



MICHIGAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Senate Majority Leader Arlan Meekhof
S106 Capitol Building
Lansing, MI 48909-7536

June 21, 2017

Dear Majority Leader Meekhof:

As we pray for the survival and recovery of Representative Steve Scalise, former staffer and Michigander Matt Mika, staffer Zachary Barth, Special Agent Crystal Griner, and Special Agent David Bailey, we thank God for the lives saved by virtue of there being armed citizens at the scene.

We abhor the idea of politicizing a tragedy. But this incident itself was a political act, and one that bears on us directly as lawmakers.

It was an attempted mass assassination of Republican elected representatives.

It was an attack on innocent people. It was an attack on our party. It was an attack on the Congress of the United States.

It was an attack on our nation and its lawful governance.

And it was only thwarted because one representative with armed security happened to be there.

Furthermore, while the act's heinousness sets it apart, it was only the latest incident in an increasingly violent political climate stoked by vitriolic, hateful rhetoric spoken in public, in classrooms, and in the mass media.

Millions of Americans were raised around guns and for them, gun ownership is a way of life. Millions more discover the benefit and enjoyment of firearms as adults. But for too many Americans, it is the sudden realization of an emerging danger that informs us of the need to carry firearms for our protection.

These include people that move to, or begin work in, a dangerous environment. These include women who find they are being stalked. These include people who discover a coworker is unstable.

With a heavy heart and a fear for the future of our country, we acknowledge that these now include ourselves as Republicans.

We believe that the right to self-defense is God-given, and that it is the duty of the State to protect that right for all law-abiding citizens. Regrettably, many laws still on the books infringe upon this fundamental right.

No would-be killer should ever be able to safely assume his victims will be unarmed and defenseless.

No law-abiding citizen should be prevented, encumbered, or delayed from obtaining and carrying firearms for his or her personal safety, or that of his or her family, and to do so in a safe and nonthreatening manner.

Senator Meekhof, we write to entreat you in your capacity as a Senator and the Leader of your chamber to expeditiously pass legislation to restore and expand the rights of law-abiding citizens to be armed and protected.

Thank you for your attention in this matter.

Sincerely,

John Reilly 44

J. S. Loh 105

Stan Quisenberry 72

Shirley 83

Tom 51

Tom 98

Jim Bonnet 44

Pamela Hornberger (32)

Julie Alexander 64

Michele Haitonga 102

Jeff Pabbe #20

Pat 104

Tom Bauer 71

Diana 70

Hank Vezina 47