LOOSELY VERIFIED FACTS:

1. America maintains by far the largest military force on the planet, and both the government and a good majority of the general population prides itself on that
2. America has by far the most armed civilian society on the planet, and we pride ourselves on that as well (The ratio is estimated at about 7:1, firearms to every man/woman/child in America)
3. America is one of the few countries that feels so adamant about this aspect of rights in everyday life that we have it expressly written in our earliest of fundamental documents
4. Overseas weapons sales by the United States totaled over approximately $66.3B last year, which equated to more than 75% of the total global arms market valued at $85.3B in 2011. Russia clocked in a distant 2nd with $4.8B in arms trade.
5. The United States domestic arms sales industry is estimated at around $4.1B in 2011. That means the America public bought basically as much as the 2nd ranked country in the world just for private/personal use or simply because it is their constitutional right to do so.
6. Not including any arms manufacturers, the NRA (simply an advocacy group) spent over $10M in political contributions and advertisements against certain candidates that oppose their ideals. Further they blindly exercise ALL of their power against any proposed laws that could conceptually change the 2nd Amendment in any way, shape or form and they are proud to boast this fact despite any rational discussions on the betterment of society as a whole.
7. In regard to the previous point, the United States is ranked 19th in intelligence, yet ranked 1st in confidence (which is generally a recipe for disaster).

Now despite any and all debate over arms regulations over the last 50 or so years, taking the above points into consideration I ask you this “Is it realistic to think for any amount of time that efforts to disarm the American public will ever be successful?” I am here to say the answer is NO. But let’s imagine for a minute what the realistic outcomes would be if those efforts were made and those efforts were in one way or another successful (even though they have not been up to this point). What if the government passed strict firearm control laws on purchasing or ownership, or moved to amend the 2nd Amendment? Based simply on very popular one-liners such as, “When you pry it from my cold dead hands” and “I will not go quietly into the night” seen daily on t-shirts and bumper stickers, I would have to assume those people are not wavering on the seriousness of that statement. This only leads me to believe that laws and amendments of this nature being passed would simultaneously cause quite immediately the beginning of the second Civil War in America. But alternatively what is the only realistic government solution for enforcing these new laws and amendments? The answer is to enlist the services of the American “ARMED FORCES” to go out and pro-actively collect these items. These armed forces of course comprising of fellow American citizens who have been raised on the same rights as everyone else, and additionally some of the largest advocates of the 2nd Amendment considering in many cases that they have been trained and expected to engrain the presence of firearms into their everyday life. Is it realistic to think that these armed forces will be willing to go out and disarm their own domestic families and friends? Despite whatever “code” there may be in any branch of the military regarding following/executing orders; I am willing to confidently assure you the answer is again NO.

Next, to expand from a different approach I ask you, “How has the war on drugs fared in America?” In drastically increasing penalties on criminal activity involving all aspects of illegal substances have we yet even minimized the buying/selling/dependence of illegal substances in American society? Has it even lessened the presence of the simple concept of drugs in our everyday lives? The answer yet again, is NO. The only thing that has been accomplished is a higher market and demand for such products and provided astronomical prison occupancy numbers with (in many cases) low level, non-violent offenders which only means less room for legitimate criminals and increased tax responsibility on the general public. So based simply on the track record I don’t understand what makes anyone think that attempting to outlaw firearms of any kind would actually be a feasible solution. The reality is that the criminally inclined and the mentally ill are going to continue to do things that are deemed as unacceptable to rest of the masses despite any and all regulations put forth currently or in the future. Simply stated, no matter how much you wish you could, you cannot legislate the mentally ill because they are just that, mentally ill. It is human nature to have a certain percentage of people who will lie, steal, commit murder and any other heinous infringement one can realize against another human being. And with the increasing global population, simple math tells us that the percentage of people who fit these criteria is only going to increase. There is no country in the world that does not have documented incidences of crime so no one country or race or nationality or religion is above the responsibility that needs to be taken for ensuring a safer world to live in.

