



February 28, 2013

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor of New York State
New York State Capital Building
Albany, New York 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo,

On behalf of the residents of the City of Rochester, we write to express support for you and the State Legislature for enacting the New York Secure Ammunition and Firearms Enforcement (NY SAFE) Act. It is our collective belief that you and the Legislature have shown sound leadership in helping to enact the strongest measures to curb gun violence of any state.

The new law includes the strongest assault weapons ban in the nation and we not only endorse this, we have acted upon it. Rochester has had an assault weapon ban on the books since 1993. The NY SAFE Act also includes additional safeguards to prevent guns from falling into the hands of society's most dangerous individuals. While we support the right to bear arms, we feel that this law takes the necessary steps to ensure that gun ownership is done in a responsible manner.

Such measures are long overdue in our State, and it is our hope that other states, as well as the federal government, will follow the example set by New York to ensure that these dangerous weapons are kept out of the hands of those capable of inflicting mass violence.

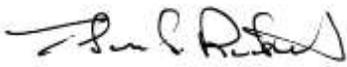
On top of the ban on assault weapons, the NY SAFE Act contains several common-sense measures, such as new regulations to ensure all gun and ammunition purchasers are subject to a background check and providing for the safe storage of firearms.

As residents of the City of Rochester and Monroe County who have, too often, seen those who protect us and keep us safe victimized by senseless gun violence, we applaud you and Legislature for including the Webster Provision in this law, which mandates a life sentence for anyone who murders a first responder.

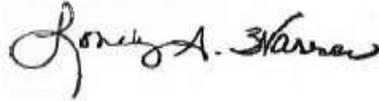


New York has long been known for its leadership in progressive ideals. At certain times, doing what is necessary to protect our communities involves the degree of determination and resolve that we recently saw on display by lawmakers in Albany. The people of Rochester are safer today because you and the State Legislature have taken a stand against gun violence.

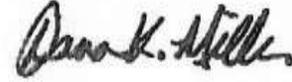
Sincerely,



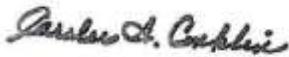
Thomas S. Richards
Mayor



Lovely A. Warren
President, City Council
Northeast Representative



Dana K. Miller
Vice President, City Council
Member, At-Large



Carolee A. Conklin
Member, At-Large



Matt Haag
Member, At-Large



Adam C. McFadden
South Representative



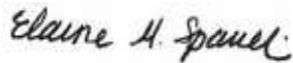
Jacklyn Ortiz
Member, At-Large



Carla M. Palumbo
Northwest Representative



Loretta C. Scott
Member, At-Large



Elaine M. Spaul
East Representative