



For Immediate Release

May 19, 2019

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Death of Columbine Survivor - Reminder of Addressing Guns and Mental Health

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS, CO – Austin Eubanks, 37, a survivor of the Columbine High School shooting in 1999, was found dead in his home Saturday. Only last month, the Littleton community held ceremonies remembering those killed and wounded twenty years ago. Eubanks was in the library on that fateful day and saw his best friend shot and killed, before he was shot twice. He struggled with opioid addiction as a result of the shooting and later became a public speaker discussing the issues of addiction, last speaking at a conference on May 2nd of this year.

After the Parkland shooting, Eubanks began to speak out on gun violence issues. In a [video](#) he said: “But if we’re not looking at the ability that citizens have in our society to kill large numbers of people, we’re not looking at the real problem here.” He held in particular disregard the idea of arming teachers, calling it an “incredibly ridiculous idea.”

Eubanks said “The biggest frustration I have is, that when a tragedy like this occurs, by in large, we fracture into two camps – either gun legislation or mental health. The fact is both play an enormous role in this.”

Mass shootings have devastating effects on survivors that can continue for years. Annemarie Hochhalter, was seriously injured and wheelchair bound from the Columbine shooting. Only six months later, her mother Carla Hochhalter took her own life. Jeremy Richman, whose daughter Avielle, was shot and killed in the Sandy Hook massacre, took his own life this past March, just days after two students of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas school also ended their own lives.

Eubank's family released a statement saying that Austin had "lost the battle with the very disease he fought so hard to help others face...We plan to continue his work." Our thoughts are with the family of Austin Eubanks. Blessed be his memory.

Colorado Ceasefire, an all-volunteer statewide organization, has worked for freedom from gun violence since 2000. Ceasefire initiated and was instrumental in the enactment of the 2013 Colorado firearms laws, which included universal background checks, a high capacity magazine ban, and domestic violence firearms relinquishment. Ceasefire began advocating for an Extreme Risk law in 2016, which was signed by the Governor on April 12th this year. The law allows family members or law enforcement to petition a court to temporarily remove guns from dangerous persons.

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