

January 17, 2013

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

Dear Senator Feinstein:

On behalf of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW), the largest professional association of social workers in the United States with 145,000 members, we offer our support for the Assault Weapons Regulatory Act of 2013. Banning military-style assault weapons and high-capacity ammunition feeding devices will allow for a safer America. We commend your swift and appropriate response to the senseless tragedy in Newtown, Connecticut.

As you continue your work to prevent further tragedies from occurring, we encourage you and your colleagues to identify opportunities for investing in mental health services. NASW has been a longtime advocate for greater access to mental health services and mental health parity, and we believe that this is the most important component of the broader conversation regarding gun safety. We have learned from these increasing incidents of deadly violence that mental health prevention and treatment for those who need it most would have been the best investment possible.

Please call upon NASW if we can serve as a resource. I can be reached at 202.336.8200.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth J. Clark, PhD, ACSW, MPH
Executive Director