

## GUN CONTROL STATEMENT

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Thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

NO ONE, I repeat, NO ONE, has ever suggested that we abrogate the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment. NO ONE, I repeat, NO ONE, has ever suggested that people should no longer own pistols or rifles. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment guarantees the right to own guns. The Supreme Court has confirmed that citizens have the right to own guns.

We all recognize the Constitutional right to bear arms. U. S. Citizens are entitled to the safe and responsible use of appropriate weapons. But, we should not be required to choose between our constitutional rights and the safety of our people. Neither sportsmen, nor those other Citizens interested in self-protection, need 30-round magazines or rapid fire weaponry. These weapons have but one purpose, and that is for rapid killing.

What should we do?

- \* A stricter definition of assault weapons, and a ban on assault weapons from being sold in this state, or carried in to this state;
- \* Stricter limitations on magazine capacity;
- \* A stronger background check system so that all sales (public, private, internet, and gun shows) are only to qualified individuals;
- \* Ensure that those who traffic in illegal guns are met with harsh criminal penalties;
- \* Regulate and track ammunition, whether sold publicly, privately, via the internet, or at gun shows.
- \* Mandate safe gun storage devices;

Top police commanders from several of our towns and cities have called for a ban on assault weapons. Various police organizations across the country have been allies of gun-control advocates going back to the 1980's.

I urge you to pass legislation regarding guns, ammunition and universal background checks, and to do so quickly. Do not try for an omnibus bill – including mental health regulations, or violent videos and movies. Yes, those issues must be addressed. However, omnibus legislation will

bring out advocates for and against various segments of the bill. Nothing much will happen, which is what the vested interests hope will happen.

Thank you for your attention.