

Sheriff Scott J. Israel
Broward Sheriff's Office
2601 West Broward Boulevard
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33312
954.831.8920 • Fax : 954.321.5040
www.sheriff.org



January 29, 2013

U.S. Senator Bill Nelson
U.S. Senator Marco Rubio
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators:

Recently I participated in Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz's community roundtable on gun violence issues. I write you today -- in anticipation of the upcoming congressional hearings on gun violence issues -- to respectfully urge you to support the reasonable legislative proposals put forward by President Barack Obama to curb gun violence in America. As a 30-year law enforcement professional, I strongly believe the measures advanced by the President will help achieve this goal without putting an undue burden on our Second Amendment rights.

Specifically, I urge you to support federal legislation that would:

- Reinstatement and strengthening of a ban on military-style assault rifles and handguns, such as the Bushmaster AR-15;
- Ban high-capacity ammunition clips, limiting magazines to a maximum 10 bullets;
- Improve the National Instant Criminal Background Check System with more data from federal, states and health-care professionals;
- Close the "gun-show loophole" by making all gun sales -- including all "private" sales and any other gun transfers -- subject to universal federal background checks;
- Outlaw possession of armor-piercing bullets;
- Crack down on interstate gun trafficking;
- Put 1,000 more resource officers and counselors in our public schools;
- Require (as an affirmative duty) health-care workers to report present or future threats of violence to law enforcement authorities, just as health care providers are currently required to report suspected cases of child abuse; and
- End the freeze on federally funded research into gun violence issues.

This approach will not will "solve" the problem of gun violence or prevent a future Newtown or Aurora tragedy, as there are no easy answers. But this type of comprehensive approach using all of the above should reduce the likelihood and frequency of these tragic incidents, while protecting the Second Amendment rights of responsible and law-abiding gun owners.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott J. Israel". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Scott J. Israel
Sheriff, Broward County