

Houston Chronicle

I am a native Texan and a retired physician. I was raised around gun totin' good ole' boys my whole life. My father taught me how to shoot a pistol when I was eight years old, just to understand and respect the power and danger of guns.

In medical school, internship, and residency, followed by many years practicing medicine, I saw first-hand the awesome destructive power of guns: horrible injuries, deaths, life altering wounds, and those who had attempted or were successful at suicide with a gun. I have lived in places overseas where even the grocery stores were "protected" by a guy with a shotgun posted by the entrance. This was reassuring?

Now a second assassination attempt by another crazy fool with an automatic weapon. Many are already busy dissecting definitions of automatic or assault weapons while others are off on the well-worn tangents of Second Amendment rights and mental health issues being the "real" problem. Here we are again. Let's just throw up our hands again and exclaim "there's nothing we can do".

There is something we can do. Elections have consequences and you have a choice to support people who want sensible gun legislation. What civilian needs an automatic assault type weapon? They are weapons of war, not for good ole' boys who are just bad shots.

Grow some, Texas. If nothing changes, nothing changes. We are all diminished if we continue to fail to act. Let's free ourselves from the tyranny of fear that has stolen our peace.

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