

Greetings Senators and State Representatives,

As a husband and father of two girls the recent and tragic events in Newtown left my wife and I stunned.

In the wake of this tragedy we've seen proposed legislation that made sense and some that didn't.

Investing in Connecticut's mental health system and researching ways to make our schools more secure are common sense ideas and may prevent another occurrence of mass murder or slow down a would be attacker if such a situation arose.

As seen in this report <http://www.hetinitiative.org/media/pdf/MHSATrends.pdf> mental health care spending has been slightly below primary healthcare spending.

Furthermore the biggest problem this report has brought to my eyes was the lack of spending on inpatient care.

For example, in 1990 there were 735 psychiatric hospitals with 143,660 beds in the United States; by 1998 there were only 557 psychiatric hospitals and 97,168 beds.

Those numbers have continued to decline.

We now rely on prescription drugs to treat the mentally ill instead of intensive and therapeutic inpatient facilities. Many of the drugs intended to treat depression include thoughts of suicide as a side effect.

4 out of 5 of the last mass shootings were committed by disenfranchised young men between the ages of 17-25.

Those who knew them used words like, quiet, loner, shy, and angry to describe them.

Additional gun control legislation only serves the agenda of those who abhor firearms.

When homeland security purchases a fully automatic AR15 it is called a "[personal defense weapon](#)". When I purchase a rifle that looks similar but is in fact semi-automatic it is called an "assault weapon".

I will not support additional taxes or fees on anything "firearm" related.

I will not support bans on magazine capacity or specific types of firearms.

I will not support insurance requirements on those who possess or seek to possess firearms.

I will remember those that do and vote against them.

Please I ask you.

Focus on the problem.

Preventing violence through better access to mental health.

Allowing school faculty to exercise their right to carry a firearm if properly permitted and trained.

Abolish "gun-free zones".

Thank you for your time,

Jason Hughes  
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