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SUBMISSION TO PETITIONS COMMITTEE, NZ PARLIAMENT

FIANZ OPPOSES THE PETITION :

That the House of Representatives allow bona fide competitive shooters from gun clubs to own banned semi-automatic rifles for competition.

WE ARE!

WWW.FIANZ.COM

The Federation of Islamic Associations of New Zealand, FIANZ, is the national Muslim umbrella organisation.

We thank the Petitions Committee for inviting us to make a submission with respect to the petition "that the House of Representatives allow bona fide competitive shooters from gun clubs to own banned semi-automatic rifles for competition".

The stated rationale for the petition is that the changes to the Arms Act 1983, would enable New Zealanders to practise with semi-automatic weapons so that they can "compete on an equal footing" in competitions organized by the International Practical Shooting Confederation (IPSC) and the USA National Rifle Association (NRA). It has also been mentioned that one of the benefits of participating in the above competitions is that it would enhance NZ global recognition and prestige.

FIANZ opposes the proposed amendment to the Arms Act 1983 which would allow club members to own and use prohibited semi-automatic weapons on ranges in NZ.

The following are some considerations with respect to the petition.

15 February 2024

The whole basis of the petition is to allow the ownership and usage of semi-automatic weapons for international competitions. In this context, it has been mentioned that before the ban on centrefire semi-automatic rifles, New Zealand excelled in competitions such as 3-gun, IPSC, NRA Silhouette, and NRA Speed Steel Rifle, which all require centrefire rifles to meet the power factor requirements.

FIANZ RESPONSE

Making generalized statements with no supporting evidence is tantamount to hearsay. Given the gravity of the changes being proposed, we would have expected detailed information on the specific competitions which NZ had won earlier and "excelled" and ones that we no longer can compete due to the existing legislation. No such evidence has been provided. Changing a legislation which was passed by parliament as a direct consequences of 51 persons being killed on 15 March 2019, would be tantamount to degrading the lives which were lost and continue the trauma of the impacted widows, children and whānau.

FIANZ has conducted its own research on this matter. What we found totally negate the rationale proposed by the petitioner.

EVIDENCE 1¹:

Since 1999, NZ has not won a single IPSC World Record. In the twenty long years before NZ banned semi-automatic weapons, there is no evidence of NZ having excelled in IPSC competitions. We have no clue as to what metrics have been used to denote that NZ has "excelled in the past". In sporting terms, a World Record is a quality benchmark of excellence. Simply winning standard competitions is not excelling. NZ has been absent from any World Record of an IPSC competition event over the last 20 years. Evidence is provided below.



INTERNATIONAL PRACTICAL SHOOTING CONFEDERATION IPSCORG

World records are based on the number of points actually achieved by a competitor at an IPSC Handgun World Shoot multiplied by 100 and divided by the total points available.

Open Division

Lady

Senior

Super Senior

Team - Overall

Annette Aysen (USA)

Jerry Miculek (USA)

Elliot Aysen (USA)

Todeschini, Brusin, Ricciardi, Zambonin (ITA)

