



# North Carolina Department of Public Safety

## Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice

Pat McCrory, Governor  
Frank L. Perry, Secretary

W. David Guice, Commissioner  
Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice

February 26, 2016

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley, Chairman  
United States Senate  
Committee on the Judiciary  
Washington, D.C. 20510-6275

Dear Senator Grassley:

With reference to your letter dated February 17, 2016, copy attached, you will find my response below.

*Violence perpetrated by anyone is reason enough to evaluate local, state and national policies. When attempting to develop new policies aimed at decreasing community violence, we need to review all acts of violence, to include mass murders such as those carried out at Virginia Tech, New Town, Aurora, and Roanoke.*

*The truth is, we lack the ability in many instances to accurately predict violence. So, how can we help individuals who are prone to commit violence? And, how can we help mentally ill individuals whose illness, if left untreated, may predispose some of them to acts of violence? In North Carolina we have several task forces such as the Governor's Mental Health and Substance Use Task Force that are working on these very questions. It is imperative that we have processes in place in the community to assist as best we can with identifying signs and symptoms of mental illness prior to the tragic events we've come to know all too well. Once identified, effective services need to be made readily accessible. We also need to look at how criminal justice professionals are using predictive intelligence driven methods, as well as crisis intervention and mental health first aid to identify and preempt or deescalate potential crisis situations.*

Sincerely,

W. David Guice

WDG:GN/jk

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