



January 23, 2013

The Honorable John Boehner
United States House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
United States House of Representatives
235 Cannon HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
United States Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Harry Reid
United States Senate
528 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Boehner, Senate Minority Leader McConnell, House Minority Leader Pelosi and Senate Majority Leader Reid:

We are writing to express support for Senator Feinstein's Assault Weapons Regulatory Act of 2013 and to urge its prompt passage. The tragedy at Newtown, Connecticut and the swift reaction of President Obama placed an important spotlight on gun safety in America. As mayors of the largest cities in California, we are charged with protecting the safety of our residents. Banning the sale, transfer, import or manufacture of assault weapons – weapons that are disproportionately involved in murders with multiple victims, multiple wounds per victim, and police officers as victims – is a straightforward, common sense measure that will improve the safety of our citizens.

Senator Feinstein's legislation strengthens and improves the 1994 Assault Weapons Ban by moving from a 2-characteristic test to a 1-characteristic test, banning firearms with "bullet buttons" – a loophole exploited in the 1994 ban, and eliminating the 10-year sunset provision that allowed the original ban to expire. This legislation protects legitimate hunters and the rights of existing gun owners by grandfathering weapons legally possessed on the date of enactment and exempting weapons specifically used for hunting and sporting purposes.

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This proposal, in combination with the significant measures initiated by President Obama last week, will make a measurable impact and go far to protect the safety of all Americans. We appreciate President Obama and Senator Feinstein's leadership on this important issue and urge your support.

Very truly yours,



EDWIN M. LEE
Mayor – San Francisco



ANTONIO R. VILLARAIGOSA
Mayor – Los Angeles



KEVIN JOHNSON
Mayor – Sacramento



CHUCK REED
Mayor – San Jose



BOB FOSTER
Mayor – Long Beach



JEAN QUAN
Mayor – Oakland



BOB FILNER
Mayor – San Diego



MIGUEL PULIDO
Mayor – Santa Ana

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Valerie Jarrett, Senior Advisor to the President
David Agnew, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs,
Members, California Delegation, United States House of Representatives