



American
Public Health
Association

PROTECT, PREVENT, LIVE WELL

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January 24, 2013

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
U.S. Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Feinstein:

On behalf of the American Public Health Association, I write in strong support of the Assault Weapons Ban of 2013, legislation to ban certain semiautomatic rifles, handguns, and shotguns as well as large-capacity ammunition magazines that are capable of accepting more than 10 rounds of ammunition. APHA has long-supported the reinstatement and strengthening of the 1994 assault weapons ban and we stand ready to work with you, President Obama and all members of Congress to pass this and other important legislation to protect our nation's children and their families from the growing epidemic of gun violence.

Gun violence is one of the leading causes of preventable death in our country and we must take a comprehensive public health approach to addressing this growing crisis. For too long we as a nation have failed to take on this devastating problem in our communities and we can wait no longer. The weapons and ammunition magazines that would be banned under your legislation are not suitable for hunting, collecting or self-defense, but are meant for military combat and have no place on our streets or in our homes.

Thank you again for your ongoing commitment to protecting the public from gun violence. We look forward to working with you to advance this and other common-sense measures to reduce the toll of gun violence in the United States.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Georges C. Benjamin'.

Georges C. Benjamin, MD, FACP, FACEP (E)
Executive Director