

# OPINION

## Are We Sure We Want Veterans Guarding Our Schools?

BY JULIA FOLZ

**F**IRST OFF, I would like to say that I greatly respect our veterans and those who are currently in the military. They have made several sacrifices in life so that Americans have been able to enjoy the privileges that the United States offers. While those who have served our country have knowledge about guns, the skill set to potentially stop an active shooter, and the bravery to do so, they still may not be our best option.

Many veterans come home with a variety of different mental health disorders due to what they have had to do and see while at war. According to the National Veterans Foundation “2.1 million veterans received mental health treatment from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs in the five year period from 2006 through 2010”. Do we really want people with mental illnesses watching over our children with a loaded gun? I can empathize with these veterans, as I understand the impact that mental illness can have on one’s life, but I cannot bring myself to accept that they could potentially be standing in our schools with a weapon.

So many veterans that come home from war zones cannot handle hearing loud noises that may sound like a gun or bomb going off. These people may not be able properly cope with the shouting of children, a pan dropping in the cafeteria, or the slamming of lockers. This country does not need anymore horrific accidents, nor do the veterans that have already seen some of the worst parts of human nature.

While mental health screenings and the proper training could be a solution, we have to then prepare ourselves for that extra cost. The money used to pay these veterans should not be coming out of the money set aside for education. Schools are already struggling to pay for good teachers, janitors, para-professionals, text books, art supplies, science equipment, gym equipment, musical instruments, --the list goes on. Our education system does not need the extra bill that would come with hiring security guards.

Our schools also need security guards that are equipped to handle difficult situations. There may be a person who is a possible threat to the school, but has no weapon. A veteran might immediately go into battle mode when that may in reality just escalate the situation making it even more dangerous.

Schools in Florida and Texas are already beginning to hire veterans for school security without thinking about the potentially dangerous situations that this could put their schools in. Before sending people who have been trained for war into our schools, we need to think about the consequences and the lives of our young American citizens. †



## Bernie Sanders: Round Two

BY ETHAN LANGEMO



Senator Bernie Sanders (D-VT) is making his second run for President after a previous close race. Photography provided by New York Post.

**W**ITH THE ANNOUNCEMENT of Senator Bernie Sanders (D-VT)’s second presidential campaign, many Democrats who rooted for Sanders in the previous election may be questioning whether or not they will be supporting him in the upcoming vote. He certainly had a major impact on the Democratic party, but to his disadvantage, this may cause him to stand out less than he did in the previous run, due to many other candidates being inspired by his stances.

In the 2018 election, there was a hard Democratic push across the nation, as the party worked to take back some much needed congressional power, while advocating for more diversity in congress overall. Despite his popularity, Bernie perfectly fits the category of what the Democrats often describe as a backward moving force of leadership in America— rich, white, old guys. Surprising to some, this is what made up all but one of the Democratic presidential candidates in the last election, while the Republicans had a diversity of genders, races, ages, and backgrounds.

One thing he may have going for him is that though he has improved his chances of election by running with a major party, though he considers himself an independent politician. This might make him stand out to Democratic voters who are unhappy with the state of the party and are looking for someone who leans toward strictly socialist ideals. Overall though, it is difficult to consider him a true independent when he votes Democrat, caucuses with Democrats, has Democratic ideals, and consistently runs as a Democrat.

On March 15<sup>th</sup>, Senator Sanders’ campaign crew made history as the first crew to unionize. Right now, the union has 45 employees, but is expected to grow to over 1,000 employees through the run of the campaign. The union, with the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW), entails the guarantee of, “pay parity and transparency on the campaign, with no gender bias or harassment, and equal treatment for every worker, whether they’re in Washington, D.C., Iowa, New Hampshire, or anywhere else,” according to UFCW Local 400 President Mark P. Federici.

Bernie Sanders made an unexpected rise to success in the 2016 run, but ultimately, fell short; he may have a chance this next time around. However, the fact that many of his new contenders reflect the same values that had once been Bernie’s stand out qualities, may cause him to lose his novelty and appeal. All and all, Bernie fans still have to sit back hope that the Democratic primary isn’t rigged against him this time around, (if he makes it that far). †