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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515-6015

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March 7, 2012

President Barack H. Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

On December 23, 2011, you signed the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2012 into law (P.L.112-74). This critical piece of legislation provided funding for the operation of our nation's government through the 2012 fiscal year. The bill also contained a number of funding restrictions designed to protect the American people from policies and regulations which hinder our economic recovery, imperil our national security and threaten our constitutional freedoms.

One of these funding restrictions, contained in Section 218 of the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education title (Division F), states that "none of the funds made available in this title may be used, in whole or part, to advocate or promote gun control." This provision prevents agencies like the National Institutes of Health (NIH) from using federal funding to promulgate research designed to paint legal gun ownership as a public health hazard. Since 2002, the NIH has spent nearly \$5 million on this research, including a study that tried to determine why parents who possessed a firearm chose to own a gun. The study characterized parental gun ownership as a "hazard" to their children's safety, and aimed to solidify the notion that a "home free of hazards" was essential to a child's well-being. As millions of American gun owners will tell you, it is more than possible to exercise your Second Amendment rights while maintaining a safe home environment in which to raise children.

Our committee chose to restrict this funding because this study and others like it utilize taxpayer dollars to advance the false notion that legal gun ownership is a danger to public health instead of an inalienable right.

Section 218 was specifically crafted to prevent taxpayer dollars from being used to bolster gun control efforts that infringe on the Second Amendment. We urge you to enforce the law you signed and Congress passed.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signatures of Denny Rehberg and Rodney Alexander, each written over a horizontal line.

Rep. Denny Rehberg

Rep. Rodney Alexander

Handwritten signature of Jerry Lewis, written over a horizontal line.

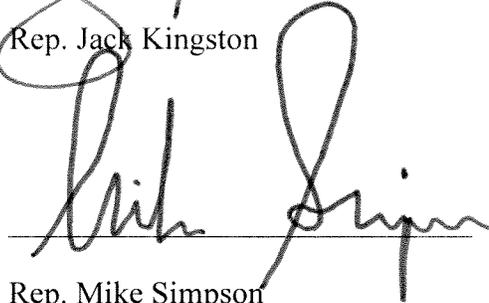
Rep. Jerry Lewis

Handwritten signature of Jack Kingston, written over a horizontal line.

Rep. Jack Kingston

Handwritten signature of Kay Granger, written over a horizontal line.

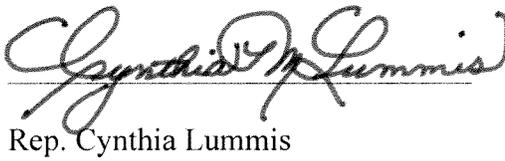
Rep. Kay Granger

Handwritten signature of Mike Simpson, written over a horizontal line.

Rep. Mike Simpson

Handwritten signature of Jeff Flake, written over a horizontal line.

Rep. Jeff Flake

Handwritten signature of Cynthia Lummis, written over a horizontal line.

Rep. Cynthia Lummis