

In Ezra chapter 10, when the people confessed their sin, they also developed a plan of attack on how to address the manifestations of that sin. That contrivance ended with a declaration of, "Arise, for it is your task, and we are with you, be STRONG and do it." In my opinion the STRONG Ohio bill is the plan of attack that addresses a long standing display of our governments inability to address preventable gun violence.

I stand before wearing many different hats. I am a pastor in Trotwood, OH; and have had to comfort families after burying their loved ones lost to avoidable gun violence, I am a conservative and responsible gun owner, who has memberships with the NRA and NAAGA, who believes in common sense gun laws. I am a locally elected official to the Trotwood Madison Board of Education, and I have the detestable responsibility of having to create policy that will hopefully ensure that a classroom full of our preschoolers aren't killed during story time.

Lastly, I am the cousin of Thomas McNichols one of nine people killed in the Oregon District on August 4. Our grandmothers were sisters, and in families like ours you aren't really cousins, you're just extended brothers and sisters. As I stood in the audience at the prayer vigil listening to the crowd chant ' "Do Something" the eruption of that proclamation was the reverberation of the soul, of individuals, both black and white, christian and non, democrat and republican, gay and straight, young and old who are exasperated and tired of losing their husband, their wives, their friends, and their children because our elected officials aren't strong enough to do what is important to us. As elected officials, to do nothing after we have clearly said "DO SOMETHING" only substantiates your obsolescence.

I ask you to pass this STRONG OHIO Bill, and I leave you with the words of Ezra, ..."Arise, for it is your task, we are with you, be STRONG and do it!"

Norman J. Searce