pen bivision					
Category	Name	World Shoet	Location	Year	Record
Overall	Eric Grauffel (FRA)	35	Bal, Indonesia	2008	95.969
Ledy	Karla Blowers (AUS)	201	Frostoroof, USA	2014	72.547
Junior	Eric Grauffel (FRA)	38	Cebu, Philippines	1999	91,588
Serior	Michael Voigt (USA)	XVN	Fransproof, USA	2014	76,726
Super Senior	Thierry Obriot (FRA)	358	Framproof, USA	2014	67,702
Team - Overall	Racaza, Eusebio, Michel, Tilley (1/54)	350	Rhodes, Greece	2011	90.409
Team-Ledy	Cabalatungan, Lee, Tan, Kangleon (PHD	308	Pletersburg, South Africa	2002	68.873
Team - Junior	Balsley. Coley. Mc Ginty. Mc Cord (USA)	30	Ball. Indonesia	2008	81.066
Team - Senior	Voigt, Pearson, Townley, Dosthuisen (USA)	308	Frostproof, USA	2014	72.048
Team - Super Senior	Delos Santos, Hizon, Pontanilla (PHI)	304	Rhodes, Greece	2011	46,716
oduction Division	1				
Category	Name	World Shoot	Location	Tear	Record
Överali	Eric Grauffel (FRA)	XVII	Fromproof, USA	2014	95.1079
Lady	Maria Gushchina (RUS)	20/8	Frostproof, USA	2014	79.0066
Junior	Adam Tyc (CZE)	XIV	Gueyequil, Ecuador	2005	85.1758
Senior	Frank Garcia (USA)	XVII	Fromproof, USA	2014	80.2774
Super Senior	Miroslav Kamenicek (CZE)	2018	Fraggroof, USA	2014	63.4688
Team - Overall	Aacaza, Stoeger, Mink (USA)	20/8	Franzoroof, USA	2014	88.6826
Team - Lady	Gushchina, Barinova, Chernenko, Bykowa (RUS)	2018	Frostproof, USA	2014	63.8843
Team - junior	Hethenington, Katz, Morton, Clagg (USA)	20/00	Frostproof, USA	2014	77.7895
Team – Senior	Anglo, Castro, Sy, Gotamco (PHI)	XVII	Frostproof, USA	2014	66.7314
andard Division					
Category	Name	World Shoot	Location	Year	Record
Overall	Rob Leatham (USA)	XIII	Pietersburg, South Africa	2002	92.551
Lady	Petra Tutschke (GER)	XIV	Guayaquil, Ecuador	2005	64.718
Junior	Michael Ron Ligon (PHI)	XVII	Frostproof, USA	2014	75.791
Senior	Emanuel Bragg (USA)	XVII	Frostproof, USA	2014	80.319
Super Senior	Esterino Magli (ITA)	XVII	Frostproof, USA	2014	72.804
Team – Overall	Leatham, Voigt, Avery, Strader (USA)	XIII	Pietersburg, South Africa	2002	89.644
Team – Lady	Rogers, Nonaka, Munson, Randolph (USA)	XVI	Rhodes, Greece	2011	61.962
Team – Senior	Santarcangelo, Silvera, D'Alessandro, Simula (ITA)	XVII	Frostproof, USA	2014	74.158
assic Division					
Category	Name	World Shoot	Location	Year	Record
Overall	Robert Leatham (USA)	XVII	Frostproof, USA	2014	90.6032
Lady	Anne-Valérie Fonder (FRA)	XVII	Frostproof, USA	2014	55.2437
Senior	Rob Leatham (USA)	XVII	Frostproof, USA	2014	90.6032
Super Senior	Daniel Torrevillas (PHI)	XVII	Frostproof, USA	2014	64.1794
Team - Overall	Leatham, Jarrett, Byerly, Dilworth (USA)	XVII	Frostproof, USA	2014	84.4153
odified Division					
Category	Name	World Shoot	Location	Year	Record
Overall	Jojo Vidanes (USA)	XV	Bali, Indonesia	2008	93.0787
Senior	Rob Leatham (USA)	XVI	Rhodes, Greece	2011	87.7391
	Lejano, Uygongco, Biraogo, Sy (PHI)	XIV	Guayaquil, Ecuador	2005	88.7525
Team – Overall					
Team - Overall evolver Division Category	Name	World Shoot	Location	Year	Record

XVII

XIV

XVII

XV

Frostproof, USA

Guayaquil, Ecuador

Frostproof, USA

Bali. Indonesia

2014

2005

2014

2008

57.2655

93.2697 74.5214

83.3876

Not a single mention of NZ is any of the IPSC World Record. No evidence has been provided as to how and when NZ "excelled" in IPSC Competitions.

EVIDENCE 2²:

If the quantity of competition medals won is a metrics for NZ 'excelling', then the information provided by the petitioner is also directly contrary to the evidence. What is most interesting to note is that the number of President's Medals NZ has won has actually increased since the ban on terrorist's favourite semi-automatic weapon..The evidence is below.





INTERNATIONAL PRACTICAL Shooting Confederation IPSC.org

Gold medals are awarded to the top placing individuals in IPSC sanctioned matches. (See Match Results)

Please note:

Medals are awarded to Division winners (Open, Standard, Classic, Production, Production Optics, Production Optics Light and Revolver) **only** when there are at least 10 competitors in the Division Division for Level III matches (20 competitors in the Division for Level IV and higher matches), and to Category winners (Lady, Junior, Super Junior, Senior and Super Senior) **only** when there are at least 5 competitors in the Category.

