

Recommended Law Changes

I welcomed your invitation to send you more information on the reforms I am looking to support.

It is my belief and I believe the Governor's belief as well, that focusing on just gun control is not the way to go. I do believe that Gun control will have a place in the final solution, but it should only be a part of the plan for change.

Gun control is too much of an emotional hot button that any reasonable plan that focuses on just gun control will fail to get the support needed and ultimately, I believe would also fail in protecting children in the schools, really not stopping the Active Shooter Events currently plaguing this country.

I have a (4) four point plan of action.

Below you will find a diagram I have developed, that I describe as boxing in the Active Shooter.

Gun Control

- Restrictions on assault weapons – M-16 and AK-47 style weapons should never be in the hands of civilians
- Certain Types of Magazines – Large capacity magazines for assault weapons
- Make harsher penalties for straw buying – make it so a straw buyer can be charged with murder as an accessory to the crime.
- Families with Mental Health Patients should have harsher penalties for allowing access to weapons
- More Training for acquiring Carry Permits – right now 8 hours is the State standard. I believe this training allows for civilians to carry a weapon for protection but in most cases could never respond in a crisis.
- Closer control of Training facilities –The trainers are trained by the NRA but the state issues the carry permit. What are the training facilities training. Who knows no one from the state checks? If the state gives the permit shouldn't they be the ones checking?
- Bullet Proof Vest/Body Armor – These items should only be available to Police and Security. For security they must have a CT Blue card to obtain. Anyone else it would be a crime.

Architectural Design

- Barriers - Automatic Release Doors. Right now if a shooter gets in a Facility they have total access. The only barriers are the classroom doors or office doors that lock. The schools can retrofit fire doors to release the magnetic holders, close and lock upon activation of a panic alarm by security or administration. These doors would act as Barriers, gaining precious time until arrival of police. I do not think most people realize that the days of SWAT and the surrounding of a school or Facility are gone, the longer it takes to arrive and enter the Facility, the more people die.
- Cameras In and Out of Facility – Cameras would be a very important tool for adding another layer of protection/barrier to the school, giving very needed warning of an intruder as well as giving vital intelligence to security and management so that the Facility can be evacuated safely. Security and management after sounding the alarm and closing the Barrier doors could watch the Active Shooter and using a text system give the information to teachers and employees so they could safely evacuate, while the intruder was contained within the Facility.
- Human Security – It is very important to have security in facilities such as schools, but just as importantly in the work places and other areas that have large groups of people, because as events have proven facilities such as malls, movie theaters, churches and workplaces have come under assault. Security should be unarmed, semi armed or armed with a hand gun as the threat level dictates.

Security

- National Standards – presently security does not have any national standards so that states are left to decide the level of proficiency.
- Increase in Training – Current in CT is 8 hours and half of that is for First Aid.
- Increase in Pay – Most in State of CT is paid \$8.75 to \$11 –About as much as someone working at McDonalds. Are we really paying someone to be alert and protect us that at that rate?
- Profession vs. Job? This state needs to require the training and pay of a professional for security officers. The training for unarmed Security officer needs to be at of at least 24 hours like NJ - 24 hours like NY with an additional 8 in-service training before renewal or 40 hours like VT and CA. Right now to carry a night stick or metal baton as well as pepper spray, the State of CT does not require any training or certification. The be an Armed security officer only requires you have a CT Carry Permit with the 8 hours training and the 8 additional hours of training to get what they call a “blue card” to work as an armed security officer. This should certainly be more in the area of 20 hours on top of the unarmed security officer training.

Mental Health Reporting - Background Checks

- In-Patient and Out-Patient – Right now if someone is committed to a mental hospital because that person was deemed a threat to themselves or others that information is reported and used at the time of a background check to deny that person the right to buy a firearm. But if the same person was treated as an outpatient that information would not be reported and not used to deny that person the right to buy a firearm.
- Deny Access to Certain Patients – I am not a mental health expert but I am someone who believes that a line must be made on what mental health issues should be reported.
- Family Care Responsibilities – If a family has a gun in the home there should be some rules on access denial for the mental health patient that lives in the home to be denied access.

In closing I hope that this information helps the commission and it is my hope that you call on me to help the commission pass new laws that will actually prevent or save lives from this plague of violence.

Sincerely,

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Four Points of Change

