



January 19, 2013

The Honorable Diane Feinstein
United States Senate
331 Hart Senate Office
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Carolyn McCarthy
United States House of Representatives
2346 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senator Feinstein and Congresswoman McCarthy:

20 Children is a non-partisan, grassroots movement of parents and families across the U.S. who have come together to end gun violence. We are pleased to support your legislation, the "Assault Weapons Ban Reauthorization Act of 2013." If enacted into law, your bill would renew and strengthen the 1994 ban on semiautomatic assault weapons (SAWs) and would help keep these military-style guns out of the hands of criminals. Enhancing the expired 1994 law by ensuring that all SAWs are banned from sale is vitally important to achieving the intent of the assault weapons ban, which is why 20 Children supports closing all loopholes in this regard.

SAWs were the weapon of choice for the shooters in Newtown and Aurora because of their capacity to inflict the maximum amount of casualties in the shortest period of time. These guns were originally developed for use on the battlefield, and not intended for hunting purposes or civilian self defense. In order to reduce gun violence and protect children, the nation must reinstate reasonable protections on these types of weapons.

20 Children submitted recommendations to the White House Task Force on Gun Violence and called for many of the provisions contained in your legislation, including:

- Banning the importation of SAWs for sale;
- Banning the sale of SAWs by licensed dealers;
- Banning the private sale or personal transfer of SAWs; and
- Strengthening the definition of SAWs enough to keep all similarly dangerous weapons from being manufactured and sold in the future.

The Newtown tragedy made clear the urgent need for common sense legal, legislative and policy reforms to help keep our nation's children safe. Gun violence should be treated as the dire public health threat that it is. 20 Children will continue to advocate for the enactment of evidence-based gun policies that will help reduce gun violence and save lives. Every day that passes without enacting a comprehensive set of safety measures is another day that children's lives are needlessly put at risk.

20 Children appreciates your leadership on this very important issue and we look forward to working with you to pass this necessary legislation.

Sincerely,

20Children.org