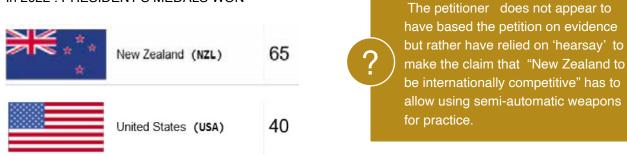


The petition does not appear to be based on coherent and accurate information. In fact the evidence is quite the opposite.

EVIDENCE 3³:

It would be logical to assume that countries which have not banned semi-automatic weapons would have more medals than countries which have banned semi-automatic weapons. The petitioner claims that since they cannot practise with semi-automatic weapons they cannot be internationally competitive. The evidence does not match the claim by the petitioner.

In 2022 : PRESIDENT'S MEDALS WON



In the USA there is no ban on practising with semi-automatic weapons. In NZ we have a ban. Yet NZ has won more medals than the USA. This fact is incongruous to the claim by the petitioner. There is no data available on which of the above were competitions with semi-automatic weapons, hence we have taken the fully tally of medals.

EVIDENCE 4⁴:

A substantive claim by the petitioner is that by winning "NRA competitions will give NZ global recognition and prestige".⁵ We find this claim very problematic, given that the NRA competitions do not seem to give any recognition to the country of the winner. They only specify the name of the individual and the team. The team names are not based on country but such anecdotal names as "Ultradot" or "Zero", or "Illinois State Blue" or "Illinois State Red". These are hardly " international competition giving "prestige and recognition" to NZ as a country.

Below we have given the 2023 winners list of the CentreFire Team Championship.





https://www.nrahq.org/compete/natpdf/cp122-23.pdf
https://www.parliament.nz/resource/en-NZ/53SCPET_EVI_118543_PET4264/6dae1dfa4de28ae6077f68c58d648daca5085306

2023 National	Matches	Final R	lesults Bulletin	Total Entries - 5
Match Winner		112-5 ULTRADOT / LAPUA/ ROC HM - 5042 - BICKAR, JOHN HM - 5023 - SHUE, JONATHAN HM - 5005 - KOPSTEIN, ADAM HM - 5003 - SILVA, TONY Capt 5005 - ADAM KOPSTEIN Coach 5003 - TONY SILVA	CK RIVER 1151 - 40 286 - 8 295 - 17 285 - 8 285 - 7	HM Each Firing Team Member Receives - A Smith and Wesson Trophy Plaque
		Bal	ance of Teams	
	1. HM	112-4 ZERO / LAPUA HM - 5043 - HEMPHILL, PHILIP HM - 5019 - JORGENSON, TRAVIS HM - 5004 - ZUREK, JOHN HM - 5002 - LANGE, DAVID Capt 5002 - DAVID LANGE	1150 - 48 281 - 12 289 - 13 293 - 12 287 - 11	
	2. <mark>MA</mark>	Coach 5002 - DAVID LANGE 112-6 ISRPA EX - 5064 - LEUNG, MATTHEW MA - 5061 - PARDIECK, STEVEN MA - 5046 - REARDON, TOM MA - 5014 - DESSUIT, FRANKLIN Capt 5061 - STEVEN PARDIECK Coach 5065 - REAGAN PARDIECK	1132 - 36 278 - 8 286 - 8 283 - 11 285 - 9	
	3. MA		1054 - 22 268 - 5 263 - 4 253 - 3 270 - 10	
	4. <mark>EX</mark>	MU - 5030 - SCHOELER, SCOTT MU - 5030 - SCHOELER, SCOTT MU - 5017 - ZIZZO, ANDREW EX - 5009 - WEBER, JOEL MK - 5001 - POLTORAK, ALEX Capt 5009 - JOEL WEBER No Coach	983 - 20 231 - 3 243 - 4 270 - 7 239 - 6	

MATCH 122 — CENTER FIRE TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP National Match Course - 4-Member Teams

How does it help NZ's prestige and recognition when no country is mentioned on any official list of winners.

The petition mentions that by participating in IPSC competition will lead to prestige and global recognition. It asserts that such competitions will provide NZ global recognition.

