

I am so frustrated by what I hear about our Representatives & Senators in Salem that for once I can hardly find the words to express how I feel about it. All I know is you are not doing the job all of us who elected you for. It's as though no one has a clear vision or clear mind to see what the facts are & what the true problems are or even how to set down & try to solve them. It's as though everyone is acting on the fear of firearms instead of focusing on the people who are committing the crimes & violence.

The gun & mental health issues & real facts proves it. It is not the guns that are the problem it's some of the people, which is a mental health problem. What the real problem here those people who commit the crimes or act out with violence. How do we reach those people that have been treated so badly or been so harmed & can't get help that they feel so lost & angry that they have to lash out with violence in defense for the way they have been shunned, hurt & treated. These People have been created by all of us from the day of their birth to the day of their death. For so many that it's hard to count or track. For some, death is the only way they see they can find peace. It's in our schools, working world, & all around us in our every day lives. Some are persecuted just about every day by what we say or how we treat them. From what we say through jokes or out right Bulling, & in some case physical violence. This is really the problem here. Until we deal with these problems we are destine to suffer some form of violence in our every day lives. If not guns they will find other ways to strike out. So examples are look at the way we run our prisons (we don't re-abilitate we just warehouse them) When a prisoner is released where does he go? In most cases right back into the environment he or she came out of. Look at the way we treat our veterans when they return from any action or War. Are they helped with any mental heath that they may need in most cases no. When I was serving in the 60's they were spitting at us, calling us names, etc. It was more than 40 years before I would even say I was a veterans. Our society finds it easier to hand out drugs or ignore them rather than really help these people recover & turn their live back to some kind of normal. In a lot of case they will never be able to live a normal life again.

Sitting in Salem or even Washington DC with out going out & talking to these same people & also those who are trying to help them you will never understand what the real problems are. If we haven't walked in their shoes & felt & experienced what they have, we will never understand the problem or why they strike out or return to crime. This is why our State is last concerning Mental Health. This should be telling all of us that Salem is not seeing & dealing with our real problems.

I won't go into Education that's as bad. Some day when you have time I'll tell you about my, our grand kids, & now our great grand kid experience with the education system. Of course I won't hold my breath because most time we will never hear from anyone in Salem.

In another area people who are trying to migrate to our country legally or even illegally in their desperation to just survive & live life experience some of the same things. Until we have walked in their shoes & experience what they have we can not understand. All of these problems & the many others of our State & country. We can't solve them by

sitting in Salem or even town hall meetings. For these people including me won't be there, you will have to go out to them. For not all people can express their feeling & experiences in a public forum. We believe that any person that wants to come to our great country & experience what we have to offer, they should come to are country the legal way. Our borders should always be open to legal emigration, not to those who don't want to up hold our laws.

David R Ditterick