

MAYORS AGAINST ILLEGAL GUNS * www.mayorsagainstillegalguns.org

February 11, 2013

The Honorable John Boehner Speaker United States House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515

Rep. Nancy Pelosi Democratic Leader United States House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Harry Reid Majority Leader **United States Senate** Washington, DC 20510

Sen. Mitch McConnell Republican Leader **United States Senate** Washington, DC 20510

RE: U.S. Mayors Call on Congress to Support Assault Weapons Ban

Dear Speaker Boehner, Majority Leader Reid, Leader Pelosi, and Leader McConnell:

Military-style assault weapons and high-capacity ammunition magazines have been at the center of some of our country's deadliest mass shootings. Just since July, we have watched in horror as they have been used to gun down moviegoers in an Aurora theater, Sikh worshippers in an Oak Creek temple, and even young children in a Newtown elementary school. In order to prevent the next rampage and help save American lives, our nation needs clear and enforceable legislation that will take these weapons and magazines off our streets.

As the men and women who are responsible for protecting those streets, we write to urge your support for the Assault Weapons Ban of 2013 (S. 150 / H.R. 437), introduced by Senator Dianne Feinstein and Congresswoman Carolyn McCarthy. Our bipartisan coalition of more than 850 U.S. mayors stands firmly behind this bill, which would ban the importation, sale, manufacture, transfer, and possession of assault weapons and high-capacity magazines – with some exceptions, including for law enforcement and military use, as well as for those weapons lawfully owned at the time of enactment.

In an effort to strengthen the now-expired 1994 version of the ban, this legislation would broaden the definition of "assault weapon" to prevent manufacturers from remodeling their weapons to circumvent the law. The new ban would be permanent and would require background checks for grandfathered weapons that are sold or transferred after the enactment date, including those sold or transferred by private sellers. It would also prohibit the sale and transfer of grandfathered high-capacity ammunition magazines.

These measures would go a long way toward ensuring the safety of our communities, and they enjoy the backing of a majority of Americans – including gun owners.

While military-style assault weapons and high-capacity magazines often play a prominent role in mass shootings, they are also a common threat in everyday incidents of gun violence that don't always make national headlines. According to the Department of Justice, high-capacity magazines are used in 14 to 26 percent of all gun crimes and in 31 to 41 percent of fatal police shootings. As Oklahoma City Police Chief Bill Citty said in January 2011 after one of his officers was fatally ambushed by a teenager with a semiautomatic AR-15: "There are just more and more assault rifles out there, and it is becoming a bigger threat to law enforcement each day. They are outgunned."

It's no wonder law enforcement groups across the country support a ban on these military-style weapons and high-capacity magazines, including the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), the Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCC), and the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF).

We hope you will stand up for our communities, our law enforcement officials, and our children by supporting this common-sense proposal to curb gun violence. Far too many Americans are being killed with deadly assault weapons – it's up to you to act.

Sincerely,

Thomas M. Menino Coalition Co-Chair

Eman M. Menino

Mayor of Boston

Michael R. Bloomberg Coalition Co-Chair Mayor of New York City

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Signed by Members of Mayors Against Illegal Guns:

Mayor Samuel L. Jones, Mobile, Alabama

Mayor Satish I. Hiremath, Oro Valley, Arizona

Mayor Scott LeMarr, Paradise Valley, Arizona

Mayor Greg Stanton, Phoenix, Arizona

Mayor Jennifer Eckstrom, South Tucson, Arizona

Mayor Bill Rappaport, Star Valley, Arizona

Mayor Mark W. Mitchell, Tempe, Arizona

Mayor Jonathan Rothschild, Tucson, Arizona

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Mayor Arnell Willis, Helena, Arkansas

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Mayor Cheryl Cox, Chula Vista, California

