

COMMITTEES:

APPROPRIATIONS

COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND  
TRANSPORTATION

ENVIRONMENT AND  
PUBLIC WORKS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

December 18, 2012

Dear Colleague:

The events that took place on December 14, 2012 in Newtown, Connecticut have left us broken-hearted. This latest shooting tragedy was an unthinkable act of violence carried out against 20 innocent children and seven adults. As we reflect on this, and far too many other mass shootings, one lesson is clear: the Senate shouldn't wait another day to ban high-capacity ammunition magazines.

High-capacity magazines allow dozens of bullets to be discharged without reloading. Such magazines were used in the attacks in Newtown, Connecticut; Aurora, Colorado; Oak Creek, Wisconsin; Tucson, Arizona; and Blacksburg, Virginia. The Aurora shooting suspect had a 100-round ammunition magazine that he used with a semi-automatic rifle. If his rifle had not jammed, that magazine would have allowed him to inflict even more carnage than the 12 deaths and 58 injuries he actually caused. The Tucson shooter used a 30-round magazine in his assault that left six people dead and 14 others wounded, including our former colleague, Representative Gabrielle Giffords. The shooter was stopped by a group of heroic bystanders who were able to tackle him only when he attempted to reload. If the shooter had not been using a high-capacity magazine, he would have stopped to reload earlier and lives might have been saved. And as details of the Newtown tragedy emerge, it appears that the shooter used high-capacity magazines to fire dozens of rounds of ammunition inside the halls and classrooms of Sandy Hook Elementary School.

These high-capacity magazines were illegal from 1994 to 2004. In fact, Democrats and Republicans alike—including former President George W. Bush—called for the reinstatement of this sensible law in 2004, yet it was never renewed. High-capacity magazines are used by soldiers fighting wars; they do not belong on our streets and in our communities.

It's time to reinstate the common sense ban on high-capacity magazines. I urge you to join in co-sponsoring S. 32, The Large Capacity Ammunition Feeding Device Act, which bans the manufacture and transfer of magazines capable of carrying more than 10 rounds. The legislation is co-sponsored by Senators Boxer, Durbin, Feinstein, Franken, Kerry, Levin, Menendez, Reed, Schumer, Gillibrand, Cardin, and Whitehouse. Please have your staff contact Lexie Kuznick of my staff at 4-7225 if you would like to cosponsor or have any questions about this legislation.

Sincerely,

