

Timilty, James (SEN)

From: Bridgit Brown <bridgit@charlotteformayor.com>
Sent: Monday, September 16, 2013 5:56 PM
To: Timilty, James (SEN); Naughton, Harold - Rep. (HOU)
Cc: Fox, Gloria - Rep. (HOU)
Subject: Letter from Charlotte Golar Richie
Attachments: CGR - Letter to Chairmans.pdf

Dear Chairman Timilty and Chairman Naughton:

On behalf of Charlotte Golar Richie, I am submitting this written testimonial you and the Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security.

Please feel free to contact me below if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Bridgit Brown

Contact Bridgit Brown | bridgit@charlotteformayor.com

Press Secretary | Charlotte Golar Richie, Candidate for Mayor
617-227-8080 office | 857-294-5128 cell

Stay Updated with Charlotte and the Team!

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#)

Charlotte

Golar Richie *for Mayor*
www.CharlotteforMayor.com

29 Percival Street
Boston, MA 02122

September 16, 2013

The Honorable James E. Timilty
Senate Chairman

The Honorable Harold P. Naughton, Jr.
House Chairman

Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security
Room 507
State House
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Chairman Timilty and Chairman Naughton:

I thank you and members of the Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security, including state representative and Ways and Means member Gloria Fox, for allowing me to submit this written testimony regarding House Bill 47: an Act to Strengthen and Enhance Firearms Laws in the Commonwealth. While I attended Friday's hearing, my schedule did not allow me to wait for the opportunity to speak. However, I wish very much to add my voice to those, who seek to keep both the spotlight and pressure on the need for a comprehensive and effective response to the critical issue of gun safety. This issue absolutely needs to be elevated and debated.

I believe that people and families in every neighborhood of our Commonwealth deserve to feel safe and secure. Public safety in every neighborhood must be a top priority. In certain neighborhoods of my city of Boston, particularly in my former legislative district of Dorchester and Roxbury, where I served from 1994 through 1999, the free flow of guns along the iron pipeline finds a welcoming place. Guns are easily bought, stolen, and given. Young people can get them nearly as easily as they can buy a pack of chewing gum, and our young people are dying on our streets. According to The Center for American Progress, a DC-based think tank, gun violence is the leading cause of death among teenagers.

When it comes to women, it's worth noting that this week is the 19-year anniversary of the

A primary reason I am running for Mayor is because sections of our city have been ravaged by gun violence; and I intend to join many of my colleagues in the State Legislature – including those who serve on this distinguished committee — and members of our Congressional Delegation and mayors across our nation to speak out forcefully against the illegal possession of firearms.

The purchase of firearms is a national issue, which affects us locally. We need a universal/federal firearm background check on everyone, who purchases a firearm and impose a waiting period before issuing a permit. We need to work with the federal government to strengthen our federal database used for firearm purchasing and vetting through background checks. Also, we need to involve experts in behavioral health — those with expertise in mental health and addiction — to develop appropriate policies and lay out appropriate steps to screen and provide services to families and individuals where violence might be a risk.

We must work with public safety officials to institute strategies, which prevent straw purchases and increase penalties for individuals who intentionally buy firearms for those who do not want their identities known. Right here in Boston there is a community group called Citizens for Safety, which works on this issue by reaching out to women who are used by their male partners to do just that. Of course, we need to address the underlying causes of gun violence, and ensure that we have safeguards in place to prevent recidivism for those who exit our jails and prisons.

Combating violence in neighborhoods has to be a top priority. Residents are just plain tired of having to deal with gun violence on a daily basis (through the actual experience, fear or trauma); and I believe both Boston residents and police do not want guns to be so accessible and available on our streets.

If any neighborhood in our city is unsafe, all of Boston suffers; and if our state's capital city is unsafe, the vibrancy and vitality of our entire Commonwealth will be compromised.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,



Charlotte Golar Richie

cc: Representative Gloria L. Fox

Testimony on "Firearms and Gun Legislation"
Submitted by the Honorable Edward J. Markey (D-MASS.)
September 13, 2013

TO:

The Honorable James Timilty, Senate Chair, Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security
The Honorable Harold P. Naughton, Jr., House Chair, Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security

The Honorable Michael O. Moore, Senate Vice Chair, Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security

The Honorable Michael D. Brady, House Vice Chair, Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security

Thank you for allowing me to submit written testimony for this hearing on "Firearms and Gun Legislation." I am sorry that I cannot join in person today.

I would first like to thank the Joint Committee for holding this series of hearings throughout the Commonwealth on this incredibly important issue. Views on firearms and gun safety can vary from town to town, and someone from Cambridge may feel differently than someone in Sheffield. Although we are all members of one Commonwealth and should be governed by one statewide standard, it is important that people from all over Massachusetts have had an opportunity to attend one of these public hearings and share their opinions. I also want to recognize Representative David Linsky whom invited me to submit testimony today. I thank him – and all my state partners – for all their work to make our communities safer.

There can be no doubt that gun safety is one of the most pressing issues facing our nation. The past few years have seen a series of tragic shootings in places that are supposed to be safe. A Sikh Temple in Wisconsin. A supermarket in Arizona. A busy movie theater in Colorado. And, just across our border, an elementary school in Connecticut. In each of these cases, perpetrators used powerful firearms, in some cases even military-style assault weapons like the Smith & Wesson M&P15 and Bushmaster XM-15. These weapons only belong on the battlefield not in our communities. Lax federal gun regulation made it possible for individuals to gain access to these powerful, military-grade armaments and perpetrate these horrible crimes.

