

# Now's the time for greater focus on mental health funding

Updated Feb 22;  
Posted Feb 22

0

**By Special to AL.com**

By TUERK SCHLESINGER  
CEO, AltaPointe Health

It's official: A generation of young Americans has never known a world without periodic mass shootings that kill innocent people, including children. From the shooting at Colorado's Columbine High School, in which 12 students and one teacher were murdered in 1999, to the recent one in Parkland, Fla., where 14 students and three teachers died at Stoneman Douglas High School, they have raised questions about the treatment of mental illness in our country.

With every horrific act, questions immediately emerge about access to guns and the perpetrator's mental health. Setting aside the issue of guns themselves, I choose to focus on the subject about which we at AltaPointe Health Systems know considerably more: mental illness and the inadequately funded system attempting to treat the disease.

The conclusion that politicians, news media and members of society often make as they attempt to explain these atrocities is that surely these "shooters" must be mentally ill. And indeed, the unfortunate truth often is that the perpetrators have undiagnosed or untreated mental



---

Registration on or use of this site constitutes acceptance of our **User Agreement** and **Privacy Policy**

© 2018 Alabama Media Group. All rights reserved (**About Us**).

The material on this site may not be reproduced, distributed, transmitted, cached or otherwise used, except with the prior written permission of Alabama Media Group.

**Community Rules** apply to all content you upload or otherwise submit to this site.

[▶ Ad Choices](#)

