

## School Safety Working Group Public Hearing

How can we keep our children safe in schools is a topic that is heard at Board of Education meeting around the country. We have heard from Dads who are willing to stand guard at the front door, Professional security consultants who would have us design security and lockdown systems into our schools. Can any of this protect the children in all cases at all times? I doubt it.

Before Newtown, I asked myself, what is going on, why do we have so many young, white males who are so angry that they are willing to embark on what can only be described as a suicide mission. Why do they take this anger out against, in many cases, learning environments. Something is not right.

After Newtown I made a point of doing some research and I strongly suggest that everyone on this panel do the same.

The one common denominator in ALL school shootings is that the shooters have been on psychotropic drugs, or are coming off of psychotropic drugs. This excerpt from Psychology today clearly indicates that there is a real issue here. And yet there is little mentioned in the media or any elected official other than "Gun Control". It isn't the guns, it is the condition of the shooter that is at fault.

**In light of this finding, the many past shootings at school campuses and other public venues should perhaps be investigated anew by government officials, with an eye toward ascertaining whether psychotropic use may have, in the manner of an adverse event, triggered that violence. Moore and his collaborators concluded: "These data provide new evidence that acts of violence towards others are a genuine and serious adverse drug event that is associated with a relatively small group of drugs. Varenicline, which increases the availability of dopamine, and serotonin reuptake inhibitors were the most strongly and consistently implicated drugs."**  
<http://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/mad-in-america/201101/psychiatric-drugs-and-violence-review-fda-data-finds-link>

I have found out that it is common practice to put 2 and 3 year olds on psychotropic meds often as a result of Educational intervention. This practice is insane and I am not alone in my belief. The question has to be are we creating a generation of numbed and disassociated children?

**JAMA's report, issued last week, said the number of 2- to 4-year-olds on psychiatric drugs including Ritalin and anti-depressants like Prozac soared 50 percent in the early '90s. Experts said they are troubled by the findings, because the effects of such drugs in children so young are largely unknown. Many doctors worry such powerful drugs could be dangerous for children's development.**

There exists much more evidence as to the impact of psychotropic drugs in schools, I urge everyone of you to take the time to investigate on your own. An once you have please to pursue the full investigation into the use of these drugs and the connection to violent acts. Perhaps the best thing we could do is to identify those who are in the schools taking these drugs within the educational systems and address the issue before they come back shooting.

I do not believe that any law will prevent those who are hell bent on obtaining weapons will stop them, nor will it offer any protection to our schools. Our town budgets are overtaxed by the currently mandated programs (drugging being one of them) associated with education. Many of which have nothing to do with education.

If you should decide that each school should have a guard at the front door, do not be so foolish as to believe they should not be armed, and should be attached to the local PD.

Respectfully yours

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