

Date: January 28, 2013

To: Members of the Gun Violence Prevention Working Group & Mental Health Working Group

I am writing to you in order to express my concerns regarding the speed of legislative action being proposed in the wake of the Sandy Hook tragedy.

Before I state my thoughts I would like to provide you with a brief background of my experience. I work in the insurance industry as a director of analytics. My primary tasks are to identify those “needle in a haystack” situations that could arise given a set of conditions. In effect, the group I work with has to help identify, within wide array of characteristics, one that could lead to a severe or catastrophic loss. I work directly with teams who analyze large losses to help identify the true (root) cause for the loss of life and/or property. This is not just to determine which risks we wish to underwrite, but to improve the risk surveying services we provide to our customers. If we can relay a lesson learned to the remainder of our customer base and the agents/brokers we work with then we can improve the safety of the entire population.

A regular use of this knowledge transfer that occurs in advertising would be how Farmers Insurance provides helpful hints in their TV ads to inform regular citizens of common risks that they may encounter during their daily life. In addition to identifying the risks they also provide insight for how to handle those situations to prevent injury or property damage.

In the wake of this horrible tragedy, my concern that too much focus is being put on the tool used by the individual [his name deserves no recognition] who committed this heinous crime, and not enough attention identifying the root cause of his behavior. Before any legislative action is taken it would be prudent for the entire investigation to be completed. This investigation would then provide precise causes that need to be addressed by either the law enforcement community (leveraging current laws) or with new legislation to be passed by the state legislature and signed by Gov. Malloy. Without a thorough review and identification of the specific causes and behaviors that led up to this event, then I ask how any legislation could claim to prevent another event like it?

In our industry we are required to perform due diligence during loss reviews and claim assessments. If we did not then we would be doing a detriment to our customers by not adequately informing them of how to prevent future losses, as well as our stakeholders (shareholders) by not limiting future losses to the best of our ability. Our approach is a thoughtful and balanced one that benefits our customers and our stakeholders. I ask that as our elected officials, that you provide the same due diligence and thoughtful approach in your legislative review to benefit your constituents.

Every citizen of this country and resident of this state wants to prevent tragedies like this from occurring again. Please perform a thoughtful evaluation and identify the root cause of these events so that we may, as a society, prevent them in the future. If the sole action to result is the elimination of all firearms from this state, how can we be certain that another similar event will not occur in the future? My concern is that the individuals engaging in this behavior will continue their evil acts albeit with different means.

For example: if the cause is associated with an identifiable mental condition, then that should be the focus of future legislation: to provide adequate funding for the identification, treatment, and care to individuals who suffer the mental ills as well as counseling for their families (to manage the conditions effectively). If the cause is attributable to either a particular medication or withdrawal from a particular medication, then said chemicals should be removed from the market and returned to the FDA review process to correct the deficiency. And finally, if the behavior is unique and cannot be correlated to a specific cause, then the President's initiative to implement resource officers in every school in the state should be pursued to its fullest extent. I would also encourage requiring either a law enforcement officer or trained security guard at any facility open to the public that is required to be weapon free. We currently protect our elected officials with this safety measure; I believe we should offer the same protection to our children and citizenry.

Sincerely,

Brian Mowry

Resident of the Senate 35th District and House of Representatives 56th District