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As an attorney and former judge, who practiced law in South Florida for many years, it is always great to see the success of law firms such as Kluger, Kaplan, Silverman, Katzen & Levine, P.L. The firm's esteemed lawyers continue to be advocates for their clients, taking on many complex cases around the nation.

Madam Speaker, it gives me great pride to honor Kluger, Kaplan, Silverman, Katzen & Levine, P.L. on the occasion of their 10th anniversary. They have had a tremendous impact on our community over the past 10 years, I wish them many more years of continued success.

HONORING ANNA SACCENTE OF  
ORANGE, CONNECTICUT

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 1, 2019

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to rise today to submit to the RECORD a powerful statement by thirteen-year-old Ms. Anna Saccente of Orange, Connecticut. I have had the honor knowing Anna for her entire thirteen years and could not be more proud of the young woman she has become.

Despite recent shootings at schools across the country, Congress has failed to pass meaningful reform to school safety and firearm regulations and has instead spent time debating arming teachers. As part of a school assignment, Anna chose to focus on this important issue—a policy that, as a student, would impact her directly.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues in the House not to forget that at the core of this discussion is the fact that the lives of children like Anna are impacted every day by gun violence. It is with great pride that I include in the RECORD her poignant words.

GUNS IN CLASSROOMS?

(By Ms. Anna Saccente)

Many people in today's world think that putting guns in classrooms would make them a safer and more productive environment. The truth is that it will actually make the classrooms more dangerous and make students more focused on the guns just feet away from them. Many government officials have brought up the idea of arming the staff in the nation's schools. The teachers who agree to get trained and carry a gun would receive a yearly bonus. The money they would be receiving is not worth the dangers it would pose to the students and staff in the schools. Teachers and other school officials should not be armed with guns. Although

some people think arming teachers would be safer, teachers and other school officials should not be armed, because getting the proper training and firearms would be expensive, schools may lose many talented teachers and possibly students due to their beliefs about the guns, and it would also be more dangerous.

One reason why teachers and other staff should not be armed is that it would cost the schools and government a very large amount of money. Where would the funding for such a project come from? An article written by a group of medical professionals states that, "Funding for any program is imperative—quality firearms are expensive and we question how this would be paid for when schools already struggle with funding for basic educational resources" (Rogers 1).

This quote is significant because the schools and government cannot expect the teachers to pay for all the guns and training themselves. The government would need some way to find the money, and so far they have not. There are about 3.6 million teachers in the United States as of 2018. A company in Maryland charges you about one hundred dollars per person for general training. In total it would cost about 360 million dollars. If you were to get them the more vigorous training the price would shoot up to about one thousand dollars per person. The total cost for that would be about 3.6 billion dollars. Then they would have to pay for the guns. If they were to get the teachers the Glock G17, a very popular gun, it would cost about 1.8 billion dollars (Bump 2). To get them all the guns and the advanced training it would cost over 5 billion dollars. Why would the government spend so much money on something that is not necessary and would not help. Clearly putting guns in the classrooms is a very pricey project.

Along with being very dangerous many people do not believe in using guns, including some parents and teachers. If a school decides to make all of the teachers carry guns teachers could quit, and parents could pull their kids out of school. "Teachers have to teach, and that's what they should be doing," said Joel Myrick, a former assistant principal at a high school in Mississippi. "It doesn't matter what a pistolero you are, or think you are. You don't need to be in a school in charge of protecting children." Like Myrick, many other people feel that if they give teachers the guns it will take their minds off of teaching and defeat the whole purpose of school. If this happens the talented teachers will quit and go somewhere that does not allow such deadly weapons. Then, as a result, the schools will start to lose teachers and who will be left to teach?

After the University of Texas decided to allow firearms on campus multiple professors resigned (Rogers 1). This will only keep happening. Because many people do not like guns, if they permit them in the classrooms, then teachers may quit and parents could pull their kids out of school.

Many people argue that it would be a better, safer option to put guns in teachers hands, but in reality it is more dangerous. Putting guns in the classrooms brings up enormous risk to the life and mental well-being of the students and teachers in them. After the recent school shootings many kids have gotten anxious or nervous that this would happen to their school. Putting the guns in their classrooms will make them more nervous. Improper storage of the guns could lead to student access or someone else stealing it (Rogers 1). If the teacher goes to leave the room for a minute and the gun is left unattended, a student could gain access to the gun. This could lead to someone getting seriously injured. Imagine if this was a first grade classroom. Six and seven year

olds do not really know what a gun is, let alone how to use one. They could pick it up, thinking it was a toy, and that would not end well. In an article written by Michael Hansen, a Brown University Chair and Director, states that, "Professional police officers hit their intended targets less than 20% of the time in training situations. Armed teachers will have an even lower accuracy rate, and where will all of those stray bullets go?" (Hansen 1). If a professional police officer is having trouble hitting a target than the teachers are certainly not going to be able to hit the target in a very stressful situation. If they shoot a bullet at their intended target and miss, and there was someone behind the target, what would happen to that bullet? Because of the dangers associated with putting guns in classrooms, they clearly should not be in there in the first place.

Imagine a world where you would not have to worry about sending your child to a school that is not safe. The students could attend their schools without the fear of guns on the top of their minds. Instead of protecting them, the teachers would only have to worry about teaching the students. For the safety of the students and staff, it would not be a good option to arm the staff in your children's schools. Many people believe it would be safer, but in reality proper training and quality firearms would cost a lot of money, money that would be better spent elsewhere. Many people who oppose them may leave the schools, and it would cause more harm to the people in the schools. So go and do something about it. Go and help make the schools a safer place for everyone in them by contacting your elected officials and opposing any effort to arm teachers.

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SAINT WAKE

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 1, 2019

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Saint Wake for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Saint Wake is a student at Moore Middle School and received this award because his