So with all this being said, it brings us back around to the real question, “How do we, as Americans, begin to make efforts to prevent such tragedies like those in a movie theater in Illinois or those in an elementary school in Connecticut?” Since we established that taking the guns is not an option and rounding up the mentally ill can’t happen without infringing on their equal rights as American citizens, what are we to do? Here is a 6-step comprehensive plan with further elaboration below:

1. Move to establish laws NOT affecting the ownership of firearms but to require more strict registration requirements on ALL firearms AND LOCKING SYSTEMS (i.e. locks and safes)
2. Based on the above listed point, move to establish harsh laws on registered firearm owners in the event that their firearms are somehow used in a violent crime.
3. Move to establish much harsher laws and no-plea-bargain sentencing for those involved in violent crimes against other humans.
4. Drastically increase funding for the research, support, and maintenance of the mentally ill and the criminally inclined. Evaluate minimally requiring them to register as such
5. Thoroughly evaluate current drug laws and how they circumstantially affect BOTH the current prison inmate population AND the high level white-collar pharmaceutical industry that provides “legal” forms of narcotics that equally (if not more in some cases) alter the human mind in comparison to any listed illegal drug available.
6. Move to lessen prison populations of non-violent, minor drug charge inmates with the stipulation that they are somehow involved in the research listed in #4

**Move to establish laws NOT affecting the ownership of firearms but to require more strict registration requirements on ALL firearms AND LOCKING SYSTEMS (i.e. locks and safes)**

It is my belief that this is the key to middle ground and initiating progress since it has been dually established that disarming America is not an option but yet something needs to be done to drastically lessen such tragedies as discussed earlier. It is further my belief that there is a clear way to argue in favor of this so that right-wing “patriots” and organizations such as the NRA would have no choice but to agree.

At no point would this be establishing that contrary to the 2nd Amendment, Americans shouldn’t have the right to bear arms or attempt to put any limitation on the extent to which they should be able to exercise this right. However if firearm advocates are so proud of their right to buy/own/carry/maintain any number of firearms then they should be willing to document and register these firearms in order to clearly establish ownership of these items without limitation on the type, style, size or intended purpose of these items (i.e. in many cases it is not a requirement to register rifles or shotguns in the same manner as a handgun). This should be viewed as simple efforts of establishing a level of accountability in exercising your 2nd Amendment rights. And further alternative to past proposals, this level of accountability should be increased by requiring firearm owners to document and register means of effectively securing these items. Firearm safes and other locking means should need to be purchased and registered no different than the firearms themselves. This is the same exact concept of the inability to purchase a vehicle and drive it off the lot without providing proof of purchasing insurance for the vehicle. Many people may look at this as an inconvenience but it is generally accepted that this is a necessary inconvenience in order to ensure a level of responsibility among drivers for the safety of yourself and others you share the road with. That should be as simple as it needs to be and if rational people still choose to argue this point then they are not that rational and may be candidates for evaluating their mental health. At the end of the day if opposition such as the NRA still chooses to fight this position then it can be summed up in a single slogan that they readily use on a daily basis, “Freedom Isn’t Free”. In fact, that sounds like a suitable name for the law, The Freedom Isn’t Free Law. In general it is accepted that in any human interaction there always has to be a level of compromise involved and sometimes there are sacrifices that need to be made in order to serve the common good.

**Based on the above listed point, move to establish harsh laws on registered firearm owners in the event that their firearms are somehow used in a violent crime.**

This aspect of the proposal is yet again clearly not an attempt to disarm citizens, rather increases accountability and stresses maintaining a certain level of responsibility that should be required of all those who choose to exercise their 2nd Amendment rights. In combining these types of laws with the ones proposed in the previous point we would be instilling a much stronger mindset than that of the people today who realistically exist with an increased level of potential risk in their everyday lives. It would automatically require them to maintain a much higher level of consciousness and awareness of the additional responsibility that should be expected of them by the rest of society who may or may not choose to exercise their 2nd Amendment rights. And in combination with the previous proposal of requiring registration of security then there is no reason why they would not be able to be somehow prosecuted in the event that their firearms became unsecured at any point and used either by them or anyone else for the purposes of malevolence. Again, freedom isn’t always free and sometimes measures need to be taken by certain individuals to further ensure the greater good of the masses.

