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## **YES! FOCUS ON GUN VIOLENCE IN SCHOOLS**

By Steve Bakke  May 21, 2018



*Here's what provoked me:*

*We must stop being afraid of measures that are unpopular but perhaps the only real solution to our school violence problem. We can avoid the obvious no longer. It starts with a philosophy of protection rather than just throwing more ineffective laws and rules at the problem.*

*Here's my response:*

### **Yes! Focus on Gun Violence in Schools**

There's been another school massacre. Unless we change our approach, we'll continue to act "like a deer in the headlights." Consider some common-sense:

- Our Founders' discussions about firearms reflect a presumption of order and competence achieved through rules, regulations, and training. Smart regulations are Constitutional.
- "Assault weapons" generally refers to appearance. Don't waste time trying to ban them. The latest school killings were done with a shotgun and handgun.
- Banning one weapon creates a new favorite – in Texas, bombs were available.
- Virtually no suggested legislation would have made any difference in Texas, nor with some other incidents. Concentrate, at least initially, on "eliminating, adjusting, fixing and enforcing.
- Change emphasis from "control" to "armed protection."
- Gun-free zones create targets, not safe spaces.
- Understand the impact of our society gradually devaluing human life.
- Any solution will include securing entrances to schools.
- Successful solutions will include armed security inside schools.
- Arming some willing and trained teachers should be an option.
- Institute policies for firearm training and weapon storage.
- Determining proper reactions to "red flags" and mental illness is a puzzle. Start by at least ensuring communication between schools, health professionals, and law enforcement.
- And of course, technology/technology/technology.

Stop being afraid of changing perspectives.