Koburg

Friday Writing Prompt Response

“Arming Teachers”

There is little debate that the United States is a gun-loving country. This is demonstrated by the fact that there are more guns than there are people in this country. Though the second amendment allows for people to own guns, there must be certain sanctuaries in our society, such as schools, that remain gun free. Whether or not there has been an increase in school violence is irrelevant. Guns should not be allowed on school campuses, therefore, teachers should not be able to bring weapons into their classrooms due to the fact that teachers are not qualified to provide the type of protection required in the event of an intruder, accidental shootings are a real concern and should be considered, and more guns is never the answer if reducing violence is the goal.

Teachers did not go to school for several years to become police officers or public safety officials. They did not graduate from a four year college to be personal bodyguards. Teachers went to school because they wanted to help shape the minds of our youth. It is, of course, the job of every teacher to make the safety of his or her students his or her number one priority, but the type of safeguards that are required to protect children from gun violence falls well outside the expertise of most teachers. Police officers, unlike teachers, are trained to perform under highly tense situations. It is safe to assume that many teachers are not mentally equipped to handle the pressures involved in having a shootout with a bad guy.

Studies have shown that families who have a gun in the household are significantly more likely to shoot a member of household, as opposed to an intruder. What does this mean? It means accidents happen. When a gun is present, regardless of the environment, an innocent person being shot by an errant bullet is always a possibility.

Advocates of arming teachers say that having guns in the school will significantly decrease the number of casualties caused by a would-be shooter. While this may be true, there is no way to know for sure, and the fact that accidental gunshots are relatively common cannot be overlooked. Are we willing to allow our children to attend schools where there is possibly a loaded weapon in every classroom? Placing our kids in that type of danger on a daily basis, just so we are prepared in the highly unlikely event of an armed intruder defies logic. Simply put, adding more guns to the equation is a recipe for disaster.

Keeping students safe should be the number one priority of our entire community, not just the number one priority for schools. So many other, more effective measures could be taken to better ensure the safety of school children. Allowing untrained and untested teachers to carry guns in schools will undoubtedly have unintended consequences, such as accidental shootings. If the goal is to protect our children from gun violence, adding more guns to the equation will not help achieve that goal, it will make will make the goal less attainable. School districts, nationwide, who truly care about the safety of their students, must implement a zero tolerance rule for firearms on campus.