

Chairman Prozanski, and Members of the Committee:

I am requesting that the Legislature in general, and in this instance the Senate Judiciary Committee specifically, table all of the gun control bills which come before it.

This latest demand for more gun control comes in the wake of a series of mass killings which current laws have obviously and predictably failed to prevent. Meanwhile, our Legislatures continue to mindlessly and obtusely occupy themselves with imposing "gun control", while failing completely to determine - much less address - the underlying causes of these incidents.

As one example of this, one can observe that we have had so-called "high-capacity magazines" and "assault rifles" since early in the previous century, and they have in the past been even more available. At one time, even fully automatic weapons could be purchased through the mail. Yet we did not see these mass killings as we do today. It then becomes a matter of simple logic (at least to anyone willing or able to apply logical reasoning), proof positive that the underlying causes of the horrific crimes which are the driving force behind the hysterical demands for gun control, have to lie elsewhere than in "easy availability of guns", "military-style weapons", etc. etc.

Additionally, not only are our legislators wasting time and effort on what is arguably a "non-solution to a non-problem", but those resources which might be used to actually solve the problem are being wasted, and opportunities to find and apply real solutions are being lost. Our lawmakers need to stop offering up more and more gun control measures in knee-jerk reaction to these tragedies without properly analyzing the problem and first demanding an answer to the question: What is it that has changed in our society and our environment over the last 50 years, that is causing this phenomenon? A partial answer is already available in that it is obviously not, as claimed in the near-hysterical ravings of the gun control advocates, easier access to firearms or changes in firearms technology. Clearly, the root cause is other factors - environmental or social.

Thus far, our legislators have failed to even ask the right questions, to determine what has changed. But one change is certainly obvious: the increased presence among us of individuals so deranged that they are capable of killing large numbers of their fellow citizens at random. All of the perpetrators of the recent atrocities were widely known to be "disturbed", to put it mildly, by everyone around them. Most of them were the subject of repeated police complaints, school disciplinary complaints, referrals for "counseling", etc. One of them, who committed the Aurora Colorado Theater shooting, had been refused access to a local gun range due to a personal impression during a single initial personal contact.

Obviously, if these individuals had been proactively removed from society, the atrocities which they committed would unquestionably have been prevented - yet our Legislators just continue to pursue "gun control", as though it would somehow become safe to leave these people among us should it be possible (which it is not, and never will be) to prevent them from gaining access to firearms? What are our elected officials going to offer up by way of explanation for their own deplorable obtuseness, inaction, and obsession with "gun control", when one of these maniacs uses homemade poison gas, explosives, or a thermobaric device to gratify their twisted impulses?

The reasons for the increasing presence among us of these creatures cries out for rigorous analysis in an apolitical, impartial scientific investigation. Many reasons for it have been proposed, including (just for example) the indiscriminate prescription of SSRI drugs. Apparently all of the perpetrators of these killings had been drugged with these chemicals, and yet, while our Legislators routinely savage the National Rifle Association as being responsible due to its advocacy of firearms rights, they seem curiously unwilling to even so much as question the medical establishment and the pharmaceutical companies regarding this curious coincidence.

Clearly, with any strategy for proactively removing dangerous individuals from society, there are serious civil liberties issues to be resolved. But thus far it is not even clear that we aren't inadvertently creating these individuals, such as (again, merely by way of example) via medication with psychotropic drugs. I.e., maybe the solution to the problem is merely to stop causing it? Additionally, the difficulty of implementing a real solution is no excuse for our Legislators' seizing on feel-good, band-aid, non-solutions such as gun control, which not only fail to solve the problem but will by absorbing resources prevent us from solving it (not to mention producing unintended consequences of their own).

Finally, it is again a matter of mere logic that if the average citizen - the people who lodge complaints about the perpetrators of these crimes prior to the latter having committed their crimes - can identify them as being deranged, surely the "experts" in our medical establishment should be all the more able to do so, and that we just need to determine (again, by rigorous scientific investigation) what it is that the average person is able to so reliably detect. (It is worth mentioning, in this context, that simply throwing money at "the mental health system" will not produce results either - in fact, doing so will be more likely to simply expand and perpetuate the current system which has clearly failed to identify and remove these individuals, and possibly, to the extent that the existing system may be complicit in actually creating these nutjobs (again for example by improper medication), even make the problem worse.)

While I clearly am highly suspicious of the medical establishment in overmedication with SSRI drugs, etc. I realize that while it is clear that firearms are not the cause, it would be just as unwise to conclude without proper investigation that the cause anything is in fact anything else in particular. While I have used the issue of psychotropic drugs repeatedly as an example, I cannot emphasize enough that a rational, unbiased, apolitical scientific analysis of this problem is required in order to avoid committing yet another gross error in again inaccurately attributing the problem to the wrong causes.

In summation (and at the risk of a trite turn of phrase), it is clear to anyone willing to apply logic to the situation that we do not have a gun problem, we have a maniac problem, and that rather than banning guns, we need to ban maniacs - or better yet, stop manufacturing them.

Thank you for your attention.

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