

Task Force on Gun Violence,

THE ISSUES

The real issue here is the fact that the media and politicians are trying to solve a problem without addressing the root cause. Intelligent, educated people know that addressing the root cause of a problem is the ONLY way to solve it. In the case of the Newtown tragedy, as well as other tragedies of this kind, the root cause is comprised of 2 parts:

The first part of the root cause is the lack of services available to the families of those with mental disorders. In every mass murder we have endured in recent years the murderer has had a KNOWN mental illness or has shown signs of significant and obvious instability. ABC news reported that 1 in 5 Americans has a mental disorder. If that figure is true we have a serious problem on our hands that needs to be addressed.

The second part of the root cause is the total lack of appropriate security in our schools. As a nation we have spent billions to secure our airports, transportation system, our government buildings and officials but have done very little to secure our schools. This has been a tragic oversight by our Federal, State and Local government for many years, an oversight with tragic consequences.

THE SOLUTION

The solution to a 2 part root cause requires a 2 pronged approach. This approach must begin with the fastest to implement measure followed by a longer, slower to implement measure.

First we need to address the issue that will be the fastest way to insure the safety of our schools :

IMPROVE SECURITY

Here is what needs to be done :

- 1 - Place professional, armed security guards in every school. Many schools in Waterbury already have a Police Officer assigned to some schools due to problems.
- 2 - Secure every school building to insure a murderer has only one way in. Every lobby should be a containment area to confine an assailant until police arrive.
- 3 - Issue IDs to each and every adult that is allowed access to the student area. No ID, no entry.
- 4 - NO visitors are allowed past the lobby. Anyone that needs to talk to a teacher or administrator must do it in the secured lobby. This is done all the time in industry.

Expensive, yes. Safety for our children and teachers, priceless.

Second, we as a nation need to acknowledge the fact that we have a problem with Mental Illness and some of the drugs used for treatment. Here are some starting suggestions on how to start looking at this issue :

MENTAL ILLNESS

- 1 - Every state must create and fund a commission on mental illness.
- 2 - Using health care professionals, develop a plan to assist people with family members that are or suspected to be mentally ill.
- 3 - Re-instate facilities like Fairfield Hills to care for the mentally ill. They must be removed from society for everyone's safety.
- 4 - Call for a Federal investigation of the drugs used to treat mental illness, specially the ones that were taken by the gunmen in the past shootings.

CONCLUSION

Albert Einstein defined insanity as "Doing the same thing over and over and expecting a different result" . Please stop the insanity in Hartford and in the media with the idea that more gun control will stop

tragedies like what we saw in Newtown.

Since the Gun Control act of 1968 government has tried over and over to legislate human behavior with failed and disastrous results. The Assault Weapons Ban in 1994 failed, Columbine happened in 1999. In 2004 Connecticut instituted its own ban and it too failed miserably as we saw in the Newtown tragedy. More laws are NOT the solution. One has only to look at the incidents around the world in countries with gun bans that are much stricter than ours:

Emsdetten, Germany, November 20, 2006: a former student murders 11 people at a high school.
Southern Finland, November 7, 2007: Seven students and the principal were killed at a high school.
Naples, Italy, September 18, 2008: Seven dead and two seriously wounded in a public meeting hall (not included in totals below because it may possibly have involved the mafia).
Kauhajoki, Finland, Sept. 23, 2008: 10 people were shot to death at a college.
Winnenden, Germany, March 11, 2009: a 17-year-old former student killed 15 people, including nine students and three teachers.
Lyon, France, March 19, 2009: ten people injured after a man opened fire on a nursery school.
Athens, Greece, April 10, 2009: three people killed and two people injured by a student at a vocational college.
Rotterdam, Netherlands, April 11, 2009: three people killed and 1 injured at a crowded cafe.
Vienna, Austria, May 24, 2009: one dead and 16 wounded in an attack on a Sikh Temple.
Espoo, Finland, Dec. 31, 2009: 4 killed while shopping at a mall on New Year's Eve.
Cumbria, England, June 2, 2010: 12 people killed by a British taxi driver.
Oslo, Norway, July 2011, 77 people killed, over 300 injured by Anders Behring Breivik

Every country above has severe restrictions on firearms of every kind and they still have tragic events perpetrated by those determined to murder innocent people. The above events are the ones we hear about, other countries are not as forthcoming with news as we are. I am sure there are hundreds more that we do not know about.

PLEASE stop the insanity in Hartford and in the media with the idea that more gun control will stop tragedies like what we saw in Newtown. Been there, done that, does not work. PLEASE consider the intelligent, educated and rational approach to protecting our children as I have outlined above.

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Semper vigilo, fortis paratus et fidelis