

To whom it may concern:

I wish to start by thanking State Rep. Tim LeGeyt for his work and notifying his constituents of this very serious set of matters.

To start, I would like to state these are three very different, unique and complicated matters. They touch on basic constitutional issues which should be honored and respected. I think it would be a mistake to believe this is not a balance of rights which deal with privacy, bearing arms and safety. The act of protection is an umbrella over all three and each has its place in supporting the other.

Politics is ever present. The word 'Bipartisan' simply elaborates on that fact. When it comes right down to it, being a Democrat, Republican, Independent or unaffiliated is often about things other than reaching the very basic desires and wants of most all people. I hope rather than seek to force our ways upon others or to secure power already held or desired for a particular group or groups, we are able to tap into that marvelous place of idea where we have shown throughout the advent and maturing of civilization that our creativity, desire and ability to work together is embraced so we can, and do, move together to a better place.

Emotions is a wonderful tool to prompt us. Prompts are necessary for us to seek to move ahead. Prompts are often horrific, as Newtown has demonstrated, but they are necessary and they bring to light areas we need to address. Now that emotion has served its purpose, I hope we can put it in its proper place and use those talents we as humans also carry and hold in the form of intellect. It is my hope we are able to correctly decipher the goal and task before us, determine the vast array of possibilities as to how we may move toward our desired goal, select those that seek to protect all our freedoms and liberties equally, and then implement them in such a way that we can all stand together and know we have improved our world while honoring the differences among us.

That is our challenge. That is our opportunity. All those who have had their lives taken from us leave not only wholes within us but they also provide us with this challenge and opportunity and prompt. They are prompting us to work together and protect one another and the rights of each. The person who tore our young ones from us did so by seeking the spaces between us. That seems always to be the case. We are not so

weak as when we allow others to create space between us. Our children challenge us to close those spaces between us by supporting each other, even when we do not agree. We must protect each other and remove those spaces others who wish to do us harm seek to exploit.

Gun violence and protection: Guns are either the devil or the angel. Depends on how you use one. Two people with guns can have one seeking to harm and the other to protect. Weapons of any sort are all the same. In their killing they either seek to destroy or protect, to give or to take. Any object is capable of becoming a weapon- our bodies included. Weapons are a fact of life and we employ them and build new forms of them every day and research this very moment as how to create new weapons. Each and every one of us supports and takes comfort at some level that we have weapons.

Our argument over the 2nd amendment and the right to bear arms does not only an injustice to those who are law abiding but also those who would protect us. It is an argument that only takes us further away from our goal. The goal to be safe from weapons.

We need to think creatively about weapons outside of the debate of having or not having them. Someone will ALWAYS have a weapon. Just as the war on drugs is an utter failure, commencing with a war on weapons would be too.

GUN violence/prevention:

I suggest forming a group of munitions experts to determine the feasibility of creating semi-smart munitions. By 'semi-smart', I am talking about one way communication. Essentially I am talking about how we can cause munitions to announce their presence.

The easiest way to think of this, and or to demonstrate it, is to attempt to steal something from a Walmart. No matter how well you hide the object of desire, upon walking out the front door the object announces it is leaving the store. That object is semi-smart as it can announce itself but cannot be manipulated.

So, why would it not be possible for a munition, a bullet, to announce when it comes into a school, a library, any building or place where munitions are not allowed.

Example: An RFID (radio frequency Identification device) is placed in the shell of every bullet manufactured. Every school has two sets of doors with bullet proof glass and a RFID reader. As a bullet moves through the front door it announces itself to the reader. This causes doors to school to automatically lock, commences with video monitoring, automatically sets school into lock down, notifies police department, flashes lights so students know to get out of all hallways through nearest classroom doorway...whatever you program the system to do.

Is there such a thing? No. Can there be? The technology is already there- just not put together.

RFID's currently come in the size of a powder: see <http://www.technovelgy.com/ct/Science-Fiction-News.asp?NewsNum=939>

Could an RFID of this size be introduced with smokeless powder without a detrimental impact to the firearm and announce itself to a reader?

Just think if every munition announced itself as far as safety and securing an area safely from those who are law abiding, not law abiding, have mental health issues. Could not home safety be improved. What about sports stadiums? What would this do to the 2nd Amendment debate?

