

# Win The War Against Violence

## Statement for the Record

February 11<sup>th</sup> 2013

### Proposals for Reducing Gun Violence: Protecting Our Communities While Respecting the Second Amendment

Hearing Before the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on the  
Constitution, Civil Rights, and Human Rights

*Date: February 12, 2013 Time: 10:00 a.m.*

*Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building Room 226*

Dear U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights and Human Rights:

We greatly appreciate your **Sub-Committee** allowing us to submit a **Statement for the Record** for your **February 12, 2013 Hearing**. This letter is the first of its kind from our organization or from myself.

My name is **Douglas A. Wain**. I am the Executive Director of a Kentucky 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization and public charity headquartered in Lexington, Kentucky called **Win The War! Against Violence**. Our mission: **To help bring about a substantial reduction in violence through education**.

We would first like to say that during the last 12 months we have met with many State and National Representatives. We could not have been more impressed. Everyone was courteous, personable and respectful. The same can be said for their aids, assistants and counsel.

Our relatively new organization is a one-trick pony; our purpose is *violence prevention* only. And the largest amount of evidence we have found to prevent violence is through *education*. If kids know better, they do better, as *Maya Angelou* has helped us realize.

We believe the key to reducing all unjustified violence is focusing on **youth** ages **12** to **24**. Evidence shows that this age group is responsible for nearly **50 Percent** of all violent offences not only here in the **U.S.** but in the world.

Willie Sutton said in the 1920's on why he robbed banks, "*That's where the money is.*" If we want to significantly move-the-dial back on violence, then we must concentrate on youth; especially youth ages **12** to **17**, before they reach the most dangerous age among violent offenders which is **19** to **24**.

We adults can do what we can. We can allocate funds, create fair, common-sense laws, and give enforcement the tools they need to protect their communities, but we believe *at most* that is only half the solution. Youths must meet us halfway. They must bring something to the table to reduce violence in **America**; not marginally, but *significantly*.

We have initiated an *education only* **Youth Violence Prevention Challenge** in our home state, the great Commonwealth of Kentucky. It has united most every state governmental office, state nonprofit and state association in Kentucky to give our youth this *crystal clear message*: "Unjustified Violence Against Other People Is **NOT ACCEPTABLE** In Our Commonwealth of Kentucky".

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We are sure that our all our State and Federal Representatives will do their part. But we slightly older adults are not the ones doing most of the violence. It's the younger adults and teens that are. I'm not sure if adults alone *can* stop violence. But we believe that when good-hearted people try, everything helps. Therefore we should try everything. It is not necessary to debate which piece of the puzzle is bigger when solving the problems of violence because the risk factors and situations can be so diverse that we may never know which piece works best and when. Sometimes the smallest things have the greatest impact. And we will never know whom the next youth will be who will give in to their ancient, antiquated instinct for violence. That is why we must talk to *all* youth about violence. We believe our **Youth Violence Prevention Challenge** does that.

Can youths stop their own violence? Yes. Each youth is already empowered with a personal, unique, individual, one-of-a-kind *identity*. Their *identity* is their soul, their spirit, their essence. There was never a person like them before and there will never be another person like them again. Their individual *identity* was not given to youth by adults; it was given to them by greater forces, God, Nature, or both depending on your beliefs. This personal *identity* we believe gives every youth *superpowers*, it can prevent them from not only doing violence but help them navigate thought-out their life. Youth can do this without adults, but of course we adults should to help and try to remove as many hazardous hurdles for them as possible.

We believe that whatever us adults create, we can make the rules and laws for. What we build, we can control. Nothing man makes could possibly be divine. But whatever we do create and govern, they should be surrounded by the good *principles* in life. Our good *principles* should create and the laws, our good *principles* should be used when applying them and our good *principles* should change the laws if they do not closely match our good *principles*.

These good *principles* in life are the same good *principles* that build this great country, **The United States of America**, and all the great institutions on earth. Believing in the good *principles* in life and applying them correctly we believe is morality. Morality added to all youth's unique *identity* we believe is the ultimate answer to violence. We owe it to youth to show them the way, hold up mirror to them and show them that all of them, without exception, are already gifted and empowered. It's possible that the greatest power we adults possess in not that over nature of science but our ability to influence our youth.

Most youth are already peaceful, unfortunately, as my middle school principal once said, "*It's a few that ruin it for everybody*". If I had to sum up all the world's problems into one sentence, that would be it. We believe people do violence to *feel good, better, best*. For selfish reasons. We need to show all youth that morally feels better then violence. That it lasts a lot long and is more often rewarded in society. We could, and should, help youth feel better about themselves now.

This **Youth Violence Prevention Challenge** has all the obstacles that might stop someone form supporting it removed from it. It does not conflict with any law or *U.S. Constitutional Provision or Amendment* and it aims to reduce *all forms* of unjustified violence not just a few.

Since our organization is not there in person, *although we are available*, we thought we would try to anticipate some of your questions and provide answers.

*Why should youth not do violence?* Because it is in their own-self interest *without* being selfish and that is a rare and beautiful combination.

*What is justified violence?* Justified violence is in self defense, a universal standard. We believe that defending yourself, which is protecting your identity, is not an option but is mandatory.

*Pushback on peace?* We been promoting our **Youth Violence Prevention Challenge** for over one year and we have not seen any pushback. In fact, whoever we talk to about this Youth Challenge usually has their own personal story that the wish to share.

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*Why peace?* We believe peace is the lynch-pin to achieve faster advancement and progress as a civilization and to increase our odds of survival, both individually and collectively. No one is immune from violence.

*What about deterrence?* We believe in the “*Double-Sided Coin of Deterrence*”. Peace though Strength and Strength though Peace. Unless you push both equally hard you will not know who to fight, when to fight or how to fight.

*Who is our team?* Our team is the largest, oldest and greatest team of all time, peaceful people. We believe a much more peaceful world is right around the corner. We think the tipping point has already passed with the end of the Cold War and the arms race is going to turn into the peace race. Let **America** win this race too. We can observe one, and only one, problem in the **United States of America**, not enough teamwork. Hopefully we can continue to *unite* people behind this initiative.

We encourage all the distinguished members of this **Senate Judiciary Sub-Committee** and the full **Senate Committee on the Judiciary** to include this **America’s Youth Violence Prevention Challenge** to America’s youth to voluntarily reduce violence **Ten Percent** in the next 12 months. This Challenge is not political, religious, financial, *judgmental*, and does not require legislation, funding, cost or enforcement. But despite these flaws it might cut to the core of the problem of violence by focusing on youth and maybe with a little luck, might work.

We have additional information and documentation on our organization, its founders and this campaign. We would be honored to provide it to the *Sub-Committee* if so desired.

*We wish to thank the Sub-Committee for this opportunity for your time and for your dedication.*

All the best,



Douglas A. Wain, Executive Director  
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