



CITIZENS CRIME COMMISSION
OF NEW YORK CITY

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**FORMER PRESIDENT OF BRADY CAMPAIGN SAYS GUN CONTROL
LEGISLATION *ACHIEVABLE* DESPITE REPUBLICAN CONGRESS**

*Dismisses naysayers, compares current Congress to the one in which the Brady
Campaign successfully achieved sweeping gun control legislation*

NEW YORK-In the wake of the Tucson, Arizona shooting, Richard Aborn, former President of the Brady Campaign and the current President of the Citizens Crime Commission of NYC, defended the viability of common sense gun control legislation and dismissed naysayers, comparing the current political landscape to the hostile environment he encountered in 1994 when advocates won successful passage of landmark gun control legislation.

In 1994, despite opposition from Congress, the Brady Campaign pushed the successful passage of the ban on large capacity ammunition magazines. The ban would have helped prevent the Tucson tragedy had Congress renewed it in 2004. The Tucson shooter's large-scale public execution would not have been possible without the 31 rounds of ammunition he was legally entitled to possess as a result of the NRA's stranglehold on Congressional Republicans.

In an op-ed in Tuesday's *Daily News*, Aborn called to renew the ban on large capacity ammunition magazines, adding today:

"We beat the odds in 1994 and achieved common sense gun control despite a hostile Congress and we can do it again. The current political landscape is nearly identical to the one we encountered previously, and there is no reason to think that we can't be successful. This horrible tragedy, and future ones, can be avoided by renewing the ban on large capacity ammunition magazines now."

BACKGROUND

Richard Aborn served as the President of the Brady Campaign (then Handgun Control Inc.) from 1992-1996. As such, he was the principle strategist behind passage of landmark gun control legislation including the Handgun Violence Prevention Act, known

as the "Brady Bill", the Federal Assault Weapons Ban, and the ban on large capacity ammunition magazines. The ban expired in September 2004.

The Citizens Crime Commission of New York City is an independent nonprofit organization working to make criminal justice and public safety policies and practices more effective through innovation, research, and education. In the last two decades, the Crime Commission has been a leader on key issues such as: expanding the use of DNA evidence in crime fighting, improving the juvenile justice system, creating alternatives to incarceration, developing interventions against gun violence, and highlighting the changing nature of the threat of terrorism.

For more information about the Crime Commission, visit our website at:

<http://www.nycrimecommission.org>

The full text of the op-ed can be found on the *Daily News* website:

http://www.nydailynews.com/opinions/2011/01/11/2011-01-11_in_wake_of_the_arizona_massacre_ban_highcapacity_magazines_this_one_should_be_si.html

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