

# LET'S GET SERIOUS ABOUT MENTAL HEALTH, SCHOOL SECURITY AND PROSECUTING VIOLENT CRIMINALS

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To the Members of Congress:

In the wake of the tragedy at Newtown, Connecticut, every family in America had the same conversation: how do we prevent tragedies like this one from ever happening again. It happened in my home, your home, and in the home of every one of the nearly five million members of the National Rifle Association.

As this debate continues, our members across America will continue to be a constructive voice in this policy discussion. We are mothers and fathers and grandparents. We want every child in America to grow up and go to school in a safe and secure environment.

Unfortunately, the centerpiece of President Obama's response to Newtown, the Manchin-Toomey amendment, would not have prevented the murders at Sandy Hook Elementary School. Exploiting a tragedy as emotional cover for a political agenda is wrong. It is corrosive to public discourse and fuels the skepticism many Americans have about their government.

After the Senate rejected his political agenda, the President and his allies intemperately accused our organization of lying about his legislative proposals. Let me set the record straight: the President is entitled to his own opinion — but not his own facts. At no point did the NRA mischaracterize the amendments considered by the Senate. The truth is that the Senate rejected the President's proposals because they threaten the freedom of law-abiding Americans and would not prevent future tragedies.

Moving forward, we encourage Congress to explore policies that *could* have prevented that crime: fixing our broken mental health system and securing our schools. We will also continue to demand a stronger federal commitment to prosecuting violent criminals who misuse firearms. A bipartisan majority of the Senate joined the National Rifle Association in supporting a meaningful alternative to address these underlying problems. We hope that Congress will give further consideration to this approach in the weeks and months ahead.

It is time to come together, Republicans and Democrats alike, to address the root causes of our nation's most pressing problems.

Let's get serious about fixing our broken mental health system, securing our schools, and prosecuting violent criminals. The NRA stands ready to help.

Respectfully,

**LET'S PUT PARTISAN POLITICS ASIDE**

**EVERY CHILD DESERVES A SAFE ENVIRONMENT**