State Representative

BRENDAN SHARKEY

Speaker of the House

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State Representative

BRENDAN SHARKEY, SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

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April 23, 2013

DEAR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS,

I wanted to update you on the historic gun safety legislation passed by the Connecticut General Assembly earlier this month and signed into law by Governor Malloy.

STRONGEST GUN SAFETY LAWS IN THE NATION

Following the Newtown tragedy in December, I created and led a bipartisan task force on gun violence and children's safety. Together – Democrats and Republicans – we developed the strongest gun safety laws in the country.

With the nation's eyes on Connecticut, there was pressure to act quickly. While it was important to act quickly, I believed it was more important to act intelligently. I remained committed to the bipartisan approach because we do our best work when we all work together, and this legislation is a great example of that.

Provisions of our new law here in Connecticut include a universal background check system for the sale of all firearms, an expanded assault weapons ban, a ban on high capacity magazines over 10 bullets, background checks for the purchase of ammunition and a first in the nation dangerous weapon offender registry.

SCHOOL SECURITY, MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

In addition to addressing access to firearms and ammunition, the legislation begins to set standards for school security and makes funds available to help towns with security upgrades. The wide reaching bill also improves access to mental health treatment and support for individuals and their families.

A BIPARTISAN RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT THE PUBLIC

One of government's top responsibilities is to protect the public and Connecticut was able to show the country that a comprehensive approach to reducing gun violence can be done on a bipartisan basis.

To all of you who contacted my office on this issue I thank you for your input and for sharing your opinions. I hope you agree that Connecticut will be a safer place as a result of this historic legislation.

Sincerely,

BRENDAN SHARKEY, SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

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