

Rebuke to Arming Teachers

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Portland's police officers and public school teachers.

Daryl Turner, the president of the Portland Police Association, said that such a move would pose serious risks and likely add to the chaos and confusion during a school shooting.

"In an active shooter incident, having teachers running around a school with guns while law enforcement enters the building could make it difficult for us to differentiate between the good guys and the bad guys. It would increase the risk of innocent people—children, other teachers, and police officers—being injured or killed," Turner said.

Portland Association of Teachers President and educator Suzanne Cohen told the Portland Observer Tuesday that arming teachers still operates under the assumption that mass shootings in schools and other public places

is considered normal.

"When I was a kid in school, we didn't practice hiding in closets. When I started my teaching career, we didn't have these drills," Cohen said.

"We all need to stop being uncomfortable to talk about ending gun violence. It's not political to end gun violence, we need to work together to figure that out."

Cohen said that instead of arming teachers, assault rifle bans and common sense legislation should be put in place to mitigate tragedies in the future.

President Trump and the National Rifle Association are calling for arming pro-gun teachers in response to the mass shooting at a high school in Parkland, Fla. where 17 were killed with an AR-15, semi-automatic assault rifle last month.

Turner said that because a teacher's job is to educate children, "It would be hard for the vast majority to quickly be-

come highly skilled marksmen equipped for a confusing, rapidly unfolding crisis."

ABC News also reported last week that a recent study conducted from the National Bureau of Economic Research discredited the "good guy with a gun" solution to gun violence. It showed that, in states that had laws allowing citizens to carry handguns, an increase of 13 to 15 percent in violent crimes occurred by the 10th year.

A study conducted by the FBI in 2014 also showed that, between the years 2000 and 2013, most civilians who safely stopped a mass shooter were unarmed.

Turner, who also represents a bi-partisan law enforcement advocacy group, calls on lawmakers to ban gun modification equipment that can make weapons more deadly, enhance sentences for those who commit mass shootings, and enforce existing gun laws.



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Obituary

In Loving Memory

Stanley Wheeler

Our beloved father and husband, Stanley Wheeler, aka Big Stan, passed away on his 67th birthday, Feb. 5, 2018 in Vancouver. He was born in Shreveport, Louisiana in 1951 to Mae Bell Bristo Wheeler.

In 1981, he married Denise, and together they raised their two daughters, Talischia and Sharnelle. After 37 years with Tri-Met, Stan retired as a road operations supervisor.

He is survived by his wife Denise Wheeler, son Imil Wheeler, daughters Talischia Tupper and Sharnelle Niedermeyer, son-in-law Luke Niedermeyer, granddaughter N'Dea Wheeler of New Jersey, and grandsons Donatello Tupper, Braylon Hall, D'Angelo Tupper, Lincoln Niedermeyer and Sawyer Niedermeyer. He is predeceased by his mother Mae Bell, sister Jessie Mae Casey, and brother Willie Clyde Gray.

A memorial service under the direction of the Terry Family Funeral Home will be held Thursday, March 8 at 11 a.m. at the North Portland Eagles Lodge, 7611 N. Exeter.



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