Mayor Eugene Montanez, Corona, California

Mayor Diane Furst, Corte Madera, California

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Mayor Paul H. McKenna, Churchill, Pennsylvania Mayor Richard L. Lattanzi, Clairton, Pennsylvania Mayor Andrea J. Estadt, Clarion, Pennsylvania Mayor Harry Kelly, Clarks Summit, Pennsylvania Mayor James P. Schell, Clearfield, Pennsylvania Mayor John Hartman, Cleona, Pennsylvania Mayor Frank C. Kelly, Collingdale, Pennsylvania Mayor Daniel Rutland, Colwyn, Pennsylvania Mayor Allen Gyorko, Confluence, Pennsylvania Mayor Joseph Carrelli, Conyngham, Pennsylvania Mayor Anthony G. Celeste, Coraopolis, Pennsylvania Mayor Mark J. Thomas, Cornwall, Pennsylvania Mayor Gail E. Knauf, Cressona, Pennsylvania Mayor Timothy J. Carroll, Dallas, Pennsylvania Mayor Helen R. Thomas, Darby, Pennsylvania Mayor John Lignelli, Donora, Pennsylvania Mayor Thomas R. Lloyd, Dormont, Pennsylvania Mayor Richard A. Pope, Dover, Pennsylvania Mayor Josh Maxwell, Downingtown, Pennsylvania Mayor Libby White, Doylestown, Pennsylvania Mayor Philip Krivacek, Duquesne, Pennsylvania Mayor Betty M. Hays, Eagles Mere, Pennsylvania Mayor Louis J. Payne, East Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania Mayor Mark A. Pacilla, East Washington, Pennsylvania Mayor Salvatore J. Panto, Jr., Easton, Pennsylvania Mayor J. Edward Cook, Edgewood, Pennsylvania Mayor Wayne T. Murphy, Edgeworth, Pennsylvania Mayor Ray Plummer, Ehrenfeld, Pennsylvania Mayor Joseph J. Cisco, Ellport, Pennsylvania Mayor Anthony J. Court, Ellwood City, Pennsylvania Mayor Winfield Iobst, Emmaus, Pennsylvania Mayor Dorothy H. Quinn, Emsworth, Pennsylvania Mayor Joseph Sinnott, Erie, Pennsylvania Mayor Gary Foster, Evans City, Pennsylvania Mayor D. Gary Evans, Factoryville, Pennsylvania Mayor Charles Moore, Falls Creek, Pennsylvania Mayor Olive McKeithan, Farrell, Pennsylvania Mayor Gary McBrien, Felton, Pennsylvania Mayor Robert P. Frey, Folcroft, Pennsylvania Mayor Jose Rosado, Fountain Hill, Pennsylvania Mayor Kim Phillips, Frackville, Pennsylvania Mayor Fred C. Moyer, Jr., Freeburg, Pennsylvania Mayor Gerald C. Yob, Freemansburg, Pennsylvania Mayor James E. Swartz, Jr., Freeport, Pennsylvania Mayor Edward F. Burns, Girardville, Pennsylvania Mayor Arnie Bowser, Greensboro, Pennsylvania Mayor Roy Del Rosario, Hamburg, Pennsylvania Mayor Linda Thompson, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania Mayor Norm Hawkes, Hatboro, Pennsylvania Mayor Ronald Cyphert, Hawthorn, Pennsylvania Mayor John Hoerner, Highspire, Pennsylvania Mayor Joseph R. Dodson, Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania Mayor Betty Esper, Homestead, Pennsylvania Mayor Tim McGuire, Homewood Borough, Pennsylvania Mayor Dee Dee Brown, Huntingdon Borough, Pennsylvania Mayor John J. Zanoff, Hyde Park, Pennsylvania

