

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 6, 2012

The Honorable Pat Quinn
Governor, State of Illinois
Office of the Governor
207 State House
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Governor Quinn:

We write to you as outraged residents of the State of Illinois regarding the string of shootings that took place in Chicago over Memorial Day weekend. In the span of only four days, 40 people were injured and 10 more were killed. Many of those injured and killed were doing nothing more than walking in the streets and include teenagers, the elderly, and one 7-year-old girl who was merely playing outside her home one summer evening.

Time and again, the State's anti-gun policies have proven ineffective at best and un-safe for law-abiding citizens at worst. It is time for state lawmakers to give their constituents the constitutional right to protect themselves.

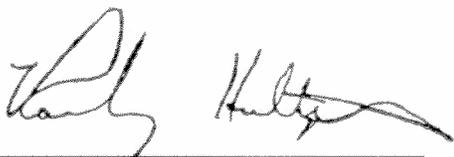
Violent crime in the United States has steadily dropped since the 1990s, yet crime rates in our major cities like Chicago continue to increase and take more lives. There has been a 35% spike in violent crime rates this year alone. Our most prominent city has one of the highest murder rates in the country, yet Illinois remains the only State in the Union that has not passed carry and conceal gun laws.

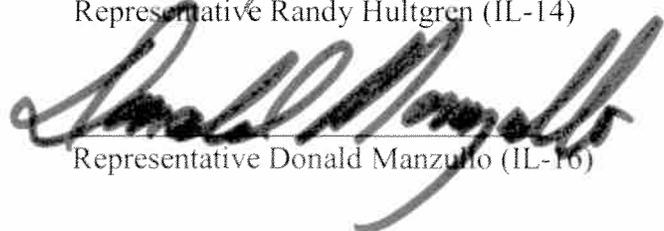
State lawmakers must recognize this correlation and work to correct it. We urge you to direct the State Assembly to finally pass a conceal and carry gun law – a law that will permit its law-abiding residents to arm and protect themselves, as guaranteed in the Constitution of the United States and the State of Illinois.

Sincerely,


Representative Joe Walsh (IL-8)


Representative Timothy Johnson (IL-15)


Representative Randy Hultgren (IL-14)


Representative Donald Manzullo (IL-16)