrong-teaching truly is the toughest job you'll ever love. We work hard to establish a safe and loving environment that is conducive to learning. Introducing guns into the equation will negate that type of atmosphere. If you want to help teachers and students, hire extra school staff-extra

administrators, teachers, teachers' aides, and counselors. Place a school psychologist at every school. Close all the loopholes that make it incredibly easy for anyone in this state to acquire a gun. Outlaw bump stocks and assault rifles. My father, a lifelong gun enthusiast and hunter has often said, "Why in the world does anyone need an AR? It's not likely you're going to come upon a huge herd of deer." Please do not make schools the new wild west. Please invest your energy and my tax dollars in other ways besides putting guns into schools. Have you ever wondered what would happen if a teenager got hold of one of those guns? And if you think they are not curious and smart enough to figure out who is carrying and how to access the weapon, you don't know teenagers. Please, please, please, I am begging you to find other ways to help support us, because guns are not it.

Sincerely;

Christy Overcash