

Konrad Jackson

From: Ann DeLong <anndelo@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 23, 2024 11:57 AM
To: Senate Labor and Commerce
Subject: SB173

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

I strongly oppose SB173. School shootings are chaotic. This would introduce new risks to students and teachers. It increases the likelihood students would access guns in school.

Instead please support HB164 and HB 162.

Thanks, Ann DeLong

Konrad Jackson

From: Chris Carte <chriscarte50@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 23, 2024 1:01 PM
To: Senate Labor and Commerce; Sen. Jesse Bjorkman; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. Elvi Gray-Jackson; Sen. Kelly Merrick; Sen. Forrest Dunbar
Subject: Senate Bill 173

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Dear Senators,

I am writing as a citizen of Alaska and resident of Juneau. I have three children and eight grandchildren who need protection from guns in the hands of the wrong people. I spent over 30 years working in schools, with the last 16 as a high school classroom teacher. PUTTING GUNS IN SCHOOLS AND CLASSROOMS INTENTIONALLY IS THE WORST IDEA I HAVE EVER HEARD.

Please don't accept the NRA rhetoric about more guns making us safer. More guns in public spaces and schools do NOT make us safer. What kind of world would that be like? We don't need a Wild West attitude--we need to protect children from guns.

Instead of SB 173, please support more sensible legislation like [secure gun storage laws \(HB 164\)](#) and [extreme risk laws \(HB 162\)](#) as a much safer approach to protecting children.

Chris Carte
907-723-3170
9229 Long Run Drive
Juneau, AK 99801

Konrad Jackson

From: Ellen Mannion <1muhrune@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 23, 2024 12:06 AM
To: Senate Labor and Commerce
Subject: I oppose SB 173

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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It's ridiculous to expect teachers and school staff whose specialty is not urban warfare to teach and monitor student social interaction and also be prepared to deal with situations involving gunmen in schools. Just the inclusion of approved weapons in schools creates a hazard. A student could get the gun away from a teacher who is distracted by their other responsibilities and making our schools into armed camps is not a healthy atmosphere for children.

It's far better to concentrate on removing access to guns from people who are not responsible or emotionally stable enough to have them.

Konrad Jackson

From: Emily Kane <dremilykane@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 22, 2024 8:34 PM
To: Senate Labor and Commerce
Subject: SB173

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Dear Senate Committee Members

I respectfully ask you all to stop this bill right now. It is the height of insanity to purposefully place guns in schools! Kids and their parents are already terrified about gun violence in school. More guns leads to more gun violence. Please look at the statistics. The LEADING cause of death for teens in the US is death by gun. No other country on the planet has this problem. Why would you support a law that is LIKELY to INCREASE teens dying or being seriously injured by a firearm? Please stop. This is not a partisan issue and shouldn't be a political issue. 97% of Americans want better gun laws. Who is this bill catering to? Who benefits? Please be very clear about that.

I encourage you instead to create senate companion bills for HB 162 ("red flag" laws because crazy boyfriends kill a lot of women in Alaska) and for HB 164 (because why would it ever, ever be a problem to store your firearm safely, and separated from the ammo, within a home, especially a home with children or an elderly person?).

My closest friend lost her son just before his 15th birthday playing "Russian roulette" with other boys that age, one of whom had a father who was careless about gun storage. We are losing way too many people to gun incidents. Do your job and help make your constituents safer! There is no benefit to catering to the gun lobby or folks squawking about second amendment rights. I am not proposing people lose access to their hunting guns. I just see no reason whatsoever to 1) have guns in schools, 2) to allow people with a history of violence to have guns and 3) condone careless storage of a lethal weapon.

Thank you for your attention.

Please STOP SB 173 today!

Sincerely

Dr. Emily Kane

Juneau

Be good to people especially yourself

www.DrEmilyKane.com

Konrad Jackson

From: Jetta Whittaker <wheedle@alaska.net>
Sent: Tuesday, January 23, 2024 11:28 AM
To: Senate Labor and Commerce
Cc: Sen. Jesse Bjorkman; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. Elvi Gray-Jackson; Sen. Kelly Merrick; Sen. Forrest Dunbar
Subject: Oppose SB 173 !

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Guns simply have no place in K-12 schools. Guns expose school communities to risks, including increasing the risk of unintentional shootings. No amount of teacher, staff, or volunteer training can make up for the harms caused by introducing more guns in schools. An armed teacher or volunteer cannot, in a moment of extreme duress and confusion, transform into a law enforcement officer.

Guns in schools will inevitably lead to some students being able to access these guns, with awful consequences. IMHO, it would be much better to focus on implementing school safety proposals that are proven to keep kids safe, not those that would put them at greater risk.

Therefore, I urge you to oppose SB 173 and instead support HB 164, the Alaska Child Access Prevention and Secure Storage of Firearms Act, when it is before you, as HB 164 will help keep guns out of schools and prevent school shootings.

Thank you,

Jetta Whittaker
502 W 10th
Juneau AK 99801

Konrad Jackson

From: Kristin Pace <kristinknightpace@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 23, 2024 12:01 PM
To: Senate Labor and Commerce
Subject: No to SB 173

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Hello,

I am one of your constituents living in Palmer, Alaska. I strongly oppose SB 173. I urge you to instead support safer gun storage laws (HB 164) and extreme risk laws (HB 162) which are a much better approach to keeping children safe.

