



www.nationaltrainateacherday.com

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7/20/2019

Violence Policy Center
Executive Director, Josh Sugarmann
1025 Connecticut Ave, NW
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Mr, Sugarmann,

We are writing in regards to your presumptuous and ill informed comments in the 7/19/19 Business Insider article "Hundreds of teachers are preparing for 'Train a Teacher Day,' where they'll learn how to shoot guns".

<https://www.businessinsider.com/pro-gun-groups-are-training-teachers-how-to-use-firearms-2019-7>

You were quoted as saying:

"This [the National Train a Teacher Day] is sponsored by the United States Concealed Carry Association which has their own interest in bringing in new members and the various products that they sell for those who carry concealed weapons," Sugarmann said. "This is not a benevolent action by some disinterested party. It is basically a commercial enterprise looking for new customers in the form of members."

We do not take it lightly when someone appears to question our integrity as you have in this statement. More importantly than that, we are offended that you would also question the integrity of the over 250 volunteer instructors, men and women, who have pledged and dedicated time, effort, energy, and resources to help educate and empower teachers, school staff and administrators for FREE on National Train A Teacher Day. The majority of the National Train A Teacher Day volunteers, including us, have children and loved ones who are in schools daily. Unlike you, we will not pretend to make assumptions about your motivations, however when you make statements that marginalize real and tangible solutions that exercise rights and liberties in a positive way, we can't help but question your judgment.

Are the National Train A Teacher Day volunteer instructors who are teaching "stop the bleed" part of the so called "gun lobby"? How about those volunteer instructors who are teaching conflict avoidance, unarmed defensive skills, body language/micro expression, or deterrence and defensive strategies?

It is also appalling that you would insult the teachers, school staff and administrators who are participating in National Train A Teacher Day and those who participated last year; demeaning them by insinuating that they

could be so easily duped by a “marketing tool”. We realize that based upon the talking points of the Violence Policy Center’s website, it may be difficult for you to recognize and accept that Law Abiding Citizens can and do take on the responsibility of becoming their own first responder and exercise their most basic human right of self defense.

In 2018 the National Train A Teacher Day movement was 100% driven by volunteer instructors from across the country. We offered free training and many went out of their own pockets to cover class expenses. In 2019 USCCA and Taser, both offered to supply free training materials to instructors that teach their respective safety and defensive curriculum. Does Violence Policy Center offer classes? Does VPC have nationally recognized curriculum that helps educate our fellow Americans in the free and responsible exercise of Rights and Liberties? We are proud that USCCA and Taser are sponsoring National Train A Teacher Day and will gladly welcome them back next year.

National Train A Teacher Day volunteers are empowering Teachers, School Staff, and Administrators through education and the free exercise of the Rights and Liberties available to all law abiding Americans. It would seem that your organization enables criminals and the culture of violence by promoting propaganda that endorses the limitation and restriction of the Rights of law abiding citizens and provides criminals and evil doers, soft targets in gun free zones. Does VPC truly want to address the culture of violence? Does VPC truly want to address criminal actors? Does VPC hold officials accountable when they do not charge and prosecute criminals under the existing laws?

It would seem that the only “policy” that your organization actually stands for is spreading disinformation, fear and helplessness. We are spreading knowledge, education, and empowerment. We are advocating for Law Abiding Citizens, who happen to work at a school, the ability to freely exercise their Rights and Liberties while protecting those that they love.

In the article you state that both of your parents were teachers. We are sure your parents loved their students just as much as the participants who are taking advantage of the educational opportunities offered on National Train A Teacher Day. Don’t you think it is important for teachers to have proactive options, other than that of cowering and waiting for their victimization by a criminal actor hell bent on high body counts and social media fame?

We insist that you offer a public apology to all of the volunteers and participants of National Train A Teacher Day and suggest that before you make comments about people you do not know, maybe you learn what they are about first.

We can be reached at the email addresses listed above.

We await your response.

The image shows two handwritten signatures in black ink. The signature on the left is 'Klint Macro' and the signature on the right is 'Grant Gallagher'. Both signatures are written in a cursive, flowing style.

Klint Macro and Grant Gallagher
Co-Administrators of National Train A Teacher Day