FIANZ RESPONSE

The 'international competitions' mentioned by the petitioner are not global iconic-sport events such as the Olympics, the Commonwealth Games or even the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) Championships (which is recognized by the Olympics). The International Practical Shooting Confederation (IPSC) championship mentioned by the petitioner, is a collection of national and international events, which are reliant on sponsorship of arms and related suppliers and manufacturers . They use these events to promote their ware. The IPSC has no international recognition by global sports authorities such as the Olympics or even the ISSF⁶, which is the world's oldest rifle shooting global organisation. Instead the IPSC only have recognized partnership with commercial firms.7

EVIDENCE 1:

The IPSC proudly mentions in all their promotion and official information that their "Global Partners" are weapons and related suppliers and manufacturers.8



Whilst having global weapon sponsors are not in itself an issue, but what is of concern with respect to credibility is that IPSC clearly states that the competitions are used for collecting "marketing data".9

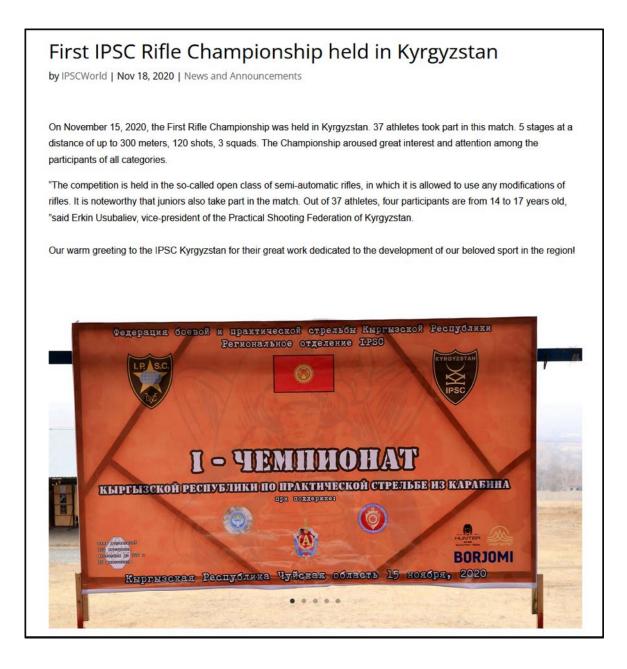


We ask the question, why should NZ make exception to its semi-automatic weapons ban for the sake of collecting "marketing data" for the benefit of weapon manufacturers and suppliers.

https://www.ipsc.org/what-is-ipsc/# https://www.ipsc.org/partners-and-sponsors/ https://www.ipsc.org/partners-and-sponsors/

EVIDENCE 2:

A deep-dive search of the IPSC website only has one reference to semi-automatic weapons championship . This was the First Rifle Championship held in Kyrgystan where only 27 'athletes' took part and all were from the home country.¹⁰



This is hardly an international competition which will bring NZ significant recognition. There is no other mention of any semi-automatic weapon competition in the IPSC website

The petitioner is seeking changes to the Arms Act with a nonchalant statement that totally disregards the robust integrated systems and processes required for arms registry by simply asserting that "NZ can adopt the same system as the existing B-category endorsement.. and allow only gun club members to own semi-automatic weapons."¹¹

FIANZ RESPONSE

The petitioner is in effect, seeking a reversal of the semi-automatic weapons ban so that few thrill seeking can compete internationally with weapons developed for mass-killing. The petitioner has totally disregarded the complexity of the arms regulatory eco-system and the statutory review. Furthermore, we are not in favour of ad hoc changes,

EVIDENCE 1:

The petitioner is probably not even aware that there will be a statutory review of changes to the Arms Act 1983 after the Arms Legislation Act 2020 has been in force for three years. Given the new registry started in June 2023, there will be a review in in 2026. That would be an appropriate time to raise this issue of international competition. This would avoid all the ad hoc legislative changes that the petitioner is proposing which benefits only thrill-shooting competitors of mass-killing weapons and leaves the taxpayers with more added costs.

EVIDENCE 2:

It has cost over \$200 million for the newly established Arms Registry. The petitioner is seeking to add at least another \$30 million on top of that so that a few shooters can compete overseas . There has been no consideration to the burden of cost for the vast majority of taxpayers who are not interested in owning weapons of mass-killing . By simply stating " NZ can adopt the same system as the existing B-category endorsement" the petitioner is glossing over the complex integrated registry ecosystem which NZ has developed and the costs associated with further modification for the benefit of a few who seek the thrill of rapid fire of mass-killing weapons.



The petitioner has disregarded the complex regulatory system to keep NZer's safe. The petitioner is advocating for ad hoc changes for the benefit of few shooting thrill seekers who want to own weapons designed for mass shooting and warfare.

