

UNITED PARISH SPECIAL ALL PARISH MEETING -- JANUARY 29, 2013

MOTION

The congregation of the United Parish in Brookline, by vote at the Special All Parish Meeting held on January 29, 2013, authorizes the Moderator to transmit a letter to the members of the Massachusetts congressional delegation (and to such other persons as they may deem appropriate) that is similar to the following draft.

[UP LETTERHEAD]

January **, 2013

[Inside Address]

DRAFT – DRAFT

Dear Senator [or Representative] [last name];

As the members of a faith community our congregation regards each human being as one of God's children and we honor the commandment that "Thou shalt not kill." We can no longer stand silent in the face of the senseless killing of innocent school children and staff last month in Newtown, Connecticut. Nor can we ignore the fact that each and every day even more people – including 32 murder victims -- are killed by gun violence in the United States.

Sensible gun regulation is, we believe, at the core of the necessary response to stem these killings. And the principal response must come from the federal government because guns too easily cross state and municipal boundaries.

In your role as one of our elected representatives we earnestly ask that the 113th Congress promptly address our nation's crying need for more effective gun control. We suggest the following core elements, but we are certain that you and your staff will improve this list based on careful study.

- **Reinstate the assault weapon ban, with improvements and effective enforcement**
- **Restrict the size of ammunition magazines**
- **Close loopholes so that a background check is performed before every gun sale**

In the legislative process we also ask that you

- **Give careful consideration to a gun control proposal that President Obama is expected to file**
- **Base public policy on information and analysis -- not on slogans, not on political donations, not on lobbyist strength**
- **Evaluate practices elsewhere – Australia appears to be one good example**
- **Consider a federal registry that records all gun sales and lost or stolen guns**

- **Consider placing a unique identifier on shell casings so that the use of deadly force leaves a “fingerprint”**
- **Consider limiting the frequency of gun purchases and a waiting period before the gun is delivered**
- **Consider a ban on armor piercing ammunition**
- **Evaluate carrying concealed weapons in public places**
- **Authorize state and local governments to enact additional regulations (subject to constitutional limitations)**

We thank you for your most careful consideration of this crucial matter.

Sincerely,

**** *DRAFT - DRAFT***