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On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB698

Yet another attack on lawful gun owners.

According to the Crime Prevention Research Center; 94% of mass shootings occur in gun free zones.

The Covenant shooter chose that school as her third option as the other 2 presented more secure targets.

The Buffalo shooter wrote in his manifesto that he chose that store because it was a gun free zone.

People who are intent to commit murder will not see a "Gun Free Zone" sign and rethink their life choices. They'll choose THAT location for their target to maximize the damage they can do.

In almost every single one of these incidents, it has taken another armed person to stop the threat. Be it police officers, 10, 20, 30 minutes after people are dead; or an armed citizen who just luckily happened to be nearby (which happens WAY more than you think: <https://crimeresearch.org/tag/concealed-handguns-stopped-mass-public-shooting/>).

By passing laws like this, you increase the soft targets and decrease the number of lawfully armed citizens who are available to respond.

I'm a lawful concealed carry permit holder and have been for my entire adult life. I've spent countless hours and thousands of rounds training. A gun free zone sign to me just means I'm not welcome at that location.

With some of the most recent shootings I've seen comments from anti-gun propagandists begging the question "where was the good guy with the gun this time?". And every time it was a gun free zone. So where were they? They were following the laws and not going to places where they were clearly not welcome. The criminal still went. They still shot and killed people.

Because there was no one there to stop them but a tin sign.