For decades, I have fought for commonsense laws to keep these military-style weapons off our streets and out of our schools. In 1994, I worked with President Bill Clinton to close a loophole that was enabling millions cheap Chinese semi-automatic assault weapons to flood into the United States. In the U.S. Senate, I have recently cosponsored a number of bills that represent commonsense solutions, such as requiring universal background checks at gun shows,¹ banning large capacity ammunition feeding

devices,² banning assault weapons,³ tougher penalties for illegal firearms trafficking,⁴ and banning plastic guns fabricated via 3D printers.⁵ I believe that these bills all represent a vital start at comprehensive federal gun safety regulations, and I will fight to get them enacted into law.

Yet, Massachusetts should not wait for Congress to take steps to improve our Commonwealth's gun safety laws. Everyone in Massachusetts should be proud that we already have some of the strongest and most potent gun safety laws in the country. According to a recent study, it is in part due to these laws⁶ that we have the second lowest rate/amount of gun deaths among the fifty states.⁷ Yet, even at our current rate, still too many residents are victims of gun violence. By engaging in an update of our firearms laws, hopefully we can further reduce that rate, which remains too high.

Former Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis once said that each of the fifty states has the power to be a laboratory for developing new programs and policies. Massachusetts has a chance to serve in that role for the other forty-nine states when it comes to gun safety legislation. I urge the legislature to pass gun safety bills that could be a model for other states and, perhaps even the U.S. Congress. I strongly support the legislature enact laws with the following aims:

- 1) Require that all gun purchases be recorded at a dealer location, including private sales. It is a legal requirement that everyone in Massachusetts have a gun license to own or carry a firearm. It should become a similarly universal requirement that any transaction involving a firearm must be recorded at a dealer location. This will significantly improve the ability of law enforcement to ensure that our gun safety laws are being followed.
- 2) Enact stronger prohibitions on military-style assault weapons. There is no reason that a person should have a high-capacity, military-style assault rifle to go hunting. These weapons should be restricted to gun clubs and target ranges, and they should be stored at those locations.
- 3) Bring Massachusetts into compliance with the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS). The NICS will likely be at the heart of any future federal universal background check bill, and it is critical that the Commonwealth be fully equipped to support that system.
- 4) Create a revenue stream from ammunition and gun purchases that can be used for firearms licensing, police training, mental health, and victim's services. Because firearms can lead to devastating impact in our communities, it is only appropriate that those who purchase firearms and ammunition should pay for services to protect our communities from gun violence and for victim's services.
- 5) Craft a suitability standard for gun licenses. It is important that there be a clear standard that may be used by licensing authorities to determine whether a person seeking to own a firearm meets some commonsense baselines, such as the absence of criminal convictions for crimes of violence. This standard should allow some local officials discretion to raise the standards, but not lower it.

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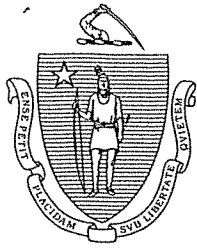
⁵ S. 1149, the Undetectable Firearms Modernization Act

⁶ <http://archinte.iamanetwork.com/article.aspx?articleid=1661390>

- 6) Stricter penalties for possession of an illegal weapon. Gun trafficking is a major problem in America and the top source of firearms used in crimes in Massachusetts. According to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, in 2011, just 351 firearms recovered in Massachusetts were confirmed to come from the Commonwealth.⁸ However, 669 firearms were sourced to another state. In other words, nearly two-thirds of the guns used in crimes here in Massachusetts came from another state. One way to keep gun traffickers out of Massachusetts would be to increase the penalty for possessing an illegal weapon. If a trafficker knows they face major jail time for each illegal weapon they bring into the Commonwealth, they can be deterred from even entering Massachusetts.

September 14 is the nine-month anniversary of the Newtown shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School. The most important step we can take to prevent such a tragedy from ever happening in Massachusetts is to ensure that our gun safety regulations are strict and strong.

On issues from democratic independence to universal health care, America has looked to Massachusetts to be a national leader. I believe that America is once again calling for us to lead the way on gun safety regulations, and it is a duty we cannot shirk.



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
House of Representatives
State House, Boston 02133-1054

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August 13, 2013

The Honorable Harold P. Naughton, Jr., House Chair
The Honorable James E. Timilty, Senate Chair
Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security

Dear Chairman Naughton, Chairman Timilty, and Honorable Members:

First and foremost, I wanted to commend the committee's ongoing efforts in taking on the important issue of firearm policy in the state. Your continued hearings in different areas of the Commonwealth are indicative of the seriousness with which you are both contemplating and addressing a very controversial issue in light of several tragedies that have occurred recently around the country. As a staunch supporter of responsible gun ownership, I wanted to convey my sincere hope and confidence that our citizens' second amendment rights will be held harmless as the result of any bill that may be reported favorably by the committee and/or any legislation drafted by the committee that is sent to the entire body for a vote. While I am not opposed to greater scrutiny on individuals who may lack the mental acuity to own a firearm, as well as any other logical measures expanding public safety with regard to guns, I do share the concern of responsible gun-owners around the state and country that policies may be recommended and enacted based on emotion rather than evidence. Additionally, I wanted to bring to the committee's attention an issue of particular importance to my district, Worcester County, and the state's economy as a whole as it relates to firearms.

