

Dear Friends,

Like every parent, I was horrified by the loss of so much innocent life in the Newtown shooting on December 14. For too long, we have watched the rising numbers of children and other innocent Americans killed by guns without any meaningful response from the federal government. Enough is enough. Parents dropping their kids off at school should not have to worry about whether those kids will make it home for dinner. And parents in communities plagued by drugs and violence should not have to worry about whether their son or daughter will be hit by the next stray bullet. Now is the time to address the nationwide epidemic of gun violence.



Congressman Nadler discusses efforts to remove weapons of war from the streets. [Watch the video.](#)

This is why I support President Obama's common sense proposals to stem the rising tide of gun violence. These include closing the "gun show loophole" and requiring background checks on all gun purchases. Since over 80% of guns used in crimes are bought without a background check [1], closing this legal loophole is one of the simplest ways to keep guns out of the hands of convicted felons, fugitives, perpetrators of domestic violence, and those adjudicated mentally ill.

We must also make sure that weapons designed for the battlefield do not find their way into classrooms, movie theaters, or houses of worship. This is why I'm proud to support a ban on military-style assault weapons and high-capacity magazines. We also need a federal law against gun trafficking to crack down on the straw purchases that inundate our cities with illegal guns. And, as [I have proposed](#), we need to institute a robust buyback program to remove the weapons of war that are already on the streets.

I also support the President's proposals to increase funding for mental health programs in and out of schools. Properly treating mental health issues is a worthy cause in its own right, but we must not allow such efforts to serve as a replacement for robust actions to curb gun violence. Every other country in the world has its share of citizens with mental health issues. But only our nation's loophole-ridden gun laws have led to such disproportionately high levels of gun violence, killing 31,000 American every year [2].

To bring about these common sense reforms, we must fight the efforts of the gun lobby to delay and obstruct. For decades, this small but powerful group of gun manufacturers has worked to make more and more deadly weapons of war available with fewer and fewer safeguards against their misuse. Sadly, conservative ideologues in Congress and state legislatures have gone right along with this scheme, passing laws to encourage vigilante justice and granting sweeping immunity to gun dealers even in cases of gross negligence—a class of special legal protections offered to no other industry. The gun lobby has even managed to pressure Congress

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What is the most important step to reducing gun violence?

- [Ban assault weapons](#)
- [Universal background checks](#)
- [Ban high-capacity magazines](#)
- [Make law against trafficking](#)
- [Increase mental health funding](#)
- [Other](#)

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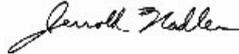
into banning even the most basic research into the causes of gun violence. These laws have done nothing to protect the rights and heritage of responsible gun owners and sportsmen, but have lined the pockets of the gun manufacturers while our children continue to die in suburban classrooms and city streets. Congress has helped create this crisis, and we must now act to remedy it.

We can no longer allow our children to continue to be gunned down because we are afraid to take on the powerful gun manufacturers. I look forward to working with sensible Democrats and Republicans alike as we debate putting in place reasonable safeguards to stem the plague of gun violence.

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Want to check out more of my work fighting to end gun violence? Make sure to follow me on [Twitter](#) as well as on [Facebook](#), [YouTube](#), and [Flickr](#) where you can see more of my work on these and many other issues.

Sincerely,



[1] Webster, Daniel, et al. "The Case for Gun Policy Reforms in America." The Johns Hopkins Center for Gun Policy and Research. October, 2012.

[2] "Injury Prevention & Control: Data & Statistics." National Center for Injury Prevention and Control. (Online) Accessed: February 4, 2013.

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MANHATTAN
201 Varick Street, Suite 669
New York, NY 10014
T (212) 367-7350

BROOKLYN
TEMPORARILY CLOSED
T (718) 373-3198

WASHINGTON, DC
2110 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515
T (202) 225-5635