

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

Governor Cuomo:

As a veteran who swore an oath to “support and defend the Constitution of the United States...and bear true faith and allegiance to the same,” I am trying to fathom why my state government has chosen to treat me like a criminal for exercising the very rights found in the United States Constitution.

The right to keep and bear arms was affirmed on December 15, 1791, when the states ratified the Bill of Rights, and that right has guaranteed our Republic and our other rights ever since. New York was the seventh state to ratify. We should take pride in that fact.

When I put on our nation’s uniform, I vowed to do my part to preserve those rights. America, and the freedoms we preserved in our Constitution, are both worth defending. For that reason, I find the New York SAFE Act, and its clear intent to curtail our Second Amendment rights to be abhorrent.

I took an oath, and my oath is not merely for the period of my service. It is a lifetime promise. That is why I am urging you, my elected employee, to do the right thing. This bill was conceived in the dark of night, passed with virtually no debate at midnight, and many of its provisions became effective immediately. Since then, we have seen that, aside from its gross failure to abide the U.S. Constitution and the New York State Civil Rights Law, Article II, Section 4, the law failed to even make necessary exemptions for the safety of our Law Enforcement Officers. The SAFE Act is a bad law. Most laws that are rushed through without public debate are.

Governor, I have no doubt you were reacting to the horrors of Newtown. Every veteran, and every soldier, sailor, airman and Marine who still wears the uniform were equally aghast at the face of evil. **That evil, though, was not carried out by modern firearms. It was carried out by an evil man** who would have killed just as readily no matter how many gun control laws were put in place. He would have done so because, in the words of President Ronald Reagan, after being shot by a mentally deranged assailant, *“You won’t get gun control by disarming law-abiding citizens. There’s only one way to get real gun control: Disarm the thugs and the criminals, lock them up and if you don’t actually throw away the key, at least lose it for a long time... It’s a nasty truth, but those who seek to inflict harm are not fazed by gun controllers. I happen to know this from personal experience.”*

I served my country with honor. I took up arms for my nation. I should be able to do the same for my family, not count bullets to make sure I don’t accidentally load an eighth bullet and become a felon. I should have access to the right firearms to make my family and my community safer as well. After all, I’m on your side: **I want our state and our children to be safe too. That’s why I wore our uniform.**

Disarming me, and other law-abiding veterans, will not make our children safer. Repeal this bad law, and let’s work together to make New York *truly* safe.

Sincerely,

Name

Street Address

City, State ZIP