As you may know, "Kahr Arms" is a firearm company headquartered in New York whose manufacturing operation is located in Worcester, Massachusetts. Kahr employs 75 people at its Worcester plant and contributes hundreds of thousands of dollars annually to the state's economy. Companies like Kahr are not only important economic engines, they also carry on the tradition of Massachusetts being the bedrock of the firearm industry—a tradition that dates back to the Revolutionary War. Therefore, I respectfully request that the committee is mindful of the economic contribution of Kahr and similar companies around the Commonwealth as it deliberates on any new proposals regarding firearm policy. While I am not specifically aware of any proposals currently before the committee that might detrimentally affect the firearm industry in the state, it would be unfortunate for this important sector to be forced to cut positions or production in the future, particularly in light of state's ongoing efforts to recover from the economic downturn. It is my sincere hope that the committee weighs all possible ramifications,

both direct and indirect, that any new gun law may have on our local firearm industry, and I thank you in advance for your time and attention to this matter.

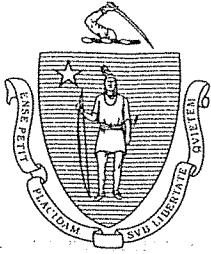
Please feel free to contact my office directly with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



JOHN J. BINIENDA, CHAIRMAN
House Committee on Rules
State Representative
17th Worcester District

JJB/jm



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
MASSACHUSETTS SENATE

SENATOR DANIEL A. WOLF
Cape and Islands District

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Vice Chairman
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COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
AND SMALL BUSINESS

PUBLIC SERVICE

TOURISM, ARTS AND
CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

VETERANS AND FEDERAL AFFAIRS

June 19, 2013

Senator James E. Timilty
Senate Chair, Joint Committee on Public Safety
Room 507, State House

Representative Harold P. Naughton, Jr.
House Chair, Joint Committee on Public Safety
Room 167, State House

Dear Chairmen Timilty and Naughton,

Just over six months ago, we mourned the death of 20 children and 6 adults whose lives were senselessly taken in the Newtown tragedy. Since that day, an additional 5,186 lives have been lost in America as a result of gun violence. A Boston Globe article published two days ago stated that this year alone, as of June 11, there had been 104 shootings in Boston, 17 of them fatal. On a "typical day" in the United States, 30 Americans are gunned down and another 53 people kill themselves with a firearm, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The United States has the highest gun ownership rate in the world — an average of 89 guns per 100 people. Not surprisingly, the United States also has one of the highest rates of violent crime and homicide, per capita, of any developed country. The hard numbers about deaths and injuries caused by guns in America can no longer be ignored. It is time for us to take steps to curb gun violence in America.

I thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this vital issue. I testify not in support of a particular bill, but rather to outline what I believe to be essential components of any comprehensive gun control legislation. I recognize, however, that any significant change in our nation's gun culture will not come from legislation alone. We need to engage in a deep cultural conversation that changes hearts and minds, much as what has happened in our country with tobacco use. We need to make the convincing public argument that handguns do not protect us

and do not belong in our communities. That will take time, but that's how we will successfully address this critical issue.

As we consider legislation on this issue, we must recognize, first and foremost, as the Newtown incident drove home, that assault weapons have no place in our society outside the military. While Massachusetts already has an assault weapons ban, there are some loopholes in our current law; assault weapons are only banned in Massachusetts if they were manufactured since 1994, for example. We need to close such loopholes to ensure that no assault weapons are on the streets of Massachusetts.

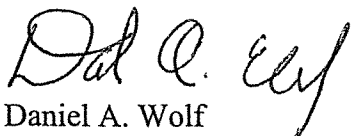
Second, while tragedies such as Newtown highlight the need for additional resources for the mentally ill, we need to be careful that stricter gun laws do not further stigmatize and marginalize an already marginalized group, particularly because the facts do not support a strong link between mental illness and violence. Statistics show that only 3-5% of violent acts committed are attributable to those with a mental health diagnosis. Instead of being the perpetrators of violent crimes, those who are mentally ill are in fact much more likely – 11 times more likely – to be the victim of a violent crime. In light of these statistics, linking gun control measures with mental illness misses the point. Instead, we must focus legislation on keeping guns out of the hands of individuals who have a demonstrated history of behaviors or actions that are violent or potentially violent.

Third, to be effective in reducing gun violence in America, we must find a way of reducing access to handguns. While assault weapons have garnered significant media attention because of their role in tragedies such as Newtown, they are only the tip of the iceberg. Handguns are the silent killers in America that ravage our communities. According to a report released last month by the Bureau of Justice Statistics, about 70%-80% of firearm homicides and 90% of nonfatal firearm victimizations in America are committed with a handgun. Furthermore, one of the risk factors for youth suicide is accessibility of guns. According to a Harvard School of Public Health report, attempt with a gun is fatal 90% of the time. Any real conversation about reducing gun violence in Massachusetts must include a path to reducing the number of handguns on our streets.

Finally, part of a comprehensive bill should also include a gun buy-back program. The Harvard Injury Control Research Center found substantial evidence that indicates more guns in society equates to more murders. We must make every effort to take guns that don't belong on the streets off the streets.

Thank you again for the opportunity to submit testimony, and please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Daniel A. Wolf
State Senator
Cape & Islands District

From: Lauren Holm [<mailto:pr.laurenholm@gmail.com>]
Sent: Friday, September 06, 2013 12:39 PM
To: Candaras, Gale (SEN)
Subject: Elevator inspection fees

Dear Senator Candaras,

I wrote the letter below on June 24, 2013. I have not had a response to my request.

