



**THE ALLIANCE
FOR BUSINESS LEADERSHIP**

December 20, 2012

The Honorable Harry Reid
Office of the Majority Leader
S-221, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader Reid,

When the Senate convenes in January 2013, we urge you to swiftly take-up and move to pass legislation to permanently reinstate the ban on semi-automatic assault weapons and high capacity magazines. Senator Diane Feinstein has indicated she will introduce this bill on the first day of the 113th Congress, and we believe immediate consideration of this measure is critical.

We join the nation in expressing our sadness and outrage over the tragic loss of innocent life at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, CT. As parents, we question how we keep our children safe in a world where there is unbridled access to semi-automatic weapons. As business leaders, we have the added responsibility of asking how we protect our employees when few workplace security measures can withstand the powerful blows of an assault rifle.

Semi-automatic assault weapons have no place in a civilized society. They do not belong in our homes or on our streets. They have no use in hunting or in sport. They are weapons of war with one purpose: to kill as many people as possible in the shortest amount of time. We have witnessed their chilling effectiveness too many times since the assault weapons ban expired in 2004.

As business leaders who believe in the role of government, we struggle to understand how Congress can see fit to regulate the toy guns with which America's children play, but not the real guns used to claim their lives. We cannot continue to allow the will of a minority to stand in the way of common sense gun control that protects the lives of the majority. As we endeavor to keep our citizens safe – in schools, workplaces, municipal offices, places of worship and elsewhere – we need your leadership. The moment of truth has come, and the time for action is now.

Sincerely,

Members of the Board, The Alliance for Business Leadership

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About the Alliance

The Alliance for Business Leadership is a non-partisan alliance of CEOs, business leaders, entrepreneurs and investors committed to building an economy that supports long-term economic growth and prosperity for all. For more information, visit www.allianceforbusinessleadership.org.

CC: President Barack Obama
Vice President Joseph Biden
Senate Minority Leader, Mitchell McConnell
Members of the United States Senate