



March 7, 2013

I cannot sit quiet any longer...

I have watched and listened as a grand misdirection is being perpetrated on the American people. A new progressive agenda of gun control is being given a spotlight at the expense of the victims who perished and while their families still grieve. It is appalling to see the terrible mass shooting in Newtown exploited in this way.

And if you listen closely, you have to conclude agendas are more important than addressing the root cause of this particular issue. Vice President Biden displayed arrogance and disregard for the rule of law, the Constitution and most importantly, the people. His use of the term "Executive Action" is the giveaway. He implied the Executive branch of government can unilaterally circumvent the Constitution and the will of the people to impose the administration's "gun control" agenda.

Lost in this whole media frenzy is the root cause of recent mass murders. It is mental illness. Society is losing the chance to address the serious issue of mental illness. As a police officer, I witnessed the personal crisis of family members, care-givers and those suffering from mental illness. Emotions of shame, anxiety and hopelessness ruin the lives of those involved. What is the saddest is seeing people lose the battle to keep their sanity and very lives, mostly because of the lack of funding, antiquated laws of civil commitment and a lack of understanding about mental illness and options for treatment. Many live in quiet desperation.

The time has come to bring mental illness to the forefront of societal awareness. We must to work to provide a compassionate approach of reforms to help those in need and to protect our communities. It doesn't require a new Federal bureaucracy. Our representatives must implement national awareness programs to help us recognize the danger signals of mental crisis. Our citizens must know when to act and report before someone harms or kills another. Collaborative efforts must include great organizations like the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill. (N.A.M.I.) and at a local level, we need to reform community-based help for the mentally ill and enhance the support system for those who care for them. No one should suffer mental illness for lack of proper care. Families should not live in fear and shame for lack of information and support.

I urge you to protect our Second Amendment rights. Rights come responsibilities. Safe and secure gun ownership are among them. I urge you to learn more about mental illness and advocate to steer the debate to compassionately helping sufferers and their families.