



State of Connecticut

African-American Affairs Commission

State Capitol

210 Capitol Avenue – Room 509

Hartford, CT 06106

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Good afternoon Members of the Gun Violence Prevention Working Group. My name is Glenn A. Cassis and I am the Executive Director of the African-American Affairs Commission. The mission of the Commission is to promote and improve the economic, educational, health and political well-being of the African-American Community in Connecticut.

Criminal and unauthorized use of firearm weapons continues to threaten the lives of too many African-American residents especially those living in urban communities in Connecticut. Annually thousands in Connecticut are either killed or seriously wounded by the intentional or accidental discharge of firearms. The Commission supports the Working Group's effort to listen to the public and industry.

It is our hope that the General Assembly passes and Governor signs legislation that will reduce gun violence. This legislation should:

- require stricter registration for purchasing all firearms
- limit the number of weapons that can be purchased to one per month
- ban the sale and purchase of military-style semi and automatic assault weapons to everyone except the police and military
- extend criminal and mental health background checks for anyone purchasing a firearm and
- ban the sale and purchase of high capacity magazine clips

For too long firearms have shorten the lives of leaders like Dr. Martin L. King, John and Robert Kennedy, Malcom X and most recently the children and teachers in Newtown, CT. Making it easier to arm people with lethal firearms will lead to more fatalities. The Commission urges you to reverse the trend of gun violence. Thank you.

Glenn A. Cassis
Executive Director, AAAC