

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters to the Editor regarding “Social Workers Must Carry a Gun” http://jswve.org/download/fall_2016_volume_13_no_2/3-Editorial-Fall-2016-Vol-13-No-2.pdf.

From: Frank Kelton
Sent: Monday, October 31, 2016 8:58 PM
To: smarson@nc.rr.com
Subject: Box D

Hello Stephen:

My name is Frank Kelton. I am a social worker (MSW, RSW, MBA) and CEO of a mental health non-profit non-governmental agency in Calgary, AB, Canada.

I wanted to thank you for your recent article/editorial in the JSWE entitled “Social Workers Must Carry a Gun.”

I think it raises more questions than answers, but it is a “dialogue-opening” piece that worthy of discourse within and outside the social worker profession.

We have much stricter gun-laws in Canada—along with less than US population-proportionate deaths from hand guns. Our regulations contribute to death prevention, but so does our system of social benefits contribute (cheaper University education, income supports, much bigger middle class and other demographic and systemic differences between our two great nations). I will tell you that as someone who grew up in great poverty in Montreal, I was able to work two jobs in my late teens and early twenties to pay for an “Ivy league” McGill University education for less than \$3000 per year (back in the late 1980’s). This construct for poor Americans does not exist to my knowledge. Ban hand guns yes..but as you acknowledge, despite regulation, there will be unavoidable error. Combine effective regulation with economic opportunity, better mental health programming, free health care, blur the class distinctions, and maybe just maybe, the guns, and maybe it’ll just be long guns, will be all that is left for true hunters of game for food (not “sport”). I like your arguments and your matrix approach has much merit.

Personally, I have never owned a gun and can state without equivocation that I never intend to own one. I reside in your Box D, but I posit that I lawmakers in the US have moved and will seemingly continue to move slowly to make the changes contemplated by your meritorious argument. Many murderers in Box A are good with guns and are afforded constitutional protection. Folks that have poor aim can buy guns for people with even worse aim putting the latter in Box B or C.

I would like to share your article with my facebook friends and email friends (that do not use social media). I would like to open discussion on this important topic. A dialogue inside and outside of subscribers to the JSWE is needed, wouldn’t you say?

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