



State of South Carolina Office of the Governor

NIKKI R. HALEY
GOVERNOR

1205 PENDLETON STREET
COLUMBIA 29201

Dear Fellow Citizen,

Thank you for your recent correspondence regarding the right to keep and bear arms. First, let me say that my heart broke along with the families of those affected by the tragedy at Sandy Hook Elementary in Newtown, Connecticut, and that my prayers are with Newtown's families as they find the strength to move forward.

The events of the past few weeks have put a spotlight on the need to revisit our approach to providing mental health services in the United States. In the wake of this heartbreak, we must renew our commitment to getting our friends, neighbors, and loved ones the care that they need during the darkest times in their lives. As Governor, I have placed a high priority on these efforts, proposing more than \$16 million in additional funding for our Department of Mental Health last year, compounded with another \$11.4 million recommended for the upcoming year.

As we work to prevent future Sandy Hooks, I feel strongly that the answer lies in a stronger mental health system instead of in more restrictions on our Second Amendment rights. With the right approach, we can protect our children and our Constitution at the same time. God bless.

My very best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nikki".

Nikki R. Haley

NRH/jdb

A handwritten note in black ink that says "Thanks so much!" with a large exclamation mark.