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On Behalf Of:  
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The Second Amendment guarantees law-abiding Americans the Right to Keep and Bear Arms, but over time, gun control laws have placed limits on that freedom. Criminals Don't Obey Gun Control Laws and so putting restrictions in place only served to limit the rights of law-abiding citizens and those who are exceedingly more careful and conscientious. Criminals overwhelmingly obtain their firearms through illegal channels and will never be deterred by state and federal laws. Again and again, firearm background checks have proven to be ineffective. What we do know is that they simply make the gun buying process more difficult for law-abiding citizens. Gun control does not significantly reduce crime. In fact, cities with some of the most stringent gun laws, like New York and Chicago, suffer from some of the highest violent crime rates. Studies have shown that homicide rates tend to rise when law-abiding citizens are unable to own and carry firearms for self-defense and the recent statistics from some of the country's most anti-gun cities confirm this conclusion. Ours is an open and free society with a long-established history of gun ownership, for hunting, recreational shooting and personal protection. Those proponents for gun control would argue that the countries of Europe have significantly fewer instances of gun violence. I would argue that those countries have either confiscated their citizen's weapons, such as England, or they never had a history of widespread gun ownership. The United States history of widespread gun ownership is unique, a history and right supported by the 2nd Amendment. Police cannot be everywhere all of the time, they are a limited human resource, limited by budgetary constraints and by constraints of time. Law abiding citizens have the right to possess firearms for their protection because the Police cannot always be in the right place at the right time. Law-abiding citizens have the right to arm themselves as they see fit, whether it be a handgun with a large capacity magazine, or a rifle with a detachable magazine and military style accessories. I do not believe that the banning of high-capacity magazines would deter an armed criminal, intent on committing large scale violence from committing that violence. It takes very little time to affect a magazine change, whether it be with a handgun or a rifle with a detachable magazine. You need only look at the 2007 Virginia Tech shootings. In that incident, a mentally unstable person, using two handguns conducted seventeen magazine changes. Those magazines were a mix of high capacity AND restricted capacity. Restricting law abiding gun owners does not make our society safer. I urge you as our legislators to pay attention to the rights afforded to citizens through the Constitution.