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Testimony For All Task Force Groups

My name is Patricia Sabato and I am a Mother of four. I am an advocate certified under the CT General Assembly, living in the heart of Sandy Hook. Within days after December 14, political leaders assured us that all will be done in order to prevent another tragedy and we can begin to transform our state. However, our town has been ripped apart in the aftermath. Legislation was quickly drafted and organized groups began emerging with alternative agendas. This has occurred without critical facts and data being reviewed. Yesterday, an important bill was introduced that will establish a task force to study the relationship between the use of psychotropic drugs, violent media, and mass violence. Four newspapers, including the N.Y. Times and the Associated Press, filed for disclosure of the investigation documents that continue to remain sealed and marked privileged. Why? We rely on this critical information in order to effectively legislate, in turn protecting our communities. The outreach from across the world has been overwhelming and we are grateful. As we heal we are still left with many unanswered questions, one which may be a link between psychotropic drugs and mass violence. We must not rush the development of a quick solution, but to take a comprehensive look at the situation in its entirety. With this strategy, together we can create new laws to ensure public safety.



General Assembly

Proposed Bill No. 5377

January Session, 2013

LCO No. 969

Referred to Committee on PUBLIC HEALTH

Introduced by:

REP. O'NEILL, 69th Dist.

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN THE USE OF PSYCHOTROPIC DRUGS, VIOLENT MEDIA AND MASS VIOLENCE.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

That the general statutes be amended to establish a task force to work with the Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering to study: (1) The potential relationship between the use of psychotropic drugs and incidents of mass shootings or attempted mass shootings; and (2) any correlation between the use of violent media, including violent video games, and mass shootings.

Statement of Purpose:

To study the relationship between the use of psychotropic drugs and incidents of mass shootings and the impact of violent media on episodes of mass violence.