

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515-2404

HOUSE ARMED SERVICES  
COMMITTEE  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON SEAPOWER AND  
PROJECTION FORCES  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON READINESS  
HOUSE SCIENCE, SPACE, AND  
TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE  
CHAIRMAN, SUBCOMMITTEE ON SPACE  
AND AERONAUTICS  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON RESEARCH AND  
SCIENCE EDUCATION

January 16, 2013

President Barack H. Obama  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, D.C. 20501

Dear Mr. President:

In your press conference today detailing your gun control demands, you recognized that the Second Amendment guarantees an individual right to bear arms for "hunting or sport or protection or collection." I appreciate your recognition of these lawful, legitimate uses that responsible gun owners across our nation so actively enjoy.

But, actions speak louder than words. Your call for Congress to pass gun control legislation directly threatens the Second Amendment. Many of the firearms that would fall under proposed gun ban initiatives would severely restrict the rights of millions of law-abiding Americans. These types of guns are rarely used in criminal homicides, but are commonly used for self-defense and sport.

The Founding Fathers understood that the right to bear arms goes beyond the right to self-defense or sport. The co-author of the Second Amendment, George Mason, remarked that "to disarm the people is the best and most effectual way to enslave them." And George Washington called the right to bear arms the "teeth" to preserving liberty. This is a fundamental right of every American citizen.

Taking guns away from law-abiding citizens only jeopardizes American's safety and well-being. I find it astounding that the very same administration that gave firearms to criminals who then contributed to the murder of Americans is now threatening to disarm law-abiding citizens.

I believe we can work together to protect our children, families, and schools. However, we must focus on the real issues, not scare tactics and fear-mongering. We should focus on increasing school security, raising mental health awareness, and providing support for law enforcement agencies.

Let me be clear: trying to push through gun control without the consent of an elected Congress is unacceptable. I urge you to reconsider your goals for gun control and commit to upholding our constitutional right to bear arms. I look forward to discussing this issue with you if you so desire.

Sincerely,



Steven M. Palazzo  
Member of Congress

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