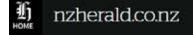
The petition is seeking a law change so that only gun club members can own semi-automatic weapons rather than the public, because gun club members are "law-abiding" and "exemplary citizens".¹²

FIANZ RESPONSE

We have no doubt that the petitioner sincerely believes that all gun-club members are law-abiding and exemplary citizens, however no evidence has been provided and this exclusivity of entitlement is incongruous in the face of evidence.

EVIDENCE 1:

The petitioner is simply relying on wishful sincerity rather than empirical evidence when claiming that gun club members are law-abiding and exemplary citizens. Even a casual search would reveal the undertones of such statements are simply fiction.13 14



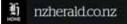
Māngere murder accused was gun enthusiast and competitive gun club member, jury hears

Hardly..... law abiding



By Qiuyi Tan Open Justice multimedia journalist, Auckland

3 May, 2023 08:27 PM ① 3 mins to read



A gun enthusiast who retrieved his military-style AR-15 semi-automatic rifle from home after his pride was hurt in a South Auckland melee - aiming it at a moving car and killing the teen driver - has been sentenced to prison.

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The owner of a controversial gun club has been spared a conviction after arguing it could affect his ability to travel overseas with a firearm.

The Auckland Shooting Club, which he co-owns, has raised the ire of residents in the quiet valley since it opened in 2017.

https://www.parliament.nz/resource/en-NZ/53SCPET_EVL_118543_PET3899/d871904afabdc27cbea3d2818f30e9f2ef28988d https://www.nzheraid.co.nz/nz/mangere-murder-accused-was-gun-enthusiast-and-competitive-gun-club-member-jury-hears/KNBUDR3WC5AZBLNORPGXHJLGTY/ https://www.stuft.co.nz/auxkland/118322423/pro-shooter-spared-conviction-for-unlawful-earthmoving-over-fears-of-increased-vigilance-while-travelling-with-guns?%SFcid=facebook.post&cid=facebook.post

EVIDENCE 2:

The petitioner has simply failed on the most basic fact that the March 15 terrorist was a member of gun club.



ROYAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO THE TERRORIST ATTACK ON CHRISTCHURCH MOSQUES ON 15 MARCH 2019

TE KÕMIHANA UIUI A TE WHAKAEKE KAIWHAKATUMA I NGÅ WHARE KÕRANA O ÕTAUTAHI I TE 15 O POUTŪ-TE-RANGI 2019 IGNORING THIS IMPORTANT FACT ATTESTS TO THE SINGULAR DISRE-GARD OF THE TRAGIC HORROR CAUSED BY A GUN CLUB MEMBER WHO COWARDLY TOOK THE LIFE OF 51 INNOCENT WORSHIPPERS.

IN OUR VIEW THIS IS NOT AN OVERSIGHT BUT DELIBERATE AND REPREHENSIBLE

25 February 2018	The individual attended the Bruce Rifle Club for a probationary shoot.
25 February 2018	The Bruce Rifle Club emailed a membership application to the individual.
26 February 2018	The individual completed an application form and emailed it to the Bruce Rifle Club.
26 February 2018	The individual's membership at the Bruce Rifle Club was approved.

The essence of the petition is to "allow Gun Club members to own semi-automatic weapons". The rationale is that this would enable them to compete at international events and bring prestige to NZ.

FIANZ RESPONSE

15 March 2019 has taught New Zealand an important lesson in not being naïve that we are a 'safe country'. One of the Royal Commission focus was on the risks impacting our national safety and wellbeing. The petitioner has a complete void on the risk parameters associated with this petition.

EVIDENCE 1:

An estimated 10 per cent of New Zealand's 250,000 licensed shooters belong to a gun club.¹⁵ The petitioner is advocating that potentially 25,000 shooters be allowed to buy semi-automatic weapons designed for mass killing in warfare. This would change the safety landscape of NZ beyond recognition and make a complete mockery of the key lesson learned after 15 March. The petitioner simply has not done the risk analysis to advocate that 25,000 " gun club members to own semi-automatic weapons". It should be noted that the March 15 terrorist had bought 10 guns.

