What we must do about gun violence in America
Every 17 minutes another American face is erased as a result of gun violence
32,163 people died from gun violence in 2011
April 20, 1999: Two teenagers turned assault weapons on their classmates at Columbine High School & killed 13, wounded 21.
March 21, 2005: 9 dead, 5 wounded in Red Lake, Minnesota school shooting
October 2, 2006: Man shoots 11, killing 5 girls in Amish school shooting
April 16, 2007: Student opens fire at Virginia Tech, 30 students & faculty killed, 23 others wounded.
February 14, 2008: 6 killed in shooting at Northern Illinois University
January 8, 2011: Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords & at least 17 others were shot when a gunman opened fire outside a supermarket in Tucson, Arizona
July 20, 2012: Gunman, dressed in tactical clothing, set off tear gas grenades & shot into a movie theater with multiple firearms, killing 12 & injuring 58
Who is a school rampage shooter?
They look just like our children...
Broadcasting – Leakage – Warning Signs

“Murder- It’s my first murder, I’m at my point of no return, I can’t let him live now, He’d go to the cops for sure, So I finish, I look at his body on the floor, Killing a bastard that deserves to die, Ain’t nothing like it in the world, But he sure did bleed a lot”

(Barry Loukaitis, 9th grade English class)
Prevention

• Anti-Bullying Programs
• Developing and Maintaining Positive, Supportive Environments
  • Strong Interactions with Families
  • Involvement with the Local Community
  • Inclusion for all Children
• Create and Maintain an open dialogue with students
• Offer a diverse schedule of school activities and programs
Emergency Planning:

• Variety of contingencies:
  • Natural Disasters
  • Fire or Facility malfunction
  • Violent Acts
    • Inside
    • Outside
80% of Americans agree that taking some simple steps to prepare could help protect themselves in the event of an emergency.
However, only 58 percent had developed an emergency plan or learned more about potential threats, the three steps recommended by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s Ready campaign.
Gun Control Efforts:
“What happened is not without a lesson: that we must press urgently for the legislation now pending in Congress”
“Senator Dodd’s gun control bill would not prevent all such tragedies.”
“But it would help reduce the unrestricted sale of fire-arms to those who cannot be trusted in their use or possession.”
“How many lives might be saved as a consequence?”
Proposed Congressional Actions

• Requiring background checks for all gun sales
• Limiting ammunition magazines to 10 rounds.
• Increasing penalties for "straw purchasers," people who pass the required background check to buy a gun on behalf of someone else.
Proposed Congressional Actions

• Financing to train more police officers, first responders & school officials responding to active armed attacks.

• Provide $20 million to help expand the system that tracks violent deaths across the nation from 18 states to 50 states.

• Providing $30 million to states to help schools develop emergency response plans.

• Providing financing to expand mental health programs for young people.
Proposed Maryland Actions

• Require a license and gun safety training in order to purchase a handgun.
• Ban the sale of military-style assault weapons. Since the federal ban expired, at least 461 Americans have been killed by military-style assault weapons. Of these 461 Americans, at least 35 were police officers.
• Ban high capacity magazines with more than ten rounds
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Nearly four months ago, President Obama took the oath of office for his second term. And unless we take action, during the next four years over 100,000 Americans will be killed with guns – that's more than double the amount killed in combat during the entire Vietnam & Iraq Wars.