My letter:

Board of Elevator Regulations
One Ashburton Place, Room 1301
Boston, MA 02108

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to you to ask you to reclassify the wheelchair lift in our church. We are classified as a commercial building, yet the main church where the wheelchair lift is located is only open one day a week, Sunday, and the lift is not used every Sunday. Our usage is far less than a commercial enterprise that is open 5 – 7 days a week. Even a home wheelchair lift is used more often than our church lift. Lifts in commercial buildings must be inspected annually. Lifts in single family owner-occupied homes must be inspected only every five years.

When our lift was installed we were required to have an inspection every five years costing \$400.00 (annualized at \$80). Because we are classified as a commercial building, which is not appropriate, we must pass both an inspection with a fee of \$400 and a practical test where the elevator maintenance company must be present at a cost of \$650 each year. In addition we are required to have an annual maintenance contract costing \$500. Our total annual cost is now \$1,550. Like most churches we are struggling to remain open, we have a significant budget deficit and dealing with an annual fee that is 1950% higher is nearly impossible for us and will accelerate the closing of our church.

We request that we be classified in the same way as a single family owner-occupied home requiring an inspection every five years. Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely, The Reverend Lauren J. Holm

Thank you for your help in this matter.

Rev. Lauren Holm, *Pastor*
Bethesda Lutheran Church
East Church UCC

455 Island Pond Rd
Springfield, MA 01118
413-733-4494
pr.laurenholm@gmail.com
www.bethedaspringfield.org
www.eastchurchspringfield.org

Testimony on "Firearms and Gun Legislation"
Submitted by the Honorable Edward J. Markey (D-MASS.)
September 13, 2013

TO:

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There can be no doubt that gun safety is one of the most pressing issues facing our nation. The past few years have seen a series of tragic shootings in places that are supposed to be safe. A Sikh Temple in Wisconsin. A supermarket in Arizona. A busy movie theater in Colorado. And, just across our border, an elementary school in Connecticut. In each of these cases, perpetrators used powerful firearms, in some cases even military-style assault weapons like the Smith & Wesson M&P15 and Bushmaster XM-15. These weapons only belong on the battlefield not in our communities. Lax federal gun regulation made it possible for individuals to gain access to these powerful, military-grade armaments and perpetrate these horrible crimes.

For decades, I have fought for commonsense laws to keep these military-style weapons off our streets and out of our schools. In 1994, I worked with President Bill Clinton to close a loophole that was enabling millions cheap Chinese semi-automatic assault weapons to flood into the United States. In the U.S. Senate, I have recently cosponsored a number of bills that represent commonsense solutions, such as requiring universal background checks at gun shows,¹ banning large capacity ammunition feeding

¹ S. 22, The Gun Show Background Check Act of 2013

devices,² banning assault weapons,³ tougher penalties for illegal firearms trafficking,⁴ and banning plastic guns fabricated via 3D printers.⁵ I believe that these bills all represent a vital start at comprehensive federal gun safety regulations, and I will fight to get them enacted into law.

Yet, Massachusetts should not wait for Congress to take steps to improve our Commonwealth's gun safety laws. Everyone in Massachusetts should be proud that we already have some of the strongest and most potent gun safety laws in the country. According to a recent study, it is in part due to these laws⁶ that we have the second lowest rate/amount of gun deaths among the fifty states.⁷ Yet, even at our current rate, still too many residents are victims of gun violence. By engaging in an update of our firearms laws, hopefully we can further reduce that rate, which remains too high.

Former Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis once said that each of the fifty states has the power to be a laboratory for developing new programs and policies. Massachusetts has a chance to serve in that role for the other forty-nine states when it comes to gun safety legislation. I urge the legislature to pass gun safety bills that could be a model for other states and, perhaps even the U.S. Congress. I strongly support the legislature enact laws with the following aims:

- 1) Require that all gun purchases be recorded at a dealer location, including private sales. It is a legal requirement that everyone in Massachusetts have a gun license to own or carry a firearm. It should become a similarly universal requirement that any transaction involving a firearm must be recorded at a dealer location. This will significantly improve the ability of law enforcement to ensure that our gun safety laws are being followed.
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⁶ <http://archinte.jamanetwork.com/article.aspx?articleid=1661390>

⁷ <http://kff.org/other/state-indicator/firearms-death-rate-per-100000/>

6) Stricter penalties for possession of an illegal weapon. Gun trafficking is a major problem in America and the top source of firearms used in crimes in Massachusetts. According to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, in 2011, just 351 firearms recovered in Massachusetts were confirmed to come from the Commonwealth.⁸ However, 669 firearms were sourced to another state. In other words, nearly two-thirds of the guns used in crimes here in Massachusetts came from another state. One way to keep gun traffickers out of Massachusetts would be to increase the penalty for possessing an illegal weapon. If a trafficker knows they face major jail time for each illegal weapon they bring into the Commonwealth, they can be deterred from even entering Massachusetts.

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⁸ <http://www.atf.gov/files/statistics/download/trace-data/2011/2011-trace-data-massachusetts.pdf>

Timilty, James (SEN)

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Sincerely,

Bridgit Brown

Contact Bridgit Brown | bridgit@charlotteformayor.com

Press Secretary | Charlotte Golar Richie, Candidate for Mayor
617-227-8080 office | 857-294-5128 cell
Stay Updated with Charlotte and the Team!
[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#)



29 Percival Street
Boston, MA 02122

September 16, 2013

The Honorable James E. Timilty
Senate Chairman

The Honorable Harold P. Naughton, Jr.
House Chairman

Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security
Room 507
State House
Boston, MA 02133

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I thank you and members of the Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security, including state representative and Ways and Means member Gloria Fox, for allowing me to submit this written testimony regarding House Bill 47: an Act to Strengthen and Enhance Firearms Laws in the Commonwealth. While I attended Friday's hearing, my schedule did not allow me to wait for the opportunity to speak. However, I wish very much to add my voice to those, who seek to keep both the spotlight and pressure on the need for a comprehensive and effective response to the critical issue of gun safety. This issue absolutely needs to be elevated and debated.

