**Arming Educators**

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**Should We Arm Educators?**

In recent times, tragic mass shootings have caused terror in American schools. There have been several random armed civilians walking into learning institutions and killing students and teachers. Due to this tragedy, advocates, legal advisors, and other citizens in the United States are lobbying for state legislation that will allow educators to possess concealed firearms in their classrooms for protection purposes. Teachers claim that they need to be ready if a violent attacker comes into their schools and classrooms. The argument is whether or not it is a good idea to give them the authority to be armed with guns.

**Video Summary**

Cardoza’s (2017) PBS News hour video discusses gun violence in schools in the United States. The video expresses the fear of many parents who send their kids to learning institutions all over the country (Cardoza, 2017). The introduction reminds viewers of the unfortunate event at Sandy Hook, where a gunman killed innocent teachers and students using a firearm. In the following report, Ohio correspondent Kavitha Cardoza shows viewers how teachers, bus drivers, and other subordinate staff members in school districts train on handling guns. The individuals said they need to be prepared and safe when dispensing their professional duties amidst the many gun violence incidences in the country. Fifteen states across America have supported the policies on arming educators in schools, while others are still undergoing debates concerning the severe issue. However, some staff and parents are against the proposed policies to equip teachers with guns (Cardoza, 2017). Despite some criticism, many advocates all over America are lobbying for state laws that will approve the handling of hidden guns by teachers due to the rise in school shooting cases.

**Explanation of Whether Teachers Should Be Armed**

Teachers should be armed to enable them to protect themselves and their students. In the gun violence cases experienced in previous years, teachers could have protected the people murdered. A study by Lott (2019) showed that equipping educators in the United States can minimize deaths related to gun violence incidences. Violent gun users are more likely to shoot and kill innocent teachers and students if the teachers are not armed. Additionally, providing weapons training to educators and other school staff members gives them self-defense skills and confidence to counter the gunmen who intend to kill them and the students (Lott, 2019). Passing legislation that grants educators the right to handle concealed firearms in classrooms in America will increase security and reduce the number of killings in schools by criminal shooters.

Rajan and Branas (2018) showed that providing teachers with guns will also repel shooters before they enter the school. Allowing educators to possess firearms will instill fear in potential shooters who intend to attack innocent students in schools. The violent shooters will fear walking into a learning institution to kill people since their lives will also be in danger (Rajan & Branas, 2018). Consequently, the country will experience fewer cases of gun violence in schools. Approving regulatory policies that support gun handling by teachers will act as a firm warning to criminal individuals who may think of killing young boys and girls in learning facilities all over America. Therefore, potential shooters will avoid walking into schools to kill students and teachers (Rajan & Branas, 2018). Ultimately, this regulatory policy will create safer and more secure schools for children to access education in America.

Lastly, it should be noted that every American citizen is entitled to self-defense. Allowing guns to be held by trained and responsible teachers fortifies this fundamental right in the United States of America (Lott, 2019).

**Argument Assessment & Evaluation**

The sources used in the gun policy argument are credible. The two journal articles mentioned have comprehensive information backed by evidence concerning the firearms policy issue. For instance, the first article by John Lott (2019) used data recordings of the rate of shootings in schools before and after the gun policy was passed in some states in the country. The other source by Rajan and Branas (2018) is also strong in that it relies on evidence of shootings in previous scenarios in American schools. The two sources are good academic writing sources for the topic of educators handling guns in schools since they provide evidence-based information. Together, the articles provide strong support for the author’s hypotheses, that states that armed educators can make schools safer from mass shootings.

The claim supporting teachers carrying guns in a school environment is valid and sound. It is valid because the argument is factual since making guns accessible for teachers increases their security and repels attackers (Lott, 2019; Rajan & Branas, 2018). The facts support the conclusion that there will be fewer gun violence cases in schools if educators can handle guns for self-defense (Lott, 2019). The claim is also sound since it provides a proper conclusion based on the evidence presented. One can reasonably assume that the number of deaths caused by gun violence in schools will be significantly reduced by approving the gun policy allowing teachers to have firearms to safeguard themselves and their students.

The argument for arming educators has used three types of reasoning. First, the claim has utilized deductive reasoning. In this case, supporting teachers to have guns has been strengthened by logic and observations on reducing mass shootings in schools. The other type used is abductive reasoning. The argument supporting possession of firearms by teachers is backed by the data collected in different states showing how it would reduce gun violence-related deaths in schools (Lott, 2019). The final form of reasoning applied in this argument is cause-and-effect reasoning. Arguably, allowing teachers to possess guns directly links potential attackers to avoid ambush schools due to fear of being shot and killed.

**Conclusion**

The increased mass shootings have made the country debate over allowing teachers to handle concealed guns in classrooms. Educators should be allowed to have guns for enhanced protection and also as a deterrent to potential attackers. The sources used are credible since they are backed by evidence. The claims are sound and valid since they connect truth and the conclusion. The argument uses deductive, abductive, and cause-and-effect reasoning to support the conclusion that educators carrying weapons in class would lead to positive change.

**References**

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