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Gun Violence Essay

School shootings is a significant concern in today's society (Hook). As of September 19th, there have been at least 50 school shootings in USA in this year. According to CNN's analysis, the incidents left 24 people dead at more than 66 people injured. Many solutions have been enacted to prevent gun violences, and arming teachers is one of the most problematic ideas. Some people believe that gun laws should be tougher, while others think that the solution is arming teachers and other employees. There are many compelling reasons behind two opposite opinions about arming teachers, and some current legislation reflects the outcomes of two different viewpoints.

Many people support arming teachers in schools because they believe that it not only serves as a deterrent to criminals but also helps to quickly subdue a shooter if a shooting occurs. According to Vasilogambros, "We need to make these people realize that, hey, look, there's going to be a weapon if you go to the school," (Tate). "That would deter these school shootings." Tate believes that attackers target schools because there often is not armed security. He aims for his bill to deter potential school shooters by warning them. The following case is also a case that makes supporters of this bill more confident. In October 1997, sixteen-year-old Luke Woodham had shot and killed two students and wounded seven other at Pearl High School in Pearl, Miss, when Assistant Principal Joel Myrick, an Army reserve officer, retrieved his military-issued handgun from his car and arrested Woodham, potentially preventing further bloodshed (Collier). Myrick's actions showed that arming teachers is necessary when school polices are not available. Although this solution seems

reasonable, there is limited evidence to suggest that arming teachers effectively prevents school shootings or improves safety.

There are still many people who reject the idea to arm teacher. This is because this problem involved in many factors such as safety concerns, training and preparedness, psychological problems. In the words of researcher Collier, Myrick told, “Teachers have to teach, and that's what they should be doing.”. Besides, he was under severe stress and had nightmares during 6 months after the incident. If teachers are armed, they should be trained regularly with high-stress situations, which may be not feasible for all teachers. It also could lead to psychological impact for teachers, students and their families. As Kelly has noted, “Do you have the mind-set to shoot a kid that two hours earlier you were teaching math to?” (Ken Trump). A student in a survey also commented that it was fine if a teacher doesn't “go crazy and kill us”. These opinions strongly support that teachers should not be armed.

However, nowadays, several states have enacted bills to arm teachers, with the most recent being Tennessee. This states passed the bill to allow school teachers to carry guns in schools just once they undergo 40-hour training and take criminal and mental health background checks. Parents and most staffs in schools will not be informed who are armed. According to McDaniel, during floor debate Tuesday, House sponsor Rep. Ryan Williams (R) commented, “There's a very low probability that even one-tenth of 1 percent would do this”. He supposed that even though the law was passed, very few teachers brought guns into school.

In conclusion, the controversy over arming teachers in school still exists because of some persuasive reasons mentioned above, and some bills are in place to address this problem. Some people suppose that arming teachers is not a good solution, whereas some believe that teachers should be armed, and several states have allowed applying this. Nonetheless, it is recommended to consider additional strategies to ensure that both teachers and students feel safe and secure at school.

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