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***SACHS SENTINEL SPECIAL BULLETIN:**
ORLANDO SHOOTING - CALL TO ACTION

Yesterday, the State of Florida tragically experienced the deadliest terrorist attack on U.S. soil since September 11th. In 2011, I introduced *Senate Bill 1726, an Act Relating to Weapons and Firearms*, which called for a prohibition on the possession, sale, transfer or manufacture of high-capacity weapons in Florida. Orlando Police Chief John Mina has identified the killer's weapons to include an "AR-15-type assault rifle." The military adaptation of this very same gun, the M-16, is used by U.S. armed forces in combat. Versions of this assault firearm were used in the recent San Bernardino, California shooting massacre, as well as the horrific attack on Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut.



Photo of a high-capacity AR-15 assault rifle

The right to bear arms, guaranteed by the 2nd Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, should not include the right to bear *all* types of firearms such as bazookas, 50-caliber machine guns and, especially in light of the mass-shooting in Orlando, AR-15s and similar high-capacity firearms. This madness will end when legislators get the courage and determination to pass laws that will protect the people from madmen with assault firearms.

We need to take action on banning high-capacity weapons like the AR-15 and other similar guns in our state as soon as possible. In addition, more must be done in the area of background checks on all purchases and sales of firearms. In light of how the Orlando shooter, an individual with a history of mental instability who was previously interviewed three times by the FBI in relation to extremist and terrorist activities, was still able to legally purchase the assault firearm, it is clear that there are not nearly enough safeguards in place to prevent such people from obtaining firearms.

My thoughts and prayers go out to the family and friends of all victims of the Orlando terrorist attack, as well as to Florida's LGBT community. In their honor and remembrance, the Florida legislature must act now.

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