

Beyond the peril to our Second Amendment rights is the serious threat to the democratic process upon which this country was based. Forcing bills through the legislative process without adequate time for all stakeholders to participate in the process now appears to be the new norm for sensitive issues.

Our legislators deserved more consideration and time to review proposals as far reaching as this one. As residents of the State of New York, we deserve more respect. Regardless of one's position on this issue, the citizens of New York will remember the assault on the principles of democracy perpetrated by the leadership to get this legislation passed.

The public's position regarding the SAFE Act has been clearly demonstrated. So has their willingness, if asked, to be involved in a process to seek a resolution to the gun violence in this state, and indeed, this country. The SAFE Act needs to be repealed. What is needed now is real communication and discussion by all those who really seek an effective remedy to the gun violence problem -- and it is not the restriction of legal gun owners' rights. The Council stands ready to participate in this process.

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