

Dear Senate Judiciary Committee,

A layperson's thoughts on psychopaths, violence, and civil rights.

Violence in our society, where does it come from? That's the question to be addressing rather than the merit of the 2nd Amendment, which like all the Amendments, is a crucial part of the Bill of Rights, which guarantee our free society, free of the despotism from the elitists of both the left and the right who are engage in currently polarizing civil discourse. Polarization that could push us into a second civil war, which will in all likely hood end our union and world power status. As Lincoln warned if we fall it will be from within. But that's another problem, back to violence in our society. Aside from political upheaval, sociopaths and psychopaths are the greatest threat to the law-abiding citizen. Whether they are Bernie Madoffs, Charles Mansons, or teenage thugs and killers, the common thread between them is the presence of a psychopath/sociopath mind at work. Thanks to Providence or evolution only 1 to 2% of the general population fall into this category of personality. The problem is how to interdict these dangerous minds early on before they act out on their horrific urges. If we had a higher functioning mental healthcare system in this country it would help, not just one that caters to the 1% with their 1st world melancholia issues brought on by materialistic hedonism. Perhaps we could break out the pitch forks and tri-color cockades to rearrange priorities for a while, but let's not let it come to that. Revolutions are often co-opted by psychopaths, Robespierre, Hilter, Stalin, Mao, etc..

After some reflection I think the best time to interdict a sociopath or psychopath would be in early childhood while the subconscious is still pliable. Try to inculcate a degree of empathy, and some basic ethics, to counteract the psychopath/sociopath's genetic predisposition toward anti-social or murderous impulses. How effective such positive conditioning would be is an unknown, but better to attempt it, rather than just remove these potentially deviant persons from society. After all prisons and gulags are expensive and perhaps not the most humane solution, and merely form reinforcement training for these troubled minds no matter how devoutly they claim to have found Jesus, Buddha, or Islam. I preferred Maslow to Skinner ages ago when I was studying business management, but in this situation, I think some form of direct behavioral modification is the best bet, as early as possible.

However, it's not all genetics, there can be environmental influences on these budding psychopaths/sociopaths which will have a great deal to do with how severe their acting out will be. Growing up surrounded by bullying, violence, addiction, even prescribed psychoactive drugs can all be just gasoline on a smoldering ember. From here come the worst, the teenage mass killers, the career recidivism in our prisons, colluding political and financial fraudsters who bankrupt millions of hardworking citizens. Much like a computer, if the young emerging subconscious absorbs garbage in childhood, it will most certainly express it later with dire consequences. If there can be a counter balance to these negative influences early enough perhaps these few can be saved from the darkest of paths. It's not because of one of our civil rights that violence befalls us, it's buried in the morass of human nature. It's a miss-step of evolution that 1-2% of the population hold the rest of us hostage. In truth which is more Orwellian coming to terms with this small percentage of deviant minds or destroying civil rights for all in the name of false security.

None of the 29 anti- 2nd bills before the legislature address prevention through mental healthcare. What they will do is create felons out of otherwise law abiding responsible citizens. I urge you to not allow this, but turn your attention and efforts to dealing with the true sources of crime and violence.

Regards

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Dear Senate Judiciary Committee,

Will SB 978 be stuffed at the last minute with amendments that go well beyond a simple study and report on illegal firearms transfers? There are currently 29 bills in the legislature that affect our Second Amendment civil right. Will the super majority select the worst bits from them to amend SB 978? I thought after the 1960s marches and riots and Dr. King's martyrdom that the Democratic Party would finally cease denying our Constitutional civil rights.

None of these 29 bills reflect the true nature of the problem with violence in our state, in our nation. Aside from the 2% of the general population who are full blown sociopaths or psychopaths, most violent offenders could probably have been helped if there was adequate mental healthcare. But the ACA did nothing in this regard, nor has there been much headway since. In a culture that elevates competition to a moral virtue there are bound to be a portion of society who are disenfranchised, bullied, the resulting stress building up over years, which if not relieved in some positive way, can lead to lashing out, in the most extreme cases, mass murder. The saddest part is that most, if not all, of the mass murders had several encounters with the authorities, and mental health professionals who then neglected to report the perpetrators to the NICS prior to their horrific crimes. If the authorities are incapable of interdicting these potential killers, thus incapable of providing any true security, how is disarming the law-abiding citizen going to help matters? If the best that can be hoped for is only crime scene analysis, not prevention, then you are only creating a society of victimhood.

Regards

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