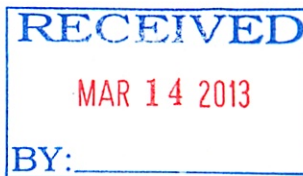




THE VICE PRESIDENT  
WASHINGTON



March 11, 2013

James B. Gottstein  
406 G Street  
Suite 206  
Anchorage, AK 99501

Dear James:

Thank you for writing to me about gun violence. We know how complex this issue is, and we appreciate you sharing your views.

After the tragedy at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut, a discussion reemerged about what we can do to prevent mass shootings in the future and how we can reduce the epidemic of gun violence across the Country. Like the majority of Americans, the President and I believe that the Second Amendment guarantees an individual right to bear arms. This Country has a strong tradition of gun ownership that has been handed down for generations. The overwhelming majority of gun owners in America are responsible citizens who buy their guns legally and use them safely. But to prevent tragedies like the shooting in Newtown or the gun violence that occurs on our streets every day, we need to be able to keep guns out of the wrong hands and keep the most dangerous weapons off the streets.

On Wednesday, December 19, 2012, President Obama asked me to lead members of the Cabinet in an effort to reduce gun violence that drew on the best ideas from outside organizations to put forward a set of concrete proposals. On January 16, 2013, the President and I released our plan to reduce gun violence in America, which includes closing background check loopholes to keep guns out of dangerous hands; banning military-style assault weapons and high-capacity magazines, and taking other common-sense steps to reduce gun violence; making schools safer; and increasing access to mental health services. While no law or set of laws will end gun violence, our Nation has suffered too much at the hands of dangerous people who use guns to commit horrific acts of violence.

For more information on the plan, please visit: [www.whitehouse.gov/now-is-the-time](http://www.whitehouse.gov/now-is-the-time). Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,

Joseph R. Biden, Jr.