



The Office Of State Treasurer
Denise L. Nappier

News

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STATEMENT OF CONNECTICUT STATE TREASURER DENISE L. NAPPIER ON THE SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF THE SANDY HOOK TRAGEDY

HARTFORD, CT – On the somber occasion of the second anniversary of the Sandy Hook tragedy, we are reminded of the need for action to prevent senseless gun violence across our country.

As Connecticut Treasurer, following the tragedy, I wrote to the companies in which the State invests that manufacture, distribute and sell guns, gun parts, gun accessories and ammunition, raising the business case for reasonable regulation of firearms and ammunition sales in order to mitigate the potential long-term business risk posed by high rates of mortality that are attributed to the misuse of firearms.

Today we can report progress. After my Office wrote to five companies, four responded positively.

Officials of Sears Holdings Corp. removed images of gun parts for sale from its website and stated that the company is not in the business of selling firearms, ammunition or gun parts other than air guns, paint ball and air soft guns. Sears also reported that third-party sellers on its website are prohibited from selling firearms and weapons.

Officials of Amazon.com Inc., Dick's Sporting Goods and Wal-Mart Stores indicated that their business practices were compatible with the Sandy Hook Principles. The Principles, developed by the United States Conference of Mayors, outline eight prudent steps that companies can take that demonstrate their commitment to keeping firearms and ammunition out of the hands of those with intent to do harm to others.

Wal-Mart, however, suppressed a shareholder effort to require the company's board to review how the company can better monitor sales such as guns that endanger the public. A court recently ordered Wal-Mart to let the issue come to a vote at its 2015 shareholder meeting in June.

Only Alliant Techsystems Inc. was unresponsive to my Office's outreach and I therefore filed a shareholder resolution in 2014 and will do so again in 2015. The resolution calls on the company to report on actions it has taken with respect to the Sandy Hook Principles.

At Alliant's 2014 shareholder meeting on July 30, I said, "As long-term investors, we believe that companies whose shares we hold have an obligation to address public issues that have potential effects on the business operations of the company. By identifying reasonable efforts to avoid the misuse of

firearms, Alliant can be a leader in protecting its reputation and its bottom line.” I will reiterate this important point in 2015 when I re-file the shareholder resolution.

We are keeping up the pressure because gun violence has not subsided. Just last week, the Everytown for Gun Safety organization reported that there have been at least 95 school shootings since Newtown in 33 different states, with 23 resulting in at least one homicide.

The issue of gun violence is akin to a public health epidemic that affects all of us, in urban, suburban and rural settings alike. We all must work together to explore ways to prevent access to dangerous weapons and ammunition by those who would misuse them.

On this anniversary, I pledge to continue to raise my voice, to contribute constructively to the public debate over this important issue, and to achieve the outcome for which we all strive: the safety of our communities and of our children.

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