

As a retired public school teacher with a Master's degree in Psychology and Administration, a 6<sup>th</sup> year Certificate in Leadership in Education, and post graduate studies in School and Clinical Psychology, I support the Second Amendment, which is the right of citizens to bear arms to protect ourselves and our families from criminal attack and tyranny. I feel very qualified to present the following statements that support my belief that guns do not commit crimes. Crimes are committed by individuals who have violent mental disorders. Those violent disorders have not been recognized or addressed by mental health professionals in the schools, pediatricians, or parents. This may be for various reasons such as parental opposition to an evaluation of their child or lack of parental education concerning mental health and violent behavior. Violent behavior can be recognized at early stages of child development. A child that needs intervention could then be helped. Students bullying their peers are contributing to violence. School professional and parents who ignore the signs of this covert abuse are also contributing to violence. Repeat offenders who earn points for early release and are then released are also instruments of violence. We do not need gun control laws. We need early intervention for those exhibiting indicators of violent behavior.

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