



# Texas faith leaders come out against 'permitless carry'

By Jordan Bontke - Wednesday, April 21st, 2021

Faith leaders across Texas have come out against the proposed permitless carry legislation.

If passed, [HB 1927](#) would allow adults who are able to carry a gun in public to do so without a license.

Most faith leaders shared a story about how gun violence had impacted their community.

A Rabbi in Houston recalled the [Santa Fe High School Shooting](#) in 2019, a bishop in El Paso remembered the lives lost in his community at [Wal Mart later that same year](#), and a Reverend recalled a Lutheran Church in Austin part of a lockdown after a suspect shot and [killed three people in Austin on Sunday](#).

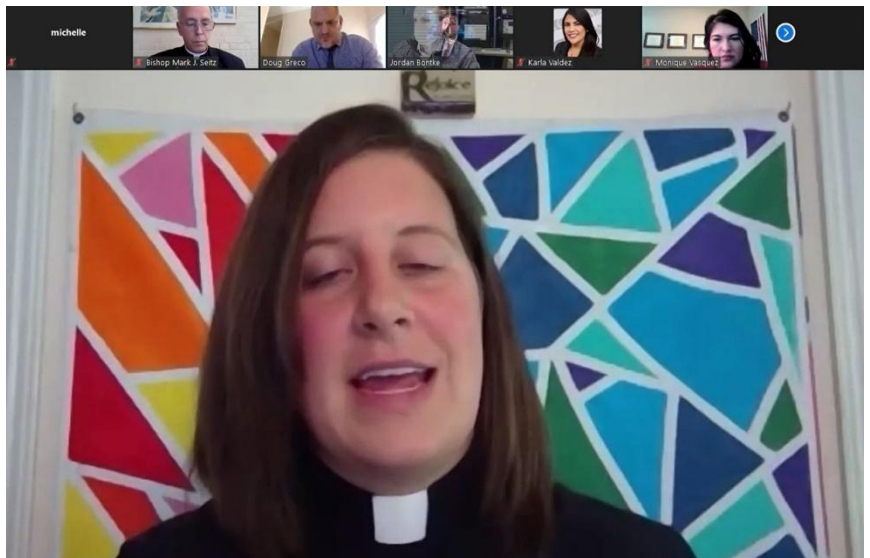
"To this day, there's quite a lot of fear, anger and concern about what is to come from that. They're concerned what outdoor worship is going to look like," said Rev. Jessica Cain.



*FILE - In this July 23, 2018, file photo, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints church where a longtime rural Nevada volunteer firefighter was fatally shot during a Sunday services is shown in Fallon, Nev., about 60 miles east of Reno. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has hardened its rules against bringing guns to church by tweaking the policy to say it is "prohibited" for anyone except police officers. Daniel Woodruff, a spokesman for the Utah-based faith, on Monday, August 26, 2019 confirmed the change to a church policy handbook.(AP Photo/Scott Sonner)*

If the bill passed, many of the faith leaders fear it would increase gun violence. In a release sent out prior to the Wednesday press conference, the group cites a spike in homicides in states that have passed similar laws removing the required license and training needed to carry a handgun.

“I think it makes our church much less safe,” said Bishop Mark Seitz



*Rev. Jessica Cain*

[On Monday](#), Lt. Governor Dan Patrick said the bill currently doesn't have the votes in the Senate to pass. Meanwhile, he said he'll talk with gun advocates and law enforcement to see if they can find a path for it to pass.

When asked about it, Gov. Abbott said he's focused on passing emergency items.

Rep. Matt Schaefer of Tyler leading the charge on the bill. He said the law aims in part to put handguns on “the same footing as we've treating long guns.”

Since Lt. Governor Patrick said the bill doesn't have the votes on Monday, Senators [Drew Springer](#) and [Dawn Buckingham](#) have put their support behind the bill in a Facebook post.

Pastor John Ogletree said it would be a false pretense for any lawmaker to rest on their faith to support permitless carry.



*Pastor John Ogletree*

“you'll find no scripture that will support this kind of legislation,” said Pastor Ogletree.