Mayor George E. Hood, Indiana, Pennsylvania Mayor Nicholas Yanosich, Industry, Pennsylvania Mayor Gerald C. Croushore, Ingram, Pennsylvania Mayor James C. Sanders, Jefferson, Pennsylvania Mayor Ed Foley, Jenkintown, Pennsylvania Mayor Donald Bosh, Knoxville, Pennsylvania Mayor Sandra Green, Kutztown, Pennsylvania Mayor Dorothy Shea Yazurlo, Laflin, Pennsylvania Mayor Joseph Legnasky, Lake City, Pennsylvania Mayor Rick Gray, Lancaster, Pennsylvania Mayor Christopher Blaydon, Langhorne, Pennsylvania Mayor Jayne C. Young, Lansdowne, Pennsylvania Mayor Fred Feltenberger, Laureldale, Pennsylvania Mayor Peter Poninsky, Leetsdale, Pennsylvania Mayor Donald L. Rehrig, Lehighton, Pennsylvania Mayor Deborah A. Bargo, Lewistown, Pennsylvania Mayor Nick Vay, Lincoln, Pennsylvania Mayor John L. Mark, Liverpool, Pennsylvania Mayor William D. Hart, Lykens, Pennsylvania Mayor Randy Schlegel, Lyons, Pennsylvania Mayor Thomas A. Bell, Mahaffey, Pennsylvania Mayor Gerard J. McGlone, Jr., Malvern, Pennsylvania Mayor Eric B. Phillips, Manheim, Pennsylvania Mayor David Sturgess, Manor, Pennsylvania Mayor Alexander J. Chelik, Mayfield, Pennsylvania Mayor Terry S. Bennett, McDonald, Pennsylvania Mayor Weslee A. Clapper-Krepps, McKean, Pennsylvania Mayor John Christopher Soff, Meadville, Pennsylvania Mayor Bob McMahon, Media, Pennsylvania Mayor Ethel I. Kellerman, Milesburg, Pennsylvania Mayor Thomas S. Kramer, Millbourne, Pennsylvania Mayor Richard Trostle, Mohnton, Pennsylvania Mayor John P. Antoline, Monaca, Pennsylvania Mayor Mary Jo Smith, Monessen, Pennsylvania Mayor John Dorin, Montoursville, Pennsylvania Mayor Maureen A. Piselli, Morton, Pennsylvania Mayor Timothy M. Allison, Mount Union, Pennsylvania Mayor Raymond Bodnar, Munhall, Pennsylvania Mayor Stephen Szymusiak, Nanty-Glo, Pennsylvania Mayor Joseph Taylor, New Milford, Pennsylvania Mayor Frances Tkach, New Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Mayor Nicholas W. DeSantis, New Stanton, Pennsylvania Mayor Mary M. Hetrick, Newport, Pennsylvania Mayor Lee I. Hall, North Charleroi, Pennsylvania Mayor Thomas Reenock, Northhampton, Pennsylvania Mayor George F. McCloskey, Norwood, Pennsylvania Mayor Michele Petrini Avvisato, Old Forge, Pennsylvania Mayor Austin Scandiber, Orwigsburg, Pennsylvania Mayor Lewis Paul Cowher, Osceola Mills, Pennsylvania Mayor Geoffrey L. Henry, Oxford, Pennsylvania Mayor Fred Carpenter, Palmyra, Pennsylvania Mayor William McCall, Parker, Pennsylvania Mayor Ardele R. Gordon, Parkside, Pennsylvania Mayor Robert Winkler, Penndel, Pennsylvania Mayor Michael Nutter, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

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Mayor Kimberly D. Brown-Zerbe, Pine Grove,

Mayor John A. Thompson, Wilkinsburg, Pennsylvania Mayor David Perruso, Wilson, Pennsylvania Mayor Larry Markel, Windsor, Pennsylvania Mayor Dolores Jones-Butler, Yeadon, Pennsylvania Mayor John Sanford, Yoe, Pennsylvania Mayor C. Kim Bracey, York, Pennsylvania Mayor Alford Shull, York Springs, Pennsylvania Mayor Joan Derco, Youngwood, Pennsylvania Mayor Charles Lombardi, North Providence, Rhode Island Mayor Donald Grebien, Pawtucket, Rhode Island Mayor Angel Taveras, Providence, Rhode Island Mayor Scott Aredisian, Warwick, Rhode Island Mayor Joseph Riley, Charleston, South Carolina Mayor Joseph T. McElveen, Jr., Sumter, South Carolina Mayor Darrick Jackson, Timmonsville, South Carolina Mayor Ron Littlefield, Chattanooga, Tennessee Mayor Jerry Gist, Jackson, Tennessee Mayor Thomas W. Taylor, Maryville, Tennessee Mayor A C Wharton, Memphis, Tennessee Mayor Tom Beehan, Oak Ridge, Tennessee Mayor Bill Lusk, Signal Mountain, Tennessee Mayor Lee Leffingwell, Austin, Texas Mayor Tony Martinez, Brownsville, Texas Mayor Carl D. Sherman, DeSoto, Texas Mayor Annise D. Parker, Houston, Texas Mayor Richard Ward, Hurst, Texas Mayor Dave Claunch, West Lake Hills, Texas Mayor Dana Williams, Park City, Utah Mayor John Hollar, Montpelier, Vermont Mayor Christopher C. Louras, Rutland City, Vermont Mayor William B. Euille, Alexandria, Virginia Mayor Faye Prichard, Ashland, Virginia Mayor Satyendra Singh Huja, Charlottesville, Virginia Mayor McKinley Price, Newport News, Virginia Mayor Paul D. Fraim, Norfolk, Virginia Mayor Brian A. Moore, Petersburg, Virginia Mayor Robert W. Lazaro, Jr., Purcellville, Virginia Mayor Dwight C. Jones, Richmond, Virginia

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