

## **OPINION: On arming teachers**

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Posted Apr 6, 2018 at 1:11 PM

Updated Apr 6, 2018 at 4:49 PM

### Booker High School believe risks outweigh potential security benefits

Following the tragedy at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, there have been discussions about whether teachers should be allowed to carry weapons on school campuses to protect students in case of emergencies.

This topic has been met with mixed feedback among students and teachers.

Some students say they believe teachers should be allowed to carry guns, because it may give the students a sense of security from any threats that may enter the classroom.

“If a teacher does not feel safe or feel the need to carry a gun, there is no reason to force them,” Victoria Pabon, a junior at Booker High School, told me. “But if they would like to carry one on them, then I don’t see a problem, as long as they have the proper training.”

Many students say that if they have capable teachers armed with concealed weapons, students who could be plotting an attack would be discouraged, and any attackers from off campus would not take as many lives.

But many other students and teachers think this new law could create more problems.

Booker High School senior William Abbott said the problem needs a different solution.

“I think that the risk of the weapon being used incorrectly is too high and too dangerous to justify teachers having weapons,” Abbott said.

Social studies teacher Mark Speciner points out that “even trained professionals only hit their target 18 percent of the time.” This new bill would put guns in the hands of teachers who have much less training than security officers.

“The idea of training teachers is not a realistic one.”

Booker students say they are very worried that one day, a teacher could accidentally fire on a student or even snap. The idea of him or her having a concealed firearm on campus might actually put that person more on edge.

If it were mandatory for teachers to carry guns, some teachers say they would resign. Some students said they would rather go to school online than be fearful of a possible misfire.

Cecily Wood-Barron, a Booker sophomore, said she believes that lawmakers should not have considered the measure.

“More guns do not necessarily mean more protection. I feel safer when there are fewer guns around me,” Cecily says. “It would only make it easier for school shootings to happen.”

In my opinion, arming teachers would do more harm than good.

I can say that I trust a lot of my teachers enough to protect me in the case of an active shooter situation. But there are some that either wouldn't be able to pull the trigger in an emergency or would cause harm to the people around them.

I would love to believe that every teacher would use a gun responsibly and effectively, but that seems too naïve.

The truth is, teachers are human. They snap and get angry and sometimes get extremely stressed.

I wish I could say all students would have the discipline to not try to obtain a teacher's gun. But if there is a violent teenager who is 6 feet tall and 200 pounds, what's going to stop that person from overtaking a 5-foot-3, 120-pound teacher?

Guns are just too much firepower to allow on a school campus.

While it may seem like a possible solution, in practice, it would only work in ideal situations. There are too many risks that I believe are not worth taking.

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