I believe that people and families in every neighborhood of our Commonwealth deserve to feel safe and secure. Public safety in every neighborhood must be a top priority. In certain neighborhoods of my city of Boston, particularly in my former legislative district of Dorchester and Roxbury, where I served from 1994 through 1999, the free flow of guns along the iron pipeline finds a welcoming place. Guns are easily bought, stolen, and given. Young people can get them nearly as easily as they can buy a pack of chewing gum, and our young people are dying on our streets. According to The Center for American Progress, a DC-based think tank, gun violence is the leading cause of death among teenagers.

When it comes to women, it's worth noting that this week is the 19-year anniversary of the Violence Against Women Act and women, in particular, are at risk when it comes to guns: abused women are five times more likely to be killed if their abuser owns a gun.

A primary reason I am running for Mayor is because sections of our city have been ravaged by gun violence; and I intend to join many of my colleagues in the State Legislature – including those who serve on this distinguished committee — and members of our Congressional Delegation and mayors across our nation to speak out forcefully against the illegal possession of firearms.

The purchase of firearms is a national issue, which affects us locally. We need a universal/federal firearm background check on everyone, who purchases a firearm and impose a waiting period before issuing a permit. We need to work with the federal government to strengthen our federal database used for firearm purchasing and vetting through background checks. Also, we need to involve experts in behavioral health — those with expertise in mental health and addiction — to develop appropriate policies and lay out appropriate steps to screen and provide services to families and individuals where violence might be a risk.

We must work with public safety officials to institute strategies, which prevent straw purchases and increase penalties for individuals who intentionally buy firearms for those who do not want their identities known. Right here in Boston there is a community group called Citizens for Safety, which works on this issue by reaching out to women who are used by their male partners to do just that.

Of course, we need to address the underlying causes of gun violence, and ensure that we have safeguards in place to prevent recidivism for those who exit our jails and prisons.

Combating violence in neighborhoods has to be a top priority. Residents are just plain tired of having to deal with gun violence on a daily basis (through the actual experience, fear or trauma); and I believe both Boston residents and police do not want guns to be so accessible and available on our streets.

If any neighborhood in our city is unsafe, all of Boston suffers; and if our state's capital city is unsafe, the vibrancy and vitality of our entire Commonwealth will be compromised.

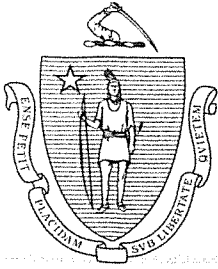
Thank you in advance for your time and consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,



Charlotte Golar Richie

cc: Representative Gloria L. Fox



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
MASSACHUSETTS SENATE

SENATOR GALE D. CANDARAS, ESQ.

First Hampden and Hampshire District

STATE HOUSE, ROOM 309
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September 18, 2013

Senator James E. Timilty, Chairman
Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security
State House, Room 507
Boston, MA 02133

Representative Harold P. Naughton, Jr., Chairman
Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security
State House, Room 167
Boston, MA 02133

RE: Senate Bill 1164 "An Act to biennial elevator inspections"

Dear Chairman Timilty and Chairman Naughton,

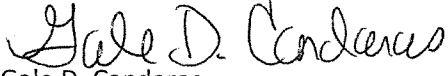
I recently receive a powerful constituent letter from the Pastor of our local Lutheran Church, detailing the high cost of elevator inspections on small entities like this church. The aforementioned letter prompted me to write in strong support of S. 1164, "An act relative to biennial elevator inspections", filed by Senator Rosenberg.

Presently, any building classified as a "commercial building" is required to receive a yearly inspection of all lifts. This bill would allow elevators and small wheelchair lifts that have a limited use or application to be inspected every two years. Elevators which travel more than twenty-five feet, that have a weight capacity above 1,400lbs, or an integrated fire safety system would still be required to receive a yearly inspection.

The practical test and inspection of an elevator can cost over \$1000 which is prohibitive for many small institutions such as churches and community groups. In my own district, a local church pays \$1,550 for the yearly inspections and maintenance of a single wheelchair lift that is used one day of the week. This costly and arbitrary regulation is pushing this church and others to the financial collapse, in part, because of very excessive regulations like this.

I have attached the aforementioned letter from my constituent which details the serious effect of the high cost of these inspections. I request that this bill receive a favorable report from the committee forthwith. Thank you for your urgent attention to this matter.

Very truly yours,



Gale D. Candaras
State Senator

ELIZABETH WARREN
MASSACHUSETTS

UNITED STATES SENATE
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COMMITTEES:
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United States Senate

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September 12, 2013

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Senator James E. Timilty
Co-Chairman
Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security

Representative Harold P. Naughton
Co-Chairman
Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security

Dear Chairman Timilty and Chairman Naughton,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony before your committee.

When I was running for the Senate, I passed the big Stop Handgun Violence billboard next to Fenway Park nearly every week, sometimes three or four times in a single day. The billboard displays the number of children killed by guns in the United States. Every time I passed the billboard, I looked to see how that number had changed since the last trip. Every time I saw it, I thought about another small coffin.

Here in Massachusetts and throughout the country, we can do more to strengthen our laws and make our communities safer for our kids.

