

GrassRoots GunRights

P.O. Box 2446 Lexington, SC 29071 <http://www.SCFirearms.org>

May 16, 2007

The Honorable Kris Crawford
South Carolina House of Representatives
P.O. Box 11867
Columbia, SC 29211

Re: School shootings information / H. 3964

Dear Representative Crawford,

At your request, GrassRoots submits the following examples of school shooting incidents in which a firearm was used to halt the attack:

1 Oct 1997 Pearl, MS: Luke Woodham, age 16, killed his mother at about 5am that morning, then just before 8am, he drove her car to school. The shootings occurred in the commons area, a huge lobby that becomes the school's cafeteria during lunch. He walked through the school's front doors, concealing a .30-30 hunting rifle under a long trench coat. After entering the lobby, he walked over to his former girlfriend, Christina Menefee, and her friend Lydia Dew and shot them dead. He then shot into a crowd of other students before running to the parking lot and getting into his car. He tried to drive away, but was blocked by fleeing students. Joel Myrick, the assistant principal, who had run to his own car and retrieved his .45-caliber handgun, pointed the pistol at Woodham and made him get out. Myrick held the gun to Woodham's neck until officers arrived. Woodham reportedly planned to leave campus before police arrived, travel to another local school campus and continue his shooting rampage.

24 April 1998 Edinboro, PA: Andrew Wurst, age 14, killed one teacher and wounded two students at a dance sponsored by James W. Parker Middle School. James A. Strand, owner of "Nick's Place" (where the dance was held) lived next door. He heard the gunshots, grabbed his 12-gauge shotgun, and ran over to confront the shooter, holding him at gunpoint, ending the incident.

22 March 2001 Granite Hills, CA: Jason Hoffman, age 18, wounded two teachers and three students. The school resource officer, El Cajon Police Agent Richard Agundez, responded. A short gun battle ensued, wounding Hoffman, ending the incident.


16 Jan. 2002, Grundy, VA: Peter Odighizuwa, age 43, a Nigerian former student at Appalachian School of Law killed the dean, a professor and another student, while wounding three others. Two students, Tracy Bridges & Mikael Gross each ran to their cars, retrieved a firearm and confronted the shooter from different angles. Upon being confronted by Bridges & Gross and held at gunpoint, the shooter dropped his weapon and was quickly subdued by other students.

We feel that these examples demonstrate that law abiding citizens, be they parents, teachers, administrators or police officers, are not a threat or danger to our school children. Those good citizens who lawfully carry a firearm go about their business each day, visiting the grocery store, dry cleaners, and shopping malls thousands of times each day without incident.

A deranged gunman could enter a South Carolina school campus at any time. Will we take the steps necessary to mitigate such a disaster, or will we act upon irrational fears and ban an effective means of self defense? Passing H. 3964 would mean that criminals may no longer enter our schools without fear.

We are not the problem. We are the Good Guys!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William W. Rentiers III". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent flourish at the end.

William W. Rentiers III
Executive Officer
GrassRoots GunRights of SC