AMERICAN NURSES ASSOCIATION

8515 Georgia Avenue, Suite 400
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910-3492
301 628-5000 • Fax 301 628-5001
www.NursingWorld.org

Karen A. Daley, PhD, MPH, RN, FAAN
President

Marla J. Weston, PhD, RN
Chief Executive Officer

April 17, 2013

The Honorable Harry Reid
Senate Majority Leader
522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader Reid,

On behalf of the American Nurses Association (ANA), the only full-service professional organization representing the interests of the nation's 3.1 million Registered Nurses, I urge you to support S. 150 "Assault Weapons Ban of 2013." ANA is deeply concerned over the continued gun violence perpetrated in this country every day. The tragic events that took the lives of 26 innocent men, women and children at Sandy Hook elementary school in Connecticut serve as a reminder of the continuing problem of dealing with both mental illness and relatively easy access to assault weapons in our country.

As the largest providers of healthcare services in this country, nurses are uniquely positioned to witness first-hand the devastating impact of gun violence. Gunshot victims make up a sizeable number of patients in many of our country's urban emergency rooms. While ANA fully respects the Second Amendment and a citizen's right to bear arms, we also know that some sensible steps can be taken to both protect the rights provided to us in the Constitution and tightening laws to help curb the ready access to assault weapons in this country.

ANA recognizes that not all violent crimes in this country are perpetrated with assault weapons but we believe that banning access to high capacity, high velocity weapons will lead to a reduction in not only gun shot victims but violent crime in general.

S. 150 works to strengthen existing gun laws and enhance public safety by banning assault weapons. ANA urges you to support the passage of this important legislation. Thank you again for your consideration of our request and your continued leadership and support.

Sincerely,

Rose Iris Gonzalez, PhD, MPS, RN

Director, Government Affairs