

My name is Matt Powell and i live in Manchester, CT. I am writing to you tonight to express my opinions on the newly proposed firearm bills submitted by out state senators and representatives. In case you have not noticed, the state of Connecticut has three major issues related to gun violence. The first is that we have multiple large cities in which lives groups of people who do not get along. These groups decide that the best way to face each other is by drive-byes, shootings, and stabbings. This idea of 'its just the way it is' is appalling. Governor Malloy's idea of bringing representatives of these gangs together to discuss their differences in civilized ways is a great start and i applaud him for this. The second issue we have related to gun violence is the blatant lack of enforcing the laws we already have on the books. How many people were arrested for gun related crimes last year? From possession of an unregistered firearm, carrying a pistol without a permit, carrying a weapon on school property, to unsafe storage of firearm, assault with a deadly weapon, and so on, HOW many of these cases were nollod? Look into the facts... it is alarming. The third issue we have in this state regarding gun violence is this: mental health care. The mental health care in this state is lacking significantly. What does it say about a government that shuts down their mental health facilities and lets those who NEED help back on the street? What does it say about a society and more specifically a government that does not realize the facts about prescription drugs and their role in these mass shootings. Here is a list of murders/mass shootings and the relationship to prescription drugs. I think you will find this interesting.

Eric Harris age 17 (first on Zoloft then Luvox) and Dylan Klebold aged 18 (Columbine school shooting in Littleton, Colorado), killed 12 students and 1 teacher, and wounded 23 others, before killing themselves. Klebold's medical records have never been made available to the public.

Jeff Weise, age 16, had been prescribed 60 mg/day of Prozac (three times the average starting dose for adults!) when he shot his grandfather, his grandfather's girlfriend and many fellow students at Red Lake, Minnesota. He then shot himself. 10 dead, 12 wounded.

Cory Baadsgaard, age 16, Wahluke (Washington state) High School, was on Paxil (which caused him to have hallucinations) when he took a rifle to his high school and held 23 classmates hostage. He has no memory of the event.

Chris Fetters, age 13, killed his favorite aunt while taking Prozac.

Christopher Pittman, age 12, murdered both his grandparents while taking Zoloft.

Mathew Miller, age 13, hung himself in his bedroom closet after taking Zoloft for 6 days.

Kip Kinkel, age 15, (on Prozac and Ritalin) shot his parents while they slept then went to school and opened fire killing 2 classmates and injuring 22 shortly after beginning Prozac treatment.

Luke Woodham, age 16 (Prozac) killed his mother and then killed two students, wounding six others.

A boy in Pocatello, ID (Zoloft) in 1998 had a Zoloft-induced seizure that caused an armed stand off at his school.

Michael Carneal (Ritalin), age 14, opened fire on students at a high school prayer meeting in West Paducah, Kentucky. Three teenagers were killed, five others were wounded..

A young man in Huntsville, Alabama (Ritalin) went psychotic chopping up his parents with an ax and also killing one sibling and almost murdering another.

Andrew Golden, age 11, (Ritalin) and Mitchell Johnson, aged 14, (Ritalin) shot 15 people, killing four students, one teacher, and wounding 10 others.

TJ Solomon, age 15, (Ritalin) high school student in Conyers, Georgia opened fire on and wounded six of his class mates.

Rod Mathews, age 14, (Ritalin) beat a classmate to death with a bat.

James Wilson, age 19, (various psychiatric drugs) from Breenwood, South Carolina, took a .22 caliber revolver into an elementary school killing two young girls, and wounding seven other children and two teachers.

Elizabeth Bush, age 13, (Paxil) was responsible for a school shooting in Pennsylvania

Jason Hoffman (Effexor and Celexa) – school shooting in El Cajon, California

Jarred Viktor, age 15, (Paxil), after five days on Paxil he stabbed his grandmother 61 times.

Chris Shanahan, age 15 (Paxil) in Rigby, ID who out of the blue killed a woman.

Jeff Franklin (Prozac and Ritalin), Huntsville, AL, killed his parents as they came home from work using a sledge hammer, hatchet, butcher knife and mechanic's file, then attacked his younger brothers and sister.

Neal Furrow (Prozac) in LA Jewish school shooting reported to have been court-ordered to be on Prozac along with several other medications.

Kevin Rider, age 14, was withdrawing from Prozac when he died from a gunshot wound to his head. Initially it was ruled a suicide, but two years later, the investigation into his death was opened as a possible homicide. The prime suspect, also age 14, had been taking Zoloft and other SSRI antidepressants.

Alex Kim, age 13, hung himself shortly after his Lexapro prescription had been doubled.

Diane Routhier was prescribed Welbutrin for gallstone problems. Six days later, after suffering many adverse effects of the drug, she shot herself.

Billy Willkomm, an accomplished wrestler and a University of Florida student, was prescribed Prozac at the age of 17. His family found him dead of suicide – hanging from a tall ladder at the

family's Gulf Shore Boulevard home in July 2002.

