

December 8, 2023

As the husband of a second grade teacher and the grandfather of a 6 year granddaughter I believe the following.

There will always be bad people who wish to do harm for one reason or another. Making the citizens defenseless will never be the answer. Having all citizens educated, trained and aware can be a big part of the solution. Training does not traumatize anyone except those who live in the fantasy of thinking that the world should be totally safe and that the government will protect them.

Schools should be hardened and trained staff (if they choose to) should be able to carry a firearm. Guns are NOT the enemy. It is merely a tool, like any other tool, that when used by good people will save lives and yes, when in the hands of evil can take lives.

Being free is also directly tied to risk and responsibly, they go hand in hand. Freedom being paramount in our country. Way too many people have the false believe that the feeling of safety supersedes freedom, it does not. People who are not free are never safe. Training kids will keep them safe and allow them the freedom they deserve.

Children are NOT traumatized over drills; the trauma comes from the adults in their lives who insist that the world should "feel" safe but these same adults refuse to consider any of the real possibilities, that try as we might, that bad actors do live among us and always will.

Not being prepared for potential evil is foolish and naive and quite frankly dangerous.

Being safe requires knowledge and training just like any other skill. Why are we not putting a priority on actual safety just like we do on math or reading?

Until society decides to give fatherless families, broken homes & mental illness the serious attention it desperately needs, broken people born in these situations will always be at a much higher risk to do bad things.

We need to stop pretending that the gun which has been in existence for hundreds of years is somehow the problem. The problem as I stated above, is we now live in a society that does not value family.

Children and educators need to be trained and the schools they occupy need to be hardened to keep bad actors out until society decides that family is where everything starts.

Regards,

Dan Marion