

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

January 28, 2013

President Barack Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write to express our concerns regarding your announcement on January 16, 2013, and the executive actions signed regarding gun violence. As Members of Congress, we are sworn to protect the Constitution of the United States and take seriously this public oath which we uphold.

We all watched in horror as the tragic events unfolded at Sandy Hook elementary school in Newtown, Connecticut, and agree with you that our nation has suffered far too much at the hands of dangerous people who use guns to commit these atrocious acts of violence. As concerned lawmakers, we support any reasonable effort to prohibit criminals from gaining access to weapons, and encourage any action that would enhance safety in our schools.

However, we have very grave concerns regarding several of the suggestions you sent to Congress for consideration. Your proposals regarding firearm ownership do not account for the millions of Americans who use them responsibly. Owning a firearm does not make someone a dangerous criminal, but it may protect that individual from becoming another victim.

The extensive proclamation you made warrants a thoughtful discussion and careful analysis from the American people and those who represent them. Before rushing to draft any legislation that would prevent Americans from responsibly exercising their Second Amendment rights, we should ensure all possible solutions are taken into consideration. We must not allow law-abiding citizens to be penalized, or worse, criminalized by renewing legislation that does not address the very real problem of mass violence.

Further, we share your concerns about preventing those with any dangerous mental illness from having access to weapons. As you know, the House acted last year to more than double your request for the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS). We must continue this thoughtful and extensive dialogue reflective of our nation's values and Constitutional rights before rushing to implement any new laws. It is also imperative we address how pervasive violence has become in American culture.

As Members of Congress who represent a state filled with sportsmen and women, responsible gun owners, and law-abiding citizens who wish to protect themselves, we strongly encourage you to rescind your call for Congress to act rapidly on broad legislation that would diminish our Constitutional rights. We endorse a more transparent approach to this problem that respects the process of law-making and thorough debate that includes the voices of all Americans.

Sincerely,

  
George Holding

(NC-13)  
Member of Congress

  
Richard Hudson

(NC-08)  
Member of Congress

  
Mark Meadows

(NC-11)  
Member of Congress

  
Robert Pittenger

(NC-09)  
Member of Congress