Table 5: The individual's firearms purchases 2017-2018

Date Purchased	Description	Calibre	Seller	Cost	Later sold
4 December 2017	Tikka T3X Lite stainless / synthetic rifle	.308	Hunting & Fishing Dunedin – purchased in person	\$1,499.00	Yes
5 December 2017	Windham Weaponry WW-15 semi- automatic rifle	.223	NZ Hunter Group Ltd – purchased online	\$1,799.90	No
12 December 2017	Ranger 870 Magnum pump action shotgun	12 gauge	Gun City – purchased online	\$349.00	No
12 December 2017	Norinco SKS semi- automatic rifle	7.62 x 39	Gun City - purchased online	\$499.00	Yes
13 December 2017	Mossberg 930 SPX semi- automatic shotgun	12 gauge	Gun City Hamilton – purchased online	\$1,599.00	No
15 December 2017	Ruger 10/22 semi- automatic rifle	.22 LR	Elio's Gun Shop Dunedin	\$695.00	Yes
18 December 2017	Uberti lever action rifle	.367 magnum	Hayes & associates Ltd – purchased online	\$2,300:00	No
4 March 2018	Mossberg MVP Predator bolt action rifle	223	Gun City Dunedin – purchased on Trade Me. Collected in person	\$766.00	No
19 March 2018	Ranger TAC-12 SYN semi- automatic shotgun	12 gauge pump action	Gun City Christchurch	\$999.00	Yes
18 April 2018	Ruger AR-556 AR-15 semi- automatic assault rifle	.,223	Reloader Supplies Ltd – purchased online	\$1,599.00	No

One mass killer of 15 March had an array of semi-automatic guns.

≻

No one can under estimate the risks of 25,000 gun club members being given the legal exemption to own semi-automatic weapons.

The risk profile for ou nation is beyond comprehension.

EVIDENCE 2:

Whilst there is no doubt there is robust vetting of gun owners, there can always be the possibility of rogue license holders and the possibility of theft. There is also the possibility of a legitimate gun owner supplying a gun to non-license holders. The facts are that in between January 2015 and August 2021 some 5370 guns were reported stolen.¹⁶ The array of risks outweigh the thrill sought by some shooters to compete in international completion of weapons of mass killing. The following are some recent news , which highlight the risks.

Stolen guns: Police investigating after 20 firearms taken in Wellington burglaries

The petitioner has not considered the risk parameters for the safety of ordinary NZ'ers.



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Guns stolen to order - dealer

Wairarapa Times-Age

П	Save	*	Share

Ramraiders reverse into Gun City four times before leaving with stolen weapons •

Steven Walton, Blair Ensor, Carly Gooch and Olivia Caldwell . 22:03, Dec 02 2022





More than 4000 firearms stolen - cops are victims, too •

Matthew Tso + 16:46, Feb 26 2020



A FEW LAST WORDS ON THIS PETITION

From a community perspective this petition would definitely be seen as backsliding on an essential promise made to the people of this country after the tragic events of March 15. The proposal to ban semi-automatic weapons had been made by the Thorp report in 1997 but due to the lack of political drive and public uptake at the time, and in subsequent years, the report's recommendations continued to languish. After March 15 both political will and public demand combined to push through the necessary legislation to ban semi-automatic weapons for general ownership or purchase in NZ.

The speed with which this took place was not the result of a knee jerk emotive reaction but rather the coming to the fore of discussions which had been playing out in the background of the public consciousness for more than 23 years.

It should also be noted that this was more than just a mechanism to control the type of armaments present in our country. This was a line that was being drawn. A line that stated who we were as a country and who we wanted to be. And that line was drawn with the blood of 51 innocent NZers who were gunned down as they knelt on the floor in prayer.

So much of the NZ response that was lauded both here and around the world to the March 15 massacre stemmed from our visible commitment to ensuring such a tragedy could never happen again. It was one of the cornerstones of our nations response. It has only been 4 years since these tragic events – many of those wounded in the attacks on March 15 are still suffering from the wounds inflicted due to the nature of the ammunition used by semi-automatic weapons. And already this petition is wants to water down this commitment, this promise, this line.

The threat posed by allowing such weapons into the community is significant. The sheer number of guns obtained by criminals through theft and false purchasing should be deterrent enough. Guns do not always remain in the hands of legitimate users. And now given the scarcity of semi-automatic weapons, it is not unreasonable to assume that owners of such guns will become prime targets for theft by criminals. Putting themselves, their families and their communities at risk.

In the balance of benefit and harm, the potential harm of such weapons far outweighs any benefit that may be gained from engaging in competitive shooting with semi-automatic guns



SINCE 1979

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122