

Chairman Hoagland, Vice Chair Johnson, Ranking Member Thomas and members of the committee, thank you for allowing my testimony today.

My name is Mandy Rothgerber. I am a Moms Demand Action for gun sense member. I am a cancer survivor. I am still recovering from chemo and radiation and while still physically tired from my breast cancer battle that started this time last year I am mostly tired of seeing the toll of gun violence, white supremacy and the pain and depression that Americans continue to suffer because mostly Republican lawmakers continue to ignore their own constituents begging for action not thoughts and prayers.

It is really something to celebrate veterans on Memorial Day sitting at my dining room table typing why teachers shouldn't have guns in schools. THAT in itself is sick and symbolic of where we really are as a country.

I looked at my 16 year old daughter, Aurora, this weekend and asked her how she felt about lawmakers wanting to arm teachers. I am going to share some of her thoughts I will refrain from using the curse words.....: "Repulsive." "They don't listen to us." "Arming teachers is not going to do jack sh*t -look at the armed policemen at Uvalde they are trained professionals and they didn't do anything.....how much funding is gonna go into this? Some kid could be fu*king around the school and get the teachers' guns....."

I then asked my daughter "what should lawmakers be focusing on to keep you safe?" Aurora's response: "Jesus, it seems like common sense establish more gun sense law I don't even fu*king know what to say anymore." Aurora sent me a picture of one of the teachers killed in Texas and her husband who died two days later from a massive heart attack, a broken heart....she also sent me a picture of one of the students who covered herself in her dead friend's blood and acted dead to avoid getting shot. This child in Texas and all the other ones have asked why didn't their own law enforcement rescue them? My daughter wants me to ask you why don't you do something to PREVENT mass shootings rather than allow them to continue to happen and not seem to care.

The general attitude of people pushing lax gun laws is one that celebrates white supremacy. The Republican party is representing KKK mentality hatred of black and brown people.....the Republican party had 172 members oppose the violence against women act.....I'm jumping around here because there are so many factors at play here of why we as a country are where we are.....what can we expect when we see powerful white men turn their backs on the cries of our kids.....we are a country literally built on the backs of slaves yet the far right don't want to acknowledge the pain and brutality of our nation's past and how parallel it is to our country's present.....we see modern day lynchings of our black brothers while white mass shooters are escorted to Burger King and gently arrested amidst a bloodbath of innocents.

We do not need teachers with guns we need those of you here today proposing arming our teachers to dig deeper and be brave enough to do the real work.....these shooters are exhibiting warning signs

KNOWN to law enforcement known to government agencies yet nothing is done to prevent them from blasting their plans and their hatred and carrying out mass murder.....we as your constituents KNOW you can act swiftly to pass laws as we see swift regulation of womens' bodies yet ZERO regulation of guns and ZERO regulation of openly racist and anti anything or anyone who doesn't exclaim "god and guns" well I am a God fearing woman and this is UNACCEPTABLE.

WHY WON'T YOU REGULATE ASSAULT WEAPONS INSTEAD OF TRYING TO TAKE AWAY OUR CHILDS' EDUCATION TIME FORCING THEM TO PRACTICE HIDING FROM MASS SHOOTERS AND BECOMING MORE DEPRESSED AND TRAUMATIZED???

My daughter and her friends want answers. The students of Ohio want answers. We are done with the extreme toxic masculinity and racism that Republican lawmakers vow is patriotism.....your tshirts and hashtags with God and guns, love of country, don't tread on me is stale. We are done and we want answers as to what you're ACTUALLY going to do to protect our kids.....other countries have mental health issues but not the gun violence we do.....26x more likely to die by gun violence is the price we continue to pay while you choose inaction and thoughts and prayers.....my daughter wants to know why.