Over the past two years, more than 6,000 children across the country have been killed by guns. An average of 33 people are killed in the United States every day by guns, and eight of those people are kids. If eight children were dying every day from a mysterious virus, our entire country would mobilize to put a stop to it. Gun violence is an epidemic that is taking our children's lives in our schools, on our streets, and in our neighborhoods.

Last month, I stood at Faneuil Hall with Boston Mayor Tom Menino, Senator Ed Markey, Congressman John Tierney, Congressman Michael Capuano, and Mayors Against Illegal Guns to demand stronger national gun laws. It is long past time for Congress to pass common sense gun control measures that will help protect our kids and make our neighborhoods safer.

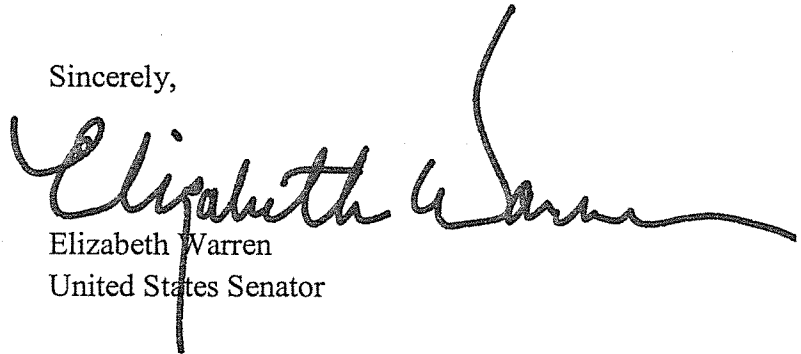
Our communities have demanded action to curb gun violence, but the U.S. Congress has continued to fall short. When faced with the chance to vote for a bipartisan compromise to

ensure that universal background checks prevent dangerous people from purchasing guns – something that 90% of Americans support – a minority of U.S. Senators blocked reform. We must do better.

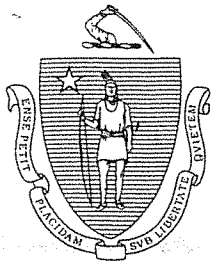
This fight is not over. I voted for measures to improve background checks for gun purchases, increase penalties for gun trafficking, limit the size of ammunition magazines, and reauthorize the expired ban on military-style assault weapons. I will continue pushing Congress to pass sensible legislation to reduce gun violence, and strongly support efforts to advance such proposals at the state level as well.

There is no single solution for ending gun violence, but we must do better, here in the Commonwealth and across the country. In Massachusetts, sensible measures like strengthening mental health checks can make a difference. Just because the problem is complex does not mean that we can sit back and do nothing. We cannot stop fighting to prevent gun violence – we owe our kids a safer future, and we cannot afford to wait any longer to put commonsense measures in place.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Elizabeth Warren". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
House of Representatives
State House, Boston 02133-1054

TIMOTHY J. TOOMEY, JR.
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
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COMMITTEES:
VICE CHAIR, REVENUE
CONSUMER PROTECTION AND
PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE
STATE ADMINISTRATION AND
REGULATORY OVERSIGHT

September 13, 2013

Senator James E. Timilty, Chairman
Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security
State House – Room 507
Boston, MA 02133

Representative Harold P. Naughton, Chairman
Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security
State House – Room 167
Boston, MA 02133

RE: H.2198, An Act Relative to Bulletproof Vests

Dear Honorable Chairmen:

I am writing to respectfully request that the Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security release H.2198, *An Act relative to bulletproof vests*, with a favorable recommendation.

This bill is intended to increase public safety by providing law enforcement agencies in the Commonwealth with tools to track body armor and bulletproof vest purchases in a manner similar to firearms. This bill would require that all licensed ammunition sellers keep records regarding body armor sales, including name, address, date of birth, and phone number of the purchaser and the serial numbers of the items sold. Sellers would then be required to make these records available to law enforcement to aid in the investigation of criminal activity.

While body armor, like firearms, can protect lives and shield those in the line of duty from harm, its use by a criminal suspect can pose an increased risk to police officers and the public. Criminals who use body armor in the commission of a crime do so in anticipation of a violent, armed conflict with police or other criminals that puts law enforcement officers and the public at tremendous risk. It is for this reason that a conviction for the use of body armor during the commission of a felony carries its own mandatory sentence under both state and federal law.

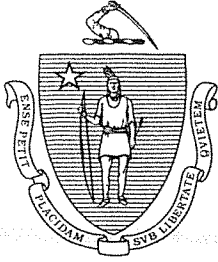
By requiring the collection of key information about body armor sales within the Commonwealth, this bill would provide investigators with a new tool with which to pursue dangerous criminals who may use body armor in attempts to escape police or protect themselves while engaging in other criminal activity. This bill does not impact the ability of law abiding citizens of the Commonwealth to own, purchase, or use body armor for personal protection. Instead, it applies a common sense practice to body armor sales that mirrors requirements gun owners and retailers already face regarding sales of other products.

I respectfully request that the Committee grant this bill a favorable report. I would welcome any questions or comments that you may have regarding this legislation and encourage you to contact me directly if I may be of any assistance.

Sincerely,



Rep. Timothy J. Toomey Jr.
26th Middlesex District



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133-1054

RUTH B. BALSER

STATE REPRESENTATIVE
12TH MIDDLESEX DISTRICT
NEWTON

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FAX: (617) 626-0340

Ruth.Balser@MAhouse.gov

Senator James E. Timilty
State House, Room 507
Boston, MA

Representative Harold P. Naughton
State House, Room 167
Boston, MA

September 18, 2013

Dear Chairmen Timilty and Naughton,

As follow-up to my oral testimony at the gun violence prevention hearing in Gardener Auditorium, I am summarizing the points I made, and appreciate your consideration as the committee drafts a bill.

