

President and founder of Protect Our School Children, Gary West, agrees with Trump's sentiments, suggesting armed teachers are the best way to insure the safety of the nation's schools.

"We want metal detectors and armed security at all schools. That's the only way we can stop bad people. If they can't get in, they can't shoot or blow up people, right?" West said. "Any state or federal office you go to, there are metal detectors and armed guards, so why can't we do it for our kids? It would take 15 ¢ per day per taxpayer in South Carolina. It's a no-brainer."

Some have expressed concern surrounding the expertise of teachers in using firearms. However, high school senior Gabe Smith from Georgia feels this issue can be easily resolved through an extensive training program.

"It shouldn't just be arming (teachers), there should also be training. If you're just arming a teacher with a gun I think that will just be useless, but if you train them, then there's actually a chance that the teachers can be protecting (the students)," Smith said. "And I would feel safer in a place with more security."

On the other hand, junior Haley Havenlock from South Carolina believes arming and training teachers is not a solution to the issue of school shootings.

"Teachers aren't soldiers. We can't even really

afford to give our teachers printer paper so how can we give them guns?" Havenlock said. "We wouldn't be able to give them the proper training and even if we were, there are some people that aren't stable. I would not feel safe in my school knowing my teachers were armed. My teacher has an English degree, he's not a Navy SEAL. He doesn't need a gun."

Some teachers have joined students in denouncing President Trump's call for arming teachers.

"I haven't talked to a single teacher that thinks it's a good idea and I don't think it's a good idea either. We've actually talked about it in my classes with my

students just to hear what they think," teacher Steve Hanf from the Outer Banks, NC said. "One students said, 'don't take it personally Mr. Hanf, but I don't know about the mental stability of all (the teachers) having guns.' And I totally agree."

As the President and legislators push for arming teachers in schools across the U.S., many students and teachers continue to fight for gun-free schools.

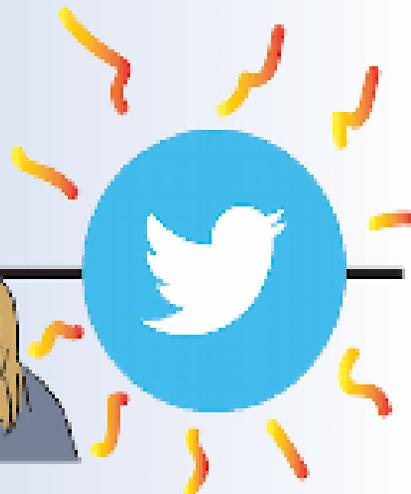
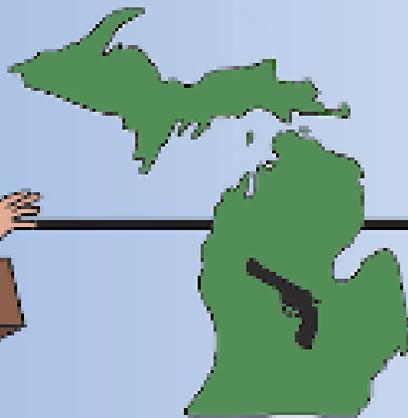
"We don't want a militarized school. We just want to be safe and I don't think arming teachers is going to do that, it is just going to cause more danger," Caro said.

Presidential candidate Donald Trump says, "If we had a couple teachers with guns in that school, you would have been a hell of a lot safer."

Nov. 2, 2017

Fourteen students and three staff members of Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School were killed by a former student.

Feb. 24, 2018



Oct. 4, 2015

The Michigan Senate passes legislation allowing people to carry concealed weapons in "safe zones" such as schools.

Feb. 14, 2018

President Donald Trump tweeted support for arming school teachers in an effort to prevent future school shootings.

THE RIGHT TO BEAR ARMIES

By Aneesa C-N, Delia Adamson,
Elena G-H, Audrey Kennedy

Seven of the 10 deadliest school shootings in American history occurred in the past two decades, leading to amplified calls for safety in schools.

On Feb. 14, a gunman opened fire on Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, FL killing 17 people. This recent shooting has reopened the raging debate surrounding gun control legislation, with 69 percent of Americans supporting stricter regulations on firearms. Many schools have increased security since the Stoneman Douglas shooting, including junior Dylan Caro's school in Miami, FL -- just 40 miles from Parkland.

"Security around school has ramped up and we are enforcing more policies now," Caro said. "Psychologically, we're just thinking that (the shooting) could have been at our school. It has been kind of

hard on us and it has got a lot of us thinking about what is next and what we can do to prevent (school shootings) from happening other places."

Divided opinions on how to best solve the issue of school shootings have emerged, with some arguing that arming teachers is the best way to prevent similar incidents in the future.

"It shouldn't just be arming (teachers), there should also be training."

-- Gabe Smith (Armed educators (and trusted people who work within a school) love our students and will protect

them," President Donald Trump tweeted on Feb. 17. "Very smart people. Must be firearms adept and have annual training. Should get yearly bonus. Shootings will not happen again -- a big and very inexpensive deterrent."

April 20, 1999

Harold Independent School District board unanimously decides to let teachers who are approved by the board and superintendent to bring guns to school.

Dec. 14, 2012

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Students Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold kill 12 students and one teacher at Columbine High School, causing widespread outcry.



Aug. 15, 2008



Twenty-year-old Adam Lanza kills 27 students, faculty and staff at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut. Sandy Hook became the deadliest school shooting in U.S.