

June 13, 2022

The Honorable Governor Roy Cooper, North Carolina

RE: Development of a Mental Health Task Force for the state of North Carolina

Recent events of gun violence have demanded a call for change. As a Licensed Mental Health Professional and a mother, I and my colleagues have identified that the laws here regarding “determination of moral character” are not explicit. We don’t want a Sandy Hook or Robb Elementary school incident (among others) happening again, especially in the state of North Carolina. We strongly recommend that the current laws regarding screening for weapons should be more stringent. Please consider forming a Mental Health Task Team for this.

Our current laws on providing a permit state the following:

“To obtain a permit, an applicant must present evidence that he or she is of good moral character and desires the weapon for protection, target shooting, collecting or hunting. 3 Applicants must undergo a background check to obtain a permit.4 See the Licensing in North Carolina section for more information. Once obtained, the permit to purchase a handgun is valid for up to five years and is good for the purchase of one handgun.”

Eradicating the purchase of military grade guns by civilians would be the best option. However, until this is granted ,we believe that the following intervention could decrease mentally distressed individuals from murdering the innocent via the following:

1. Explicitly Define what “presence of good moral character means”
2. Setting up a stringent process of evaluating individuals prior to their purchase.
3. Make this a uniformed process state-wide.
4. Provide training on Gun approval evaluation processes so that there is accountability.

The first step is for us to have a conversation. Can we have a conversation about what we can do?

In Urgency.

Jessica Bullock