Thank you,

Kristin Pace

Palmer, AK

Mother of 2 school-age children

Konrad Jackson

From: Laura Fleming <laura.fleming06@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 23, 2024 12:55 PM
To: Senate Labor and Commerce; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. Kelly Merrick; Sen. Forrest Dunbar; Sen. Elvi Gray-Jackson; Sen. Jesse Bjorkman
Subject: Opposing SB 173, arming schoolteachers and school staff

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Testimony submitted via e-mail for public hearing January 23, 2024 Dear Members of the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee:

I urge you to consider the flaws of SB 173 which proposes to make school children safer by requiring certain teachers and school staff to carry firearms at school. Please never let this measure move from committee. It will not make our kids safer.

We need fewer guns in schools, not more guns. Any firearms utilized by authorities in a confrontation with a school shooter should be in the hands of law enforcement personnel.

Perhaps the measure was referred to Senate Labor and Commerce because the only benefit it would provide is to the companies that sell firearms.

If one really wants to effectively address the issue of reducing gun violence, including reducing the number of deaths of innocent children in school shootings, there are measures that have proven successful. These include laws such as those proposed in two measures before the Legislature regarding secure storage of firearms and emergency protective orders.

The law now on the books about firearms on school grounds received a high degree of attention from Alaska lawmakers including spirited floor debate, and it serves us well.

Thank you,
Laura Fleming
Juneau, Alaska

Sent from my iPhone

Konrad Jackson

From: laura sievert <laurasievert@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 23, 2024 9:55 AM
To: Senate Labor and Commerce
Subject: SB173

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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As a long-time (now retired) high school teacher in Kenai, I oppose this bill. Our school mass shooting problem is not going to be solved by arming a few people in classrooms.

Those who propose this as a solution may never have been in a school with all of its normal chaos, have never experienced the effort and concentration required to be a teacher, nor have clearly thought through what a shooter situation would probably look like in a school or any large public building. Remembering my students' reactions to our 'active shooter drills' still breaks my heart.

Or does the bill intend to post a sniper in every classroom, hallway, restroom, etc?
Passing SB173 would be an empty gesture, and promises false safety. It's a lazy way to address our gun problem - a way for the legislature to avoid considering laws that would begin to control guns, admittedly an extremely difficult task.

Laura Sievert
Kenai

Konrad Jackson

From: Maureen Knutsen <maureen.knutsen@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 23, 2024 11:59 AM
To: Senate Labor and Commerce
Subject: Please oppose Senate Bill 173

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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As a retired 31-year employee of my local public school, I ask that you oppose Senate Bill 173.
Guns in schools will be disastrous and distracting and will not make schools safer.
Please do not allow this bill to become law!

Thank you for considering my comment.

Maureen Knutsen
PO Box 134
Naknek, Alaska 99633

Konrad Jackson

From: Molly Sherman <molly.sherman1@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 23, 2024 11:13 AM
To: Senate Labor and Commerce
Subject: Strongly oppose SB 173

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Good Day Labor & Commerce members,

As a lifelong Alaskan and retired public school teacher of 25 years I urge you to oppose SB 173.

Not only have I lived in Alaska and worked for the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District for more than two consecutive decades, I have a niece residing in Anchorage with young children in the public schools there. As many of you also no doubt have young family in our public schools.

The intent to protect children is strong but K-12 schools are no place for guns. No matter the training school community members may receive, those who carry guns are going to be exposed to fearful events in the heat of a stressful situation where they will most certainly become a danger to others in their school community.

Additionally, SB 173 deliberately puts more guns in schools thus likely putting them into the hands of children. I speak from many years in K-8 public school classrooms. Wherever they can, many students have an interest in exploring forbidden or dangerous objects and situations and places where they can be found are often the most compelling. Knowing there are guns available is a magnet to many students.

I urge you to reject SB 173, it is a dangerous and potentially lethal bill.

Instead please pass HB 164, a more suitable bill for protecting our public school communities.

My contact information is here if you wish to get in touch.

Thank you for time and your attention.
Molly

Molly Sherman
3467 Shanly St.
Fairbanks, 99709

Konrad Jackson

From: Rachel Cohen <rlcohen56@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 23, 2024 10:31 AM
To: Senate Labor and Commerce; Sen. Jesse Bjorkman; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. Elvi Gray-Jackson; Sen. Kelly Merrick; Sen. Forrest Dunbar
Subject: Writing to Express my Opposition to SB 173

Dear Members of the Labor and Commerce Committee,

I am writing to express my extreme opposition to SB 173.

As someone born in Alaska, who was raised around firearms and believes strongly in the importance of the 2nd Amendment, I can not imagine a more asinine and dangerous idea than requiring firearms in schools in the hands of volunteers, teachers or staff. My experience with firearms, starting from childhood, has exposed me to instances of blatant disregard for basic gun safety- even in controlled environments like shooting ranges- by people who should know better. The sheer probability of a catastrophic accident with a loaded firearm is alarmingly high, and diminishing the liability of those entrusted with these weapons will foster an environment where safety takes a backseat.

I staunchly uphold the right to bear arms, but I equally uphold the right of parents to make decisions regarding their children's exposure to dangerous tools, which firearms are. Parents should have the right to decide if they want guns around their children, not the government.

Sincerely,

Rachel Cohen
Fairbanks, Alaska