

Thank you for forming this Task Force and asking for public comment on this issue. I won't speak to the science and facts of the emotional effects of suicide on families and loved ones, because I assume that is the motivating factor for this Task Force.

While I'm grateful for the press the Extreme Risk Protection law has received since our most recent mass shootings, I'm also concerned about the **focus** coming from our news media.

The focus seems to be on this law "**taking the gun or weapon away**" from a person who is identified as violent, and/or mentally ill.

The focus or intent of the Extreme Risk Protection Law is intended to be this:

Establishing a quick - usually 48 to 72 hour period - when law enforcement, a family member, or a qualified Mental Health provider can request that a person, felt to be exhibiting violent behavior, appear before a judge. The judge can assess the facts, and **require assessment for possible Mental Health treatment**, for that person. Yes, the judge can also temporarily remove weapons from the person. A well written law has penalties for falsely accusing a person of being dangerously violent.

The human capabilities of conscience, empathy, reasoning and hope are strengthened with this law. Why?

Because that CONSCIENCE alarm pings in our head, calling us to do something! ***Don't ignore what you see any longer.

EMPATHY allows us to feel the person's anguish and despair. Violently angry people are not happy people!

REASONING gives us the skills to design legislation to help with the problem.

HOPE, the most difficult emotion to maintain at times, is fueled by legislators helping families, Mental Health providers and law enforcement with this troubling and increasingly occurring issue.

The PURPOSE, the FOCUS of this law is to identify the violent person BEFORE they become a criminal and part of our incarceration system.

I heard a funny definition of a dysfunctional family recently.

It is "any family with more than one member".

And lastly, my take as a parent - a mom, grandmother and great-grandmother :

Most parents know that if 1 of their kids is beating 1 of their siblings over the head with a toy - even if it's a Teddy Bear - you run over and take the "toy" away. Then comes the behavior lesson. That is the Extreme Risk Prevention Law, and required Mental Health Treatment is the lesson.

Once more with feeling.

The PURPOSE is to identify the violent person BEFORE they become a criminal and part of our incarceration system.

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