



U.S. Affiliate of International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War

PHYSICIANS FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY®

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

Dear Senator Feinstein:

We are writing this letter to express our full support for your Assault Weapons Regulatory Act of 2013. Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR) is the U.S. affiliate of International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, winner of the 1985 Nobel Peace Prize. We have over 35,000 members and activists, including health care providers who treat victims of gun violence on a daily basis.

Since 1982, there have been at least 62 mass shootings in the United States, including the recent Sandy Hook Elementary School massacre in Newtown, Connecticut. Most of these mass shootings have been committed with assault weapons fed by high capacity magazines. These weapons and magazines are designed to kill the maximum number of enemy combatants in the shortest period of time. PSR believes that there is no legitimate civilian use for such weapons systems.

We appreciate your leadership in introducing the Assault Weapons Regulatory Act, which will reduce the number of innocent people killed in mass shootings. As you are aware, though, while mass shootings are a serious public health problem, they account for small percentage of the total number of innocent civilians killed by guns in the United States. On an average day, 86 people, including five youth age 18 and under, are killed by guns in our country. The Assault Weapons Regulatory Act is just one step toward stopping our national epidemic of firearm related deaths and injuries. We look forward to working with you to foster additional sensible firearm legislation similar to the laws in other democratic, industrialized countries that have much lower rates of gun related deaths while still allowing legitimate hunters and target shooters to practice their sports.

Yours truly

Catherine Thomasson, MD
Executive Director

Bill Durston, MD
Emergency Physician and Board Member