

Testimony of Mr. Jack Brewer
CEO, The Brewer Group
December 15, 2022
House Judiciary Committee
Sub-committee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security

Chairwoman Jackson-Lee, Ranking Member Biggs, distinguished members of the committee: thank you for the invitation to appear before you today.

I would like to ask for a brief moment of silence for the victims Sandy Hook, on the 10th anniversary of this tragedy. As a resident of Parkland, Florida, I understand the impact that these tragedies have on our communities.

I've unfortunately experienced gun violence firsthand. At 14 my friend shot a skinhead in the

neck in self-defense after a group tried to break into his home. I will never forget the trauma I

felt from having to serve as a witness in that case. Trauma and fear hardened me. After I was

threatened, bullied and harassed by skin heads, I started to carry an illegal pistol at 15 years

old. A 22 long to be exact. I even took it to school after the skin heads threatened me. I didn't

know it then, but I know it now; I was traumatized.

I'll never forget being shot at and seeing a bullet skim my cousin's arm. I was a young kid with

the world in front of me. I was a straight A student, great multi-sport athlete and even the

director of my church choir. If I was caught with a gun in my pocket back then, I'm not here

today testifying before you. If I had shot and killed a skin head or bully back then, I may still be

in prison serving a life sentence, today.

The difference between me and the hundreds of young black boys who are shooting at each

other every week in communities across America, comes down to one word: FATHER.

The reason I thought twice about ever using that illegal gun I carried in my pocket is because I

had a hard-handed Daddy at home that would whoop my butt. I had a fasting and praying

Momma at home that taught me to fear my Father which art in Heaven. I had a father in the

Flesh and Father in the Spirit.

The very school shootings that have brought some of the darkest moments in our nation's history are exacerbated by Fatherlessness. A 2016 study found that out of a sample of 56 school shooters, only 18% grew up in a stable household with both biological parents (Langman, 2016).

When I saw that this was a bipartisan hearing to find solutions to gun violence, I prayed that the

men and women of God in this room would finally be bold enough to focus on the root cause.

Talking points may win elections but addressing the root cause is the only way to solve a crisis.

My foundation has worked on addressing the root causes of issues affecting some of the most

impoverished black populations on the planet. Recently, a neighbor of mine was shot in the face and

the two young gunmen ran past the kids from our youth ministry. As you can imagine, they are

traumatized, fearful and hardened. The same feelings and emotions that I had at their age,

carrying guns and always looking over my shoulder. The difference is 80 percent of the kids at

my youth ministry is fatherless. Gun laws are the least of their worries. If they cuss a teacher

out, refuse to do their work, or beat someone up, they have little or no consequences in the

public school system today. Parents have little or no responsibility for the actions of their

children. If we are serious about addressing gun violence, then we need to first get serious

about bringing the paddle and prayer back to our public schools.

We all know that Fatherless kids are 20 times more likely to have a run in with law enforcement officers. Yet this is not the focus of our Social and Criminal Justice efforts? This is simply irresponsible.

If we leave the Capitol today and decide to ban all guns, have we really done anything to address the

root cause of the gun violence issue?

Walk into any prison in America and you will see a facility full of men who are locked up for

crimes related to illegal guns. Charges ranging from murder, robbery, trafficking, carjacking,

possession and distribution to name a few. I run programs for thousands of men in prison

globally, many who have committed gruesome gun related crimes. The majority of these men

share one thing in common, they grew up Fatherless.

Many of my students transition out of prison and remain in our second chance programs.

Several work for my organization. One of the most violent men that I've met in prison, is

currently my roommate. He found full salvation through his Father in heaven, and he was able

to meet his biological Father at 50 years old after completing 22 years in prison for violent

crimes. Yes, he also shot a man.

The solutions I speak of do not come from me, as I have never committed Gun violence, only

had to deal with the results as a victim. I assume not many of you in this chamber have either. If

we really want to solve these issues; don't you think it's time to consider the proven

solutions that have help many overcome it.

I thank you for your time this morning and look forward to answering your questions.