There has been considerable focus on the relationship between mental illness and gun violence, and various proposals have been made to address that relationship. I would ask that the committee keep in mind several principles as you draft a bill:

1. Rates of mental illness are relatively consistent across nations; yet, the United States has the highest rate of gun-related injuries among developed countries. While I welcome any increased investment in our mental health system, I believe it is important that we not allow the focus on mental illness to obscure the need to enact sensible gun restrictions.
2. Most mentally ill people are not violent. It is important that the discussion about gun violence not stigmatize the mentally ill. We have made great strides in educating the public about the nature of mental illness, and the fact that with the proper supports, most mentally ill individuals are able to live productive lives in the community. It is important that the discussion about gun violence not turn back the clock on the progress we have made educating the public about mental illness.
3. Recognizing those qualifications, I believe that there are steps, nonetheless, that can be taken to address the relationship between mental illness and gun violence:

- I support the proposal (in H47) that Massachusetts come into compliance with the National Instant Background Check System (NICS). In this system, those individuals who have been adjudicated as being in danger of harming them self or others are entered into a national database for the sole purpose of firearm licensing. It is important that the database not be used for other purposes, as an important privacy protection for the mentally ill. However, anyone who had been judged to be at significant risk of harming others or themselves should not have access to guns. (It is important to note that a significant portion of gun fatalities are from suicide.)
- Mental health professionals who specialize in risk assessment will confirm that predicting dangerousness is difficult. However, most studies support the truism that the best predictor of future behavior is past behavior. Therefore, I recommend that individuals with a history of violence, such as known domestic violence cases, or arrests involving violence be denied a firearm license. (The most recent tragedy in D.C. is a case in point. The shooter had a history of out of control behavior with guns.)
- While I would support those types of restrictions, I oppose the proposal in H3253, that all mental health records be made available to the licensing authority. I believe this is far too broad in its scope. Most people who seek mental health treatment are not violent. Many seek help with family problems, employment issues, etc. They should not have their privacy invaded because they are applying for a firearm license. Nor should we discourage people from seeking help, which this type of requirement would surely do.
- Additionally, if the Committee chooses to approach this problem not only by restricting firearm licenses, but also by including an enhancement of our mental health system, I recommend the committee support H3528 An Act relative to safe and supportive schools, which is currently in House Ways & Means, and whose funding is already assured in the most recently passed state budget.

The Safe & Supportive Schools framework was developed by the Task Force on Behavioral Health and the Public Schools created by Section 19 of Chapter 321 of the Acts of 2008 (the Children's mental health bill). The goal is to increase the capacity of schools to collaborate with behavioral health providers as well as provide supportive school environments for all children, making schools more able to deal with bullying, truancy, and other early manifestations of psychological distress.

In conclusion, I support the enactment of sensible gun restrictions, an enhancement of school programs to identify early signs of psychological challenges, bringing Massachusetts into compliance with the NICS, and developing some restrictions targeted to a demonstrated history of domestic abuse, or violence. I caution the committee, however, to not be overly broad in its definitions of mental illness and mental health records. It is important that we not further

stigmatize the mentally ill, or deprive them of their rights. I have tried to describe an appropriate balance. I am available for any further discussion.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ruth B. Balser". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Ruth B. Balser
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

cc: Speaker DeLeo



29 Percival Street
Boston, MA 02122

September 16, 2013

The Honorable James E. Timilty
Senate Chairman

The Honorable Harold P. Naughton, Jr.
House Chairman

Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security
Room 507
State House
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Chairman Timilty and Chairman Naughton:

I thank you and members of the Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security, including state representative and Ways and Means member Gloria Fox, for allowing me to submit this written testimony regarding House Bill 47: an Act to Strengthen and Enhance Firearms Laws in the Commonwealth. While I attended Friday's hearing, my schedule did not allow me to wait for the opportunity to speak. However, I wish very much to add my voice to those, who seek to keep both the spotlight and pressure on the need for a comprehensive and effective response to the critical issue of gun safety. This issue absolutely needs to be elevated and debated.

I believe that people and families in every neighborhood of our Commonwealth deserve to feel safe and secure. Public safety in every neighborhood must be a top priority. In certain neighborhoods of my city of Boston, particularly in my former legislative district of Dorchester and Roxbury, where I served from 1994 through 1999, the free flow of guns along the iron pipeline finds a welcoming place. Guns are easily bought, stolen, and given. Young people can get them nearly as easily as they can buy a pack of chewing gum, and our young people are dying on our streets. According to The Center for American Progress, a DC-based think tank, gun violence is the leading cause of death among teenagers.

When it comes to women, it's worth noting that this week is the 19-year anniversary of the Violence Against Women Act and women, in particular, are at risk when it comes to guns: abused women are five times more likely to be killed if their abuser owns a gun.

A primary reason I am running for Mayor is because sections of our city have been ravaged by gun violence; and I intend to join many of my colleagues in the State Legislature – including those who serve on this distinguished committee — and members of our Congressional Delegation and mayors across our nation to speak out forcefully against the illegal possession of firearms.

The purchase of firearms is a national issue, which affects us locally. We need a universal/federal firearm background check on everyone, who purchases a firearm and impose a waiting period before issuing a permit. We need to work with the federal government to strengthen our federal database used for firearm purchasing and vetting through background checks. Also, we need to involve experts in behavioral health — those with expertise in mental health and addiction — to development appropriate policies and lay out appropriate steps to screen and provide services to families and individuals where violence might be a risk.

