

1/29/13

To the Mental Health Working Group - Task Force Members,

My name is Judy Aron and I live in the Greater Hartford area. The tragedy of Sandy Hook happened by the hands of a person who by all reports was unstable. Normal people do not just wake up one morning and decide to smash up their computer, shoot their mother in the face and then set out to murder school children and teachers. You cannot possibly propose legislation to attempt to stop this horrific event from happening again unless you know the full details of what happened! It wasn't just about guns! My guns did not kill those children in Newtown why do I stand to be punished for a crime that I did not commit?

We need to know what drugs Adam Lanza may have been taking and more importantly, what their side effects were. We also need to know who Adam Lanza had contact with prior to his rampage; who or what was it that pushed him over the edge? There had to be something that made him purposefully do the things he did that terrible morning. I want answers, not just knee jerk reaction legislation.

Absent today for public view is the toxicology report and any medical history about the shooter, Adam Lanza. I truly hope that HIPAA laws are not keeping us from the medical truths that can help determine what prompted him to do such a heinous act. I do not believe that we should be placing blame on guns or be looking to stigmatize people with mental illness. That being said, I think we really need to examine closely what the side effects are of taking certain psychotropic medications. Some Selective Serotonin Re-Uptake Inhibitor (SSRI) anti-depressant drugs, and other drugs, cause people to do violent things to themselves and to others, and alters their personality... I want to know what drugs Adam Lanza was taking and how that affected him. We must know if they were a contributing factor for his irrational and destructive behavior.

I want drug companies to be made responsible for the devastating side effects that their powerful mind altering drugs... far more than just making them put warning labels on drug containers. These pharmaceuticals are poison! and these drug companies know this. I encourage you to watch the following video :

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1XHNJyti1gE&feature=player_embedded

Adam Lanza broke many laws that we have in place, was he taking illegal drugs too? Was he abusing prescription medication? Was he under the care of a physician? Will we ever have the

answers to these questions? I think we need the answers to these questions to adequately address the issue of mental illness with respect to this tragic event .

Most importantly, I think we need to be very very careful about who we decide is suitable or mentally ill - especially with regard to who can own and operate firearms. It may seem pretty obvious, but will people who disagree with the government be considered unsuitable? Martin Luther King, Jr. owned firearms but could not get a carry permit because he was deemed "unsuitable". So, it seems to me that the question of suitability or mental stability is not so cut and dried, and I am really concerned that our government may decide that people who are members of second amendment groups or who have spoken out against government policies may be deemed "unsuitable" or "crazy" or might be a "potential terrorist". That type of thing has happened before, and we have already seen documents put out by the Department of Homeland Security which has claimed nonsensical profiling of who may be a "potential terrorist" .

We need to take a closer look at the mental illness and drug aspect of this Newtown tragedy. It wasn't the guns ... it was the madness of the man behind those guns that caused the carnage... illegally stolen guns were merely his tools of choice.

One last thing, I request that any solution and legislation that this Task Force comes up with must **NOT** be hustled through the legislature in any kind of "**Emergency Legislation**" tactic ... You **MUST** allow the public to come out and comment on your bills before you put them forth to the whole legislature for a vote. That is how we do things here in CT. We must **NOT** act in haste and we must **NOT** pass things in the middle of the night and we **MUST** make sure all bills **are read and thoroughly understood by ALL interested parties.**

Thank you,

Judy Aron - West Hartford