



LEON D. YOUNG

State Representative • 16th Assembly District

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT

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Rep. Young (414) 791-3225

For Attempting to Ban Assault Weapons, Rep. Young is Stripped of Legislative Assignments and Staff Sanction.

(MADISON) State Representative Leon D. Young has been informed by Assembly Democratic leadership that he was stripped of his current committee assignments and would be losing his part-time staff position. This leadership decision was in retaliation for Young's insistence to advance a floor amendment that banned assault weapons during last week's extraordinary session on School Safety legislation. However, his attempt was actually thwarted on a parliamentary ruling, as being non-germane.

"It's a very sad commentary that political calculations, or politics, always seem to trump sound public policy decisions in this body. In the wake of the Parkland shooting and the national March for Our Lives demonstration this weekend, when, if ever, is the right time to debate this critical public safety issue on assault weapons? The residents in my community, who I represent, have identified this particular issue as a major cause for concern to them," Young asserted.

"Here's a sobering and shocking fact to consider: Since 1980, approximately 630,000 American citizens have been killed on the streets of America, as a result of gun violence. To put that number in a different context, that's more people than soldiers killed in all the wars of the 20th Century. This notion that guns don't kill people is patently false and completely ridiculous."

As Mayor Mitch Landrieu (D-New Orleans) so succinctly stated, "You can be for the 2nd Amendment and can acknowledge an individual's right to own a gun to hunt and protect themselves. But, you can also be in favor of thoughtful, responsible gun ownership. **Not every American needs any kind of gun, at any time, to do whatever they want.** Hence, it's not an unreasonable restriction on the 2nd Amendment right to have universal background checks, or to outlaw weapons of war [i.e. -assault weapons], or to have waiting periods, or to outlaw bump stocks. These are not unreasonable restrictions, but are merely part and part of responsible gun ownership that should attach to this alleged absolute right."

Young closed by saying, "At the end of the day, I will continue to fight for the people in my district by raising issues and concerns that THEY deem to be important."

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