



January 7, 2013 (Revised)*

Senator Dean G. Skelos, Leader, Republican Conference
Senator Jeffrey D. Klein, Leader, Independent Democratic Conference
Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins, Leader, Democratic Conference
Assemblymember Sheldon Silver, Speaker
Assemblymember Brian M. Kolb, Leader, Republican Conference
New York State Capitol
Albany, New York 12230

Dear Legislative Leaders:

The Sandy Hook School shootings have changed Americans' collective consciousness about gun violence in our country. The horror of witnessing 20 innocent elementary school children and their teachers being violently murdered will not be forgotten. It deserves the attention it is getting.


Yet we know that America's gun violence has been exceptional in the world for some time now. We know that every day children are being murdered with guns and it hardly makes news. Even mass shootings have become common enough that it takes an extraordinary horror to draw major news coverage. We also know that lax gun laws play a major role in contributing to this violence. We, as legislators, believe that we have an obligation to take sensible action to alter the course we're on and keep our communities safe.

There has been an appropriate focus on the need for federal action. We do indeed need such action, but we know that state legislators in New York and across the country have often created stronger laws than our federal counterparts can achieve consensus on, and whatever federal action may be taken now is unlikely to be an exception. As state legislators, we can and must lead the way. Our constituents are counting on it. They will demand a plan.

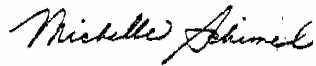
We are calling on you, as our legislative leaders, to move a legislative agenda that will yield real results in reducing gun violence. Our proposed agenda, which is attached ("Stronger Gun Laws: A Plan to Protect New Yorkers"), has been extensively reviewed by New Yorkers Against Gun Violence as well as the Violence Policy Center in Washington, DC. We are asking that these proposals be passed when the Legislature convenes in January, and sent to Governor Andrew Cuomo, who has called for strong, prompt state action.

This issue cries out for legislative action that puts the safety of all New Yorkers above considerations of politics and partisanship. It is time to act. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Sen. Eric Adams



M/A Michelle Schimel



M/A Brian Kavanagh

Additional Signatories*

Sen. Joseph P. Addabbo, Jr.	M/A David Buchwald	M/A John McEneny (former)
Sen. Tony Avella	M/A Karim Camara	M/A Grace Meng (former)
Sen. Neil D. Breslin	M/A Barbara M. Clark	M/A Joan L. Millman
Sen. Ruben Diaz	M/A William Colton	M/A Walter Mosley
Sen. Martin Malave Dilan	M/A Vivian E. Cook	M/A Francisco P. Moya
Sen. Thomas Duane (former)	M/A Marcos A. Crespo	M/A Catherine Nolan
Sen. Adriano Espaillat	M/A Michael G. Den Dekker	M/A Daniel J. O'Donnell
Sen. Michael Gianaris	M/A Jeffrey Dinowitz	M/A Félix Ortiz
Sen. Terry W. Gipson	M/A Steve Englebright	M/A Amy Paulin
Sen. Ruth Hassell-Thompson	M/A Rafael Espinal, Jr.	M/A Crystal Peoples-Stokes
Sen. Brad Hoylman	M/A Patricia Fahy	M/A N. Nick Perry
Sen. Timothy Kennedy	M/A Sandy Galef	M/A J. Gary Pretlow
Sen. Liz Krueger	M/A Vanessa L. Gibson	M/A Dan Quart
Sen. George S. Latimer	M/A Deborah Glick	M/A Phil Ramos
Sen. Velmanette Montgomery	M/A Phillip Goldfeder	M/A José Rivera
Sen. Ted O'Brien	M/A Richard Gottfried	M/A Naomi Rivera (former)
Sen. José Peralta	M/A Carl E. Heastie	M/A Annette Robinson
Sen. Kevin S. Parker	M/A Andrew Hevesi	M/A Robert J. Rodriguez
Sen. Bill Perkins	M/A Dov Hikind	M/A Gabriela Rosa
Sen. Gustavo Rivera	M/A Earlene Hooper	M/A Linda B. Rosenthal
Sen. John L. Sampson	M/A Rhoda Jacobs	M/A Nily Rozic
Sen. James Sanders	M/A Ellen Jaffee	M/A William Scarborough
Sen. José M. Serrano	M/A Micah Kellner	M/A Luis Sepulveda
Sen. Daniel Squadron	M/A Ron Kim	M/A Aravella Simotas
Sen. Toby Ann Stavisky	M/A Charles D. Lavine	M/A Frank Skartados
M/A Thomas Abinanti	M/A Joseph R. Lentol	M/A Phillip Steck
M/A Carmen E. Arroyo	M/A Barbara Lifton	M/A Eric A. Stevenson
M/A Inez D. Barron	M/A Vito J. Lopez	M/A Fred W. Thiele, Jr.
M/A William F. Boyland, Jr.	M/A Alan Maisel	M/A Matthew Titone
M/A Edward C. Braunstein	M/A Margaret M. Markey	M/A Harvey Weisenberg
M/A James F. Brennan	M/A Shelley Mayer	M/A David Weprin
M/A Alec Brook-Krasny	M/A John McDonald	M/A Keith Wright

* List of signatories, in formation, includes those who signed a similar letter dated December 20, 2012.

Attachment

Stronger Gun Laws: A Plan to Protect New Yorkers

Require Universal Background Checks on the Sale of all Guns

- Require all gun sales, including sales between individuals, to go through a licensed firearms dealer where a background check can be performed and proper records kept.
- Require criminal background checks on all gun dealer employees handling guns.

Strengthen Assault Weapons Ban

- Broaden the definition of assault weapon to ban any weapon that has one prohibited characteristic rather than two as specified in current law. Include a provision for the Superintendent of State Police to review new assault weapons and add them to a list of banned weapons if they meet statutory criteria. Currently New York City has such a ban.
- Ban possession and sale – no grandfathering.

Strengthen High Capacity Ammunition Magazine Ban

- Ban possession and sale of all high capacity ammunition magazines over 10 bullets.

Microstamping Legislation to Help Law Enforcement Solve Gun Crimes

- Require all semi-automatic handguns sold or delivered in New York to be equipped with a new technology that imprints a unique code onto the shell casings every time a gun is fired, so that guns can be traced from shell casings found at crime scenes.

Require Gun Licenses to be Renewed Every 5 Years

- Require 5-year renewable licenses for all those owning handguns. Currently licenses are only required to be renewed in New York City, on Long Island and in Westchester.

Improve Gun Dealer Regulations

- Require gun dealers to have stringent recordkeeping, submit inventory to law enforcement, store firearms safely, and report lost or stolen firearms.

Regulate Ammunition Sales

- Require background checks or showing of a permit on all ammunition sales. Look into types of ammunition sold if one does not have a handgun permit.

One Gun a Month

- Limit people to the purchase of no more than one handgun a month.