**Move to establish much harsher laws and no-plea-bargain sentencing for those involved in violent crimes against other humans.**

This is pretty self-explanatory. This point is really part of a much larger issue with the American judicial system. Sentencing should be much more severe for violent crimes against other human beings. The sentencing should be much more cut-and-dry across the board on a continuous basis. A criminal’s sentencing should not be able to be affected in any way shape or form based on social status of the criminal, the profile status of the lawyer, personal relationships between the involved parties in the trial, or on plea bargaining tactics. Simply stated there is no uniformity in prosecuting crimes in America. Strong efforts need to be made to standardize sentencing for crimes committed in this country so that the realization of the repercussions of a person’s actions are made extremely clear.

**Drastically increase funding for the research, support, and maintenance of the mentally ill and the criminally inclined. Evaluate minimally requiring individuals to register as such.**

Over the last 100 years significant advancements in technology have been made and yet the least understood part of the human body is the brain. Until we can much further understand the reasons behind why mental illnesses happen and secondarily, yet more importantly, how to treat these illnesses it is clear that a much stronger effort needs to be made by the government to support and execute these types of programs. This is important not only for the help and support of our citizens but to also understand people as a whole in order to establish better ways of dealing with conflict between other nations.

**Thoroughly evaluate current drug laws and how they circumstantially affect BOTH the current prison inmate population AND the high level white-collar pharmaceutical industry that provides “legal” forms of narcotics that equally (if not more in some cases) alter the human mind in comparison to any listed illegal drug available.**

As stated earlier, realistically how successful has the “war on drugs” been for us? As far as I can tell it hasn’t done much at all. America still has some of the highest drug trafficking and addiction rates in the world. Based on those two things alone it could easily be assumed that the war on drugs was established so that the U.S. government could not only corner the market but turn our prison system into a capitalistic industry, rather than a public service. Personally, I’ve known numerous people who have not only done extensive jail/prison sentences based on non-violent, relatively low-level, drug violations but also numerous people who have died from the use of many prescription drugs and “supplemental treatments” such as Methadone or Oxycontin, which is a government approved medication that is chemically a synthetic form of heroine, a schedule 1 illegal substance according to the DEA. The point being made here is two-fold, why are our prisons jammed full of non-violent people who essentially commit the same crimes as multi-billion dollar corporations that in many cases provide much more dangerous drug forms, and why are they allowed to do so so casually?

**Move to lessen prison populations of non-violent, minor drug charge inmates with the stipulation that they are somehow involved in the research listed in #4.**

As an extension to the previous point, this is also a very important idea to look into. How are all these things linked, you ask? Simply stated, we have large amounts of non-violent criminals serving extensive sentences taking up room in our prisons and costing our tax payers HUGE sums of money every year, all the while we have violent criminals walking the streets who in too many cases serve much lesser sentences due to pleas of mental illness and instability. Our prison systems should be viewed as rehabilitation not just lock-ups for criminals that effectively harden them into worse criminals. The circumstances should be reversed! If a citizen poses a safety threat to other humans they should be incarcerated and separated in a place where they can get legitimate help/attention/rehabilitation that they need before re-entering society. Why not evaluate alternative sentencing for non-violent criminals who in many cases could possibly be viewed as some of the hardest working, enterprising, creative entrepreneurs in our society. Theoretically that is exactly what this country was based on, capitalism and they are simply capitalizing their circumstances. Agreed, they unfortunately capitalized their circumstances in a manner that is not for the best interest of the masses but it sure seems to me that this is a circumstance that could be much more easily rehabilitated than someone with a legitimate mental illness. Point being, it makes much more sense to rehabilitate these people quickly and continuously out of prison in order to get them back into society and contribute their natural skills in a positive manner and make room for those with mental illness that in many cases can never be used to contribute to the greater good. In short, the answer is definitely not to simply build more prisons and not address any of these issues, the tax payers have enough burden to carry as it is and there continue to be more and more instances of violence against other people in our society and it needs to be stopped. It needs to be done with a plan though, an idea without a plan is just a wish, and I wish the tragedies that have happened recently could have somehow been prevented or prevented from happening again.