Kara Jaye Anne Fuller-Otter, age 12, was on Paxil when she hung herself from a hook in her closet. Kara's parents said "... the damn doctor wouldn't take her off it and I asked him to when we went in on the second visit. I told him I thought she was having some sort of reaction to Paxil...")

Gareth Christian, Vancouver, age 18, was on Paxil when he committed suicide in 2002, (Gareth's father could not accept his son's death and killed himself.)

Julie Woodward, age 17, was on Zoloft when she hung herself in her family's detached garage.

Matthew Miller was 13 when he saw a psychiatrist because he was having difficulty at school. The psychiatrist gave him samples of Zoloft. Seven days later his mother found him dead, hanging by a belt from a laundry hook in his closet.

Kurt Danysh, age 18, and on Prozac, killed his father with a shotgun. He is now behind prison bars, and writes letters, trying to warn the world that SSRI drugs can kill.

Woody \_\_\_\_\_, age 37, committed suicide while in his 5th week of taking Zoloft. Shortly before his death his physician suggested doubling the dose of the drug. He had seen his physician only for insomnia. He had never been depressed, nor did he have any history of any mental illness symptoms.

A boy from Houston, age 10, shot and killed his father after his Prozac dosage was increased.

Hammad Memon, age 15, shot and killed a fellow middle school student. He had been diagnosed with ADHD and depression and was taking Zoloft and "other drugs for the conditions."

Matti Saari, a 22-year-old culinary student, shot and killed 9 students and a teacher, and wounded another student, before killing himself. Saari was taking an SSRI and a benzodiazapine.

Steven Kazmierczak, age 27, shot and killed five people and wounded 21 others before killing himself in a Northern Illinois University auditorium. According to his girlfriend, he had recently been taking Prozac, Xanax and Ambien. Toxicology results showed that he still had trace amounts of Xanax in his system.

Finnish gunman Pekka-Eric Auvinen, age 18, had been taking antidepressants before he killed eight people and wounded a dozen more at Jokela High School – then he committed suicide. Asa Coon from Cleveland, age 14, shot and wounded four before taking his own life. Court records show Coon was on Trazodone.

Jon Romano, age 16, on medication for depression, fired a shotgun at a teacher in his New York high school.

Missing from list... 3 of 4 known to have taken these same meds....

What drugs was Jared Lee Loughner on, age 21..... killed 6 people and injuring 14 others in Tuscon, Az

What drugs was James Eagan Holmes on, age 24..... killed 12 people and injuring 59 others in Aurora Colorado

What drugs was Jacob Tyler Roberts on, age 22, killed 2 injured 1, Clackamas Or

What drugs was Adam Peter Lanza on, age 20, Killed 26 and wounded 2 in Newtown Ct  
Roberts is the only one that I haven't heard about being on drugs of some kin

Now we are facing a group of either irrational legislators or elective officials who do not fully understand the scenario but want to 'do something'. My statement to you is this: DO NOT pass any further gun laws without enforcing the ones already on the books. Do you honestly think that by passing another law, it would have stopped AdamLanza from doing what he did? HE SHOT HIS MOTHER IN THE FACE MULTIPLE TIMES, FOR GOODNESS SAKE..there is no reasoning with the mentally unstable. DO NOT put the actions of one crazed psychopath on the HONEST people of Connecticut who own firearms. This is like passing a law banning any of you from driving due to the late Ted Kennedy's drinking and driving. DO NOT put your gun control agenda on the backs of those families in Newtown that already carry so much pain and heart ache. If you want to get a good idea of someone, ask if they have their CT pistol permit. I have mine and so does over 150,000 other Connecticut residents. I hold my permit high and so should they. This permit does not just allow me to purchase firearms, this permit is the ULTIMATE check for an honest and upright citizen. What this permit should tell you is that we are NOT felons, we have NOT been dishonorably discharged from the military, we do NOT have a restraining order against us, we have NOT threatened or actually physically assaulted another person, we do NOT take narcotics, we do NOT have psychiatric disabilities, we have NOT been the recipient of a firearms seizure order, we are NOT illegal aliens. But we ARE upstanding, honest citizens of this state and country. I train with my firearms on a regular basis due to the facts of the case in Warren v. District of Columbia, which states "Police are not legally liable for personal protection against criminal acts" yet YOU want to take away my right to own what firearms I deem reasonable to protect myself and my family? Let me ask you something. Who is responsible for YOUR safety? I know who protects me and my family: Glock and anAR-15. If you feel that I am not responsible enough to be trusted with my firearms, then I tell you that you are no longer responsible enough to accept my tax money or revenue. My family's safety is more important than living in this state. Please make your decision about what laws to pass and then I will make the decision where my family will live. Thank you for your time. Im glad that i did not sign up to speak at any of the hearings... I found some of the committee members disregard (facebooking, tweeting, reading news websites, not engaging in active listening) for those who did show up appalling.

Regards,