

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Connecticut Commission on Violence

My wife and I are parents of five daughters and live in Newtown, CT. And our hearts break for those parents.

However, I also believe the problem is much deeper than just the tools used in the shooting. There have been some 32 such mass shootings over the last six years and all involved other more relative factors such as: irresponsible parenting, children and young people with mental health issues, and "Psychotropic drugs" used to treat them.

We have also as a society (state legislatures) closed our mental health facilities and are now seeing the unintended consequences.

In response to Newtown's tragedy and the mental health issue a top Psychiatrist Dr. David Healy of London England, stated in a New York interview...."that Psychotropic drugs are behind school massacres." And "when 9 out of 10 cases in both these school shootings and other mass shootings involve these drugs being prescribed, then a significant portion of these cases were either caused by these drugs being prescribed, or the drugs made a significant contribution to the problem."

" Psychotropic drugs prescribed for school children cause violent behavior", Dr. Healy said.

"There is a wide range of problems when it comes to looking at these drugs for children. Very few children and young people have the serious problems that warrant treatment with pills that have the risks that SSRI drugs have. Children taking SSRI drugs are more likely to harm or injure children at school. " Dr. Healy said.

Dr. Healy , " cautioned that medical doctors who prescribe pills do not necessarily cure mental illness." He also argued that "today, too many medical doctors are inclined to solve a wide range of health problems by prescribing drugs. That, in previous generations, however, families were capable of providing a context of family history to understand behavior problems and to identify a wide range of problem solving treatments that did not rely on drugs. Families better understood the issue as a 'developmental problem' better treated by family intervention (good parenting), than by drugs for medicine. Often when a grandmother was present she would say...look that child does not need drugs, because his father acted just like him and he turned out O.K., what he need is better parental supervision."

Independently, a sortable database of some five thousand cases in which SSRI drugs have been associated with violent behavior in the U.S. and worldwide has been posted on the internet, compiled from instances that have been reported in the media, and reported in scientific journals, as well as Federal Drug Administration testimony. SSRI drugs covered in the database include: Prozac, Zoloft, Paxil, Celexa, Lexapro, and Luvox.

Understand this....if the real underlying cause is Psychotropic drugs, then kids undergoing treatment who are already in school, may be an inbedded tragedy waiting to happen. And taking away guns from law abiding citizens and legal gun owners will not prevent anything because a nut-case will just choose a different tool, from matches and gasoline, to speeding automobiles at a school assembly (football game), etc. because everything is a potential weapon.

Regarding legal gun ownership, Judge Jeanine Pirro of New York stated: "that in all of her 35 years as a prosecutor and Judge in New York, of more than a thousand cases she prosecuted or Judged, only one case involved a legally owned gun." China outlawed guns, but a troubled child used a samurai sword to kill 14 of his classmates in school. And very restrictive gun laws in both Chicago and Washington, DC have proved ineffective disarming criminals or preventing gun violence. Nor will such laws solve the mental health issue or foster better parenting. Additionally the school embracement of 'Relative Humanism' and the attitude that "if it feels good go do it" works against parents setting firm guide lines for acceptable behavior.

Also note: That we have outlawed drugs. HOW IS THAT WORKING OUT?
Why do we still have on average some 55% drug usage in our highschools?

Measures that make sense are:

- 1) Tougher penalties for criminals committing crimes with guns.
- 2) Better background checks that include screening mental health databases.
- 3) Securing our schools by police or armed retired police officers and construction methods that provide restricted access improvements, metal detectors and better surveillance.
- 4) Reviewing the records of children who are attending school with mental health problems along with the drugs they are taking .

The rights of criminals and mental health patients do not over-ride the rights of parents to have safe school environments.

Respectfully,

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