



CONNECTICUT COLLEGE OF EMERGENCY PHYSICIANS

A Chapter of the AMERICAN COLLEGE OF EMERGENCY PHYSICIANS

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Statement for the Gun Violence Prevention Working Group

The Connecticut College of Emergency Physicians (CCEP) offers profound sympathy to the families and those impacted by the Newtown shootings, and urges state and federal governments to provide both the financial and the policy support for mental health services.

CCEP, representing more than 400 emergency physicians, also endorsed a ban on the sale of assault weapons and high-capacity magazines.

Connecticut's emergency physicians are prepared for the very worst of events, but the magnitude of the Newtown devastation was beyond even our capabilities. The Danbury Hospital Emergency Department quickly assembled a team of dozens of doctors, nurses, technicians, and others to stabilize and operate on the injured, but it was quickly apparent that these were not survivable injuries, even with the best of emergency care. There is no greater argument for banning assault weapons and high-capacity magazines than the tragedy at Sandy Hook Elementary School.

As providers of front-line medical services, emergency physicians see the effects of untreated mental illness in emergency rooms every day. As our state and our communities try to heal in the coming months and years, one of the most effective actions we can take will be to ensure that people with psychiatric illness and their families are getting access to the help that they need, and that those programs are properly funded.

The members of the Connecticut College of Emergency Physicians would like to offer their assistance to the taskforce, as you work to identify solutions in order to eliminate the threat of such tragedies.