



April 1, 2019

Re: Prosecutors' Support for SB 978

Chair Prozanski and members of the committee:

On behalf of Prosecutors Against Gun Violence, we are writing to offer our support for Senate Bill 978. Prosecutors Against Gun Violence is a non-partisan group of leading prosecutors focusing on gun violence prevention strategies ranging from policy advocacy to improved enforcement of existing laws.

The provisions of the Cindy Yuille and Steve Forsyth Act contained within Senate Bill 978 include several important provisions for gun violence prevention policy. We urge the Committee and the Oregon Legislature to adopt these policies into law.

Specifically,

- The safe storage requirements in the legislation will make it harder for individuals that present a threat to themselves and others to gain unintended access to a firearm. Locking up weapons makes it harder for a criminal to obtain them through theft.
- Stolen guns represent a significant factor contributing to gun violence. More than 237,000 guns nationwide were reported stolen to the National Crime Information Center in 2016, a database maintained by the FBI. That represents a 68-percent increase in stolen weapons reported to the FBI since 2005. In addition, the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives has estimated that 500,000 guns are stolen annually from residences, many of which are never reported. [[Associated Press, 12/1/2017](#); [Department of Treasury, June 2000](#)].
- The mandatory reporting of lost and stolen guns contained in Senate Bill 978 will give law enforcement the ability to conduct prompt investigations of these weapons before they end up on the underground economy or are used to commit gun violence – a very real concern given that they are by definition now in the hands of a criminal.
- Mandatory reporting of lost and stolen guns is also a critical tool in preventing straw purchases and other tactics used in gun trafficking. Traffickers will frequently use a defense that a gun is lost or stolen to avoid prosecution.
- A study by Mayors Against Illegal Guns found that, per capita, states without lost or stolen reporting laws are the source of more than 2.5 times as many crime guns

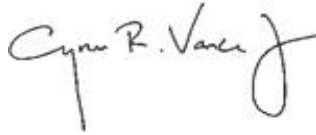
recovered in other states as states with a lost or stolen reporting requirement.
[\[Mayors Against Illegal Guns, September 2010\]](#).

We believe that the requirements included in Senate Bill 978 are good first steps in reducing gun violence and making Oregon communities safer. We urge their adoption.

Sincerely,



MIKE FEUER
Los Angeles
City Attorney



CYRUS VANCE, JR.
District Attorney
New York County



ROD UNDERHILL
Multnomah County
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