And what about privacy for those who carry guns? The gun no longer is the source of contention. We only wish to know when a munition enter a designated area. Perhaps it is legal to have a munition in an area so all we do is record who carried it in without anything else happening. In an area where no munition is allowed, then other things occur. Could a police officer read a car that is pulled over- privacy is actually increased as it is now a need to know situation but rights and liberties of gun owners is protected, safety of others is enhanced.

Connecticut could mandate any munition entering its state must be a smart munition.

Does the above resolve all issues? No. But it certainly goes far beyond where we are today. If such a group of munitions experts were put together, I would expect we may even find it possible to enhance individual citizen safety on the streets as well.

We need to be creative. We need to look at new technologies and determine how to use them in such a way that our Constitution is protected and our individual freedoms are protected and our right to safety is enhanced.

We can get away from demonizing individuals simply because they exercise their right to bear arms while those who do not wish to bear arms exercise their right to be safe from those bearing arms. It can be accomplished and Connecticut can set the bar much much higher than it is. This is NOT political.

School Security: Currently, with the situation we have there is simply no other way than to physically place barriers between those in our schools and those outside. Again, creativity and the use to modern technology can help resolve this issue. See Gun Violence/protection above.

Currently school safety seems to revolve around limiting rights of others. I can understand that but it is more emotional than realistic. The idea of taxation of certain items, clip sizes, etc. really has nothing to do with school safety and is politically motivated to push an agenda. We need to be careful of this as this will cause us to fight one another rather than to produce sound results all are excited to see come about.

It is my belief that sound policy is not focused on any one weapon or item. It must be across the board good sound policy.

I agree our schools must be a place of safety and warm and inviting. It is my opinion that cannot happen at the school door but must happen at the entrance to the school grounds.

Vehicles should not be allowed on school grounds. Even buses should load and unload a good distance from the school. The grounds should be fenced in such a way to be inviting yet keep intruders outside and force everyone on the grounds from controlled areas easily monitored. This becomes difficult in cities but the overwhelming cases of slaughter in schools do not happen in cities. The school grounds should be noted as safe zones and protected as such- not simply the building. Having a gate with a resource person housed in a friendly and inviting manner gives ample time to notify those in the school of any suspicious individuals or situations- it may even help with obesity to make kids and adults walk.

Certainly there is more that will need to be done but I believe expanding the zone of safety and beginning surveillance as far away from the school as possible is a good start.

Mental health services: Tricky...tricky...tricky. Privacy issues about as well as unintended circumstances. Psychology and psychology are imperfect sciences. We know development of the person is so unique and varied that to see a behavior and predict the outcome is folly. Should we lessen the privacy involved, then I fear fewer people who need help will seek help and the risk becomes greater. Certainly, those who are known to be aggressive, those who do not have stable and caring support in home or out must be flagged. The idea of placing more and more emphasis on school social sciences being involved certainly causes concern as those who are focused upon, rightly or wrongly, may become stigmatized and ostracized by others no matter what policies and practices are instituted. We know this happens.

My other concern is who creates 'the standard' for behavior both acceptable and unacceptable and/or triggers intervention? this is a very slippery slope.

It is my opinion that perhaps ALL students must participate in some after school, before school, during school activity outside the realm of the primary school experience. Children are often more free to behave as they would normally outside of school during these times and behavioral problems or challenges are often easier to see. I would also

suggest that after/before/beside school activity teachers, coaches, etc. have training or behavioral certification, just a sports coaches must have a coaching certificate, if they have not a major or minor degree in social sciences.

I would also like to see such activities as art instruction increased in these offerings where people trained in art therapy and certified could both teach art and discuss ones art with the student artist. Such activities allow the individual to express themselves freely and opens an avenue for adult interaction as both a creative coach as well as helping the individual discover what motivates them and to discover where those creative emotions come from and, if extreme, to seek help in living and creativity.

I do not see why this could not also be both exciting, invigorating and useful with music, acting or any of the arts.

These are my recommendations.

Certainly everything heard in the news and discussed centers around guns and, so, that seems to be the king-pin in all this. Still, we should not allow that to overshadow the need for redesigning our educational structures/environment as well as curriculum. We should not allow guns to cause us to look at those who are challenged developmentally be it physically, socially or cognitively. We must be careful to separate and see how one affects the other. We need to be slow to rush to judgment and we must think outside the box and we must attempt to get to where we seek to go in such a way that we pat each other on the back for a success rather than it continue this divisiveness we seem to eagerly enjoy.

My best to all involved. May we all be successful together so all who follow know we cared.