



CITY OF
PORTLAND, OREGON

Charlie Hales, Mayor
Amanda Fritz, Commissioner
Nick Fish, Commissioner
Dan Saltzman, Commissioner
Steve Novick, Commissioner

April 5, 2013

Floyd Prozanski, Chair
Senate Judiciary Committee
900 Court St, NE, Hearing Room 50
Salem, OR 97301

Chair Prozanski and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

We are writing in support of the gun violence prevention measures under consideration today.

In 2010, there were 458 deaths due to firearms in Oregon. Nationwide, more than 30,000 people are killed by firearms every year and the U.S. has experienced numerous mass casualties and tragic gun violence incidents in recent history. Public safety is a fundamental priority for the City of Portland and gun violence poses a serious threat to the security of our community.

We acknowledge that reducing gun violence requires a comprehensive strategy at the federal, state, and local levels and reasonable reforms to our current firearm laws are needed as part of that strategy.

We support legislation before you today to ensure background checks are required for private gun sales, to give local school districts authority to decide for themselves whether or not to permit Concealed Handgun License (CHL) holders to carry in their schools, and to prohibit open carry of weapons in public buildings. We believe these are reasonable reforms that balance public safety with individual liberties.

We applaud the Legislature for taking up these important safety issues and we ask for your support.

Respectfully,

Charlie Hales
Mayor

Amanda Fritz
Commissioner

Nick Fish
Commissioner

Dan Saltzman
Commissioner

Steve Novick
Commissioner