

Dear Madam or Sir; A revised copy of my submitted testimony,

Here is what I think with the Gun debate; fixing the problem is tough, making more gun laws is easy and makes politicians look like they're doing something. Certain mental illness should be put in a national data base, that would be a good beginning but that may never happen because of Privacy issues. Medical records would have to be exposed, HIPPA, Roe v Wade, and HIV Laws would have to be rewritten and that is a monumental task for Politicians. I Pray they will have the moral courage to change those laws. I'm not sure why we need to protect some of the worse behavior in the country at all cost, these are just a few of the slippery slope items that I'm concerned about. The problem we will continue to be confronted with is mentally-ill people that will continue to do us harm instead of letting family members help. I happen to know a little bit about this, I have Family members that are schizophrenic. All the laws we have now make it nearly impossible to get our loved ones any help at all. If you have a sick family member or a friend and you're very concerned for their safety, you call police and crisis intervention, they ask you if he is a threat to himself or anyone, and if you tell the police I don't think so, well it ends there. If you say yes, then you will be questioned and then the person is asked if he or she wants to hurt themselves. If the person you're trying to help says no then there are 3 questions like who is the POTUS or what day is it then it's up to the discretion of the officer and they almost always never take the person in for 72hr. observation, because the last question is do you want to go to the hospital and they always say no. So you are put in a situation of having to lie to get your loved one any help, most people don't have the time or the passion to go on with this so they walk away. Let me tell you one of many experiences I've had with getting a member of my family the help he needed, he is a Paranoid Schizophrenic. He was with the act team they were to monitor his meds and him personally, they did not and the result was rapid deterioration of his mental health he was doing things I won't go into here, I tried talking to the ACT Team and they said to me that they could not talk with me I tried for 2 mo., finally it got so bad that I got together with the property manager where he lived and the ACT Team said to me that they could talk with her. At that point I called the crisis intervention team and 911 we got him to the hospital. Then I went to the Probate and got a temporary conservatorship and was able to get him into a nursing home. Now the real fun begins, there not set up to deal with mental illness and nearly all mental institutions are now filled with offices that push paper and NO BEDS. So in and out of nursing homes and emergency rooms, then they began to chemically lobotomize him when he became combative, back to the emergency room and left in the hall for lack of a bed there for days. Finally I called my Rep. Bill Hamzey and we got him to capital region mental health, where he stayed for 5 1/2 yrs. waiting for a bed at "Conn. Valley Hospital" it was a long wait because they have no beds! many employees but no beds. Another problem is money, when laws were passed to declare alcoholics and drug addicts, a disease, they fell under mental health department and funding was divided equally! Schizophrenics are generally incapable of knowing they need help. Without involuntary commitment, they are abandoned to the streets, getting beaten up, sexually abused, stolen from and set on fire. They also sometimes push people onto subway tracks, murder grandmothers, slaughter firemen and enter "gun-free zones" to commit mass murder. Here is the rub, mental-illness is not against the law, they have the right to refuse their meds and that's a big problem. Mom, from the Sandy Hook shooter tried to get help for her son and it did not end well. This is the norm not the exception!

Now once again we the freedom loving are the problem and the target of the left and we have broken no laws or done nothing to make this happen, How is it going to make anyone safer to pass more laws, mad men and criminals do not follow laws!

Our 2nd amendment rights are to protect us from the Government and bad people trying to take our property and hurt us, not hunting! In the meantime, those teachers that have a carry permit be permitted to carry in the schools concealed if they wish with some training, this would cost next to nothing. Growing the Government once again over this with more police and PHD's is not the answer.

We all saw first hand how well 911 works when Dr. Pettit's Cheshire home was invaded and his wife and children were murdered, all first responders were watching it all go down before their very eyes, and not long after that the St. of Ct. did away with the death penalty, just great!

And we know how well 911 worked in Sandy Hook, 20 dead children and 6 adults, it did not work and it is difficult to make the case that it did. Here is what will work; remove the Gun Free Zone Sign and Allow Teachers to Defend the Children and Themselves! Let's keep cool heads and do the right thing.

My heart goes out to all those in Newtown and Sandy Hook who lost loved ones on that tragic day.

Sincerely; Bert Begin Canton Ct. (860) 9192557