May 27, 2014

Dear Honorable Legislator:

I am asking you, please, to take action. It is time for sensible gun laws. It is time for courage to do what is right. It is time to stop listening to extremists and the N.R.A., and start listening to the vast majority of Americans who support gun control.[[1]](#footnote-0) Please:

* Require a background check before firearm purchases. Keep firearms out of the hands of violent felons, domestic violence offenders, and people with a history of mental illness.
* Renew the ban on assault weapons.
* Ban open and concealed carry in public areas. There is no reason for private citizens to carry firearms in public areas.
* Legislate to give law enforcement the tools they need to shut down trafficking channels and prosecute gun traffickers.[[2]](#footnote-1)
* Fund illegal gun buyback and anonymous tip lines.

You may say that unrestricted gun ownership is a right bestowed by our Constitution. To that I say, by all means, allow people with muskets and rifles based on 1787-1788 era technology to be grandfathered in to these measures, without restriction. For those are the firearms with which the Constitutional framers were familiar. Today’s firearms would be inconceivable during the Constitutional Convention. Times have changed. Technology has changed. We need to respond, responsibly, to that change.

Please, do not allow the current level of devastation—an average of nearly two mass shootings PER MONTH during the last four years[[3]](#footnote-2)—to continue.

In the words of Richard Martinez, whose twenty-year-old son, Christopher, was murdered along with six others in a mass shooting near at the University of California Santa Barbara campus:

**“They talk about gun rights. What about Chris’s right to live? When will this insanity stop? When will enough people say, ‘Stop this madness; we don’t have to live like this?’ Too many have died. We should say to ourselves: not one more.”[[4]](#footnote-3)**

Please. Demonstrate the rationality and courage we elected you for. Stand for sensible gun laws. Say to your fellow legislators, and the citizens you represent, “Not one more.”

Sincerely,

Signature:

Name:

Address:

1. “Strong Majority of Americans, NRA Members Back Gun Control,” Seth Cline in*U.S. News and World Report*, 1/28/2013. [↑](#footnote-ref-0)
2. As suggested by Mayors Against Illegal Guns, http://everytown.org/learn/ [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
3. “Analysis of Recent Mass Shootings,” published by Mayors Against Illegal Guns, September 2013. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
4. As quoted in “Christopher Michael-Martinez’s Father Gets It Right**,”** by Adam Gopnik in*The New Yorker,* May 25, 2014. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)