



THE AMERICAN CONGRESS
OF OBSTETRICIANS
AND GYNECOLOGISTS

Office of the President
James T. Breedon, MD, FACOG

January 23, 2013

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

Dear Senator Feinstein,

ACOG is proud to support legislation you've introduced, the Assault Weapons Regulatory Act of 2013. Thank you for your leadership and courage in pursuing this issue in the US Congress.

Did you know that American women who are killed by their intimate partners are more likely to be killed with guns than by all other methods combined? That a recent study shows that access to firearms increases the risk of intimate partner homicide more than five times compared to instances where there are no weapons? And that women are twice as likely to be shot and killed by intimate partners as they are to be murdered by strangers using any type of weapon?

Clearly, gun safety is an issue of great importance to our ob-gyn specialty and to our patients. I encourage all ob-gyns to talk to our patients about their safety and about gun ownership safety. And it's imperative that our Nation takes reasonable action to help stem the tide of gun violence in America.

ACOG backs your legislation to reinstate the assault weapons ban, while protecting legitimate hunters and the rights of existing gun owners and increasing safety requirements for gun ownership. Many physicians, like me, find it ironic that physicians are required to undergo criminal background checks and finger printing to receive medical licenses that allow us to care for victims of gun violence, while many jurisdictions don't require the same of gun owners.

Will your legislation alone stop all gun violence in America? Of course not. But, especially after the Sandy Hook tragedy, it's clear that we have to do what we can to protect our patients, our families, and innocent lives.

ACOG stands with you in support of these sensible steps to help ensure the safety of our communities, and to help make sure there are no more Sandy Hooks.

Sincerely,

James T. Breedon, MD, FACOG
President