

To: Senator Looney and Representative Miner, Co-chairs, Gun Violence Prevention Sub-Committee;
Senator Boucher and Representative Fleischmann, Co-chairs, School Security Sub-Committee;
Senator Harp and Representative Wood, Co-chairs, Mental Health Services Sub-Committee.

I have been a school psychologist for many years, with a particular passion for children's mental health, a positive school climate, and the prevention of violence. My sincere hope is that each of the sub-committees consider the four-point framework outlined in the attached nationally endorsed position paper as they engage in this important work.

While the horror of 12/14/12 will be with all of us for many years to come, please consider, as your recommendations impact kids and schools, that we all want schools to be safe and welcoming places for children and families, rather than prison-like fortresses. Further, we all share the belief that a focus on prevention and a healthy climate for learning in schools will not just benefit our children during their presence there, but will also help prepare them to become active participants in a democracy that must accommodate multiple conflicting perspectives in order to succeed.

Thank you all for your time and attention to these critical issues.

Sincerely,

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