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January 29, 2013

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Feinstein:

On behalf of our physician and medical student members, the American Medical Association (AMA) is writing to express our support for S. 150, the "Assault Weapons Ban of 2013." The AMA has a long-standing policy, passed by physicians in our House of Delegates representing all states and medical specialties, strongly in support of reinstating and strengthening the expired 1994 assault weapons ban.

The AMA believes that gun violence is a serious public health issue. Physicians and other health care professionals experience first-hand its devastating effects. The increased firepower of assault weapons and high capacity magazines heightens the risk of multiple gunshot wounds and severe penetrating trauma, resulting in more critical injuries. The severity of wounds and multiple casualties resulting from assault weapons have devastating consequences for families and society.

Your legislation would take important steps towards reducing the epidemic of gun violence by limiting the availability of assault weapons and high-capacity magazines. We applaud your leadership on this issue and look forward to working with you to protect the health and safety of our citizens.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James L. Madara". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

James L. Madara, MD