We must work with public safety officials to institute strategies, which prevent straw purchases and increase penalties for individuals who intentionally buy firearms for those who do not want their identities known. Right here in Boston there is a community group called Citizens for Safety, which works on this issue by reaching out to women who are used by their male partners to do just that.

Of course, we need to address the underlying causes of gun violence, and ensure that we have safeguards in place to prevent recidivism for those who exit our jails and prisons.

Combating violence in neighborhoods has to be a top priority. Residents are just plain tired of having to deal with gun violence on a daily basis (through the actual experience, fear or trauma); and I believe both Boston residents and police do not want guns to be so accessible and available on our streets.

If any neighborhood in our city is unsafe, all of Boston suffers; and if our state's capital city is unsafe, the vibrancy and vitality of our entire Commonwealth will be compromised.

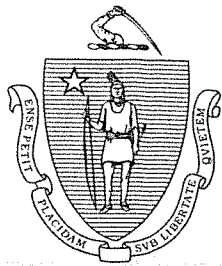
Thank you in advance for your time and consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,



Charlotte Golar Richie

cc: Representative Gloria L. Fox



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133-1054

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Committees on:
Chairman, House Committee on
Post Audit & Oversight

March 6, 2013

The Honorable Senator James Timilty, Chairman
Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security
State House, Room 507
Boston, MA 02133

RE: H. 3253, An Act to Reduce Gun Violence and to Protect the Citizens of the Commonwealth

Dear Senator Timilty:

The issue of gun violence is at the forefront of our nation's discussions. As a member of the Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security, you will be hearing numerous legislative proposals on that topic.

I write to request a meeting to discuss the legislation I have filed that is before the Committee.

H. 3253 An Act to Reduce Gun Violence and to Protect the Citizens of the Commonwealth is a comprehensive gun violence prevention legislation aimed at closing loopholes in existing state laws, requiring mental health background checks, strengthening gun storage requirements, and requiring liability insurance for gun owners. This bill was written after meetings and consultation with hundreds of people with a wide variety of views and suggestions. I would like to discuss the merits of the bill with you, and address any concerns you might have.

I have enclosed a copy of H. 3253, a section-by-section summary, and an editorial from the Boston Globe.

I am happy speak with you at your convenience. Please have your staff contact Alayna Van Tassel in my office at x8628 to set up a time for us to meet.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of H. 3253. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

David P. Linsky
State Representative

This is very important to me.

H.3253 An Act to Reduce Gun Violence and to Protect the Citizens of the Commonwealth

Lead Sponsor: Representative David P. Linsky

Section 1

- Eliminates licenses for large capacity weapons except for gun clubs and target ranges; all such weapons and grandfathered assault weapons must be stored at gun clubs or target ranges.
- Increases penalties for making false application for gun licenses to ten years and makes the crime a felony.
- All applicants for licenses and FID cards must sign waiver of mental health records; providers must provide records to licensing authority.
- Sets up standards for what a “suitable person” is to qualify for license or FID card; gives local police chiefs more discretion in issuing or denying a license.

Section 2

- Incorporates “suitable person” standard for issuances of FID cards; same standard for issue as Class A or B license, giving local police chiefs more discretion.

Section 3

- Removes Assault Weapon Ban loophole by banning private transfer of pre-1994 assault weapon; requires them to be stored at gun clubs or shooting ranges, or transferred to law enforcement.

Section 4

- Requires liability insurance for possession of a firearm, rifle or shotgun.

Section 5

- Requires live shooting as part of the curriculum for a basic firearms safety course; eliminates hunter safety course as a substitute for basic firearms safety course as requirement for gun license.

Section 6

- Imposes 25% sales tax on ammunition, firearms, shotguns, and rifles; dedicates funds towards firearms licensing, police training, mental health services, and victim’s services.

Sections 7-16

- Brings Massachusetts into compliance with the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) Improvement Amendments Act of 2007, a federal law passed in the aftermath of the Virginia Tech shooting tragedy.

defined in G.L. c. 209A, § 1; such information is required in order to attain compliance with federal standards for firearms licensing background checks.

Section 31

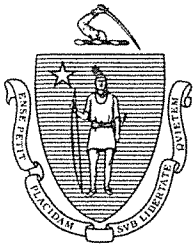
- Creates two new crimes: (1) assault and battery upon another by means of a firearm, large capacity weapon, rifle, shotgun, sawed-off shotgun, machine gun or assault weapon; and (2) assault upon another by means of a firearm, large capacity weapon, rifle, shotgun, sawed-off shotgun, machine gun or assault weapon. A first offense of the new assault and battery crime will be punishable by up to 15 years in state prison and a fine of up to \$10,000. A second or subsequent offense will be punishable by a mandatory minimum term of 3 years and a maximum of 20 years. A first offense of the new assault crime will be punishable by a mandatory minimum term of 2 years and a maximum of 15 years. Sentences will run from and after other firearms-related sentences arising from the same incident.

Section 32

- Creates a new crime for the commission of a violent misdemeanor (one that has as an element the use, threatened use, or attempted use of force) while in possession of a firearm, rifle or shotgun. The offense is punishable by 2.5 years imprisonment in a house of correction or up to 10 years in state prison.

Section 33

- Increases the authorized penalties for third and fourth offenses of illegal possession and carrying of firearms, shotguns, rifles, and machine guns to 10-15 years (currently 7-10) and 15-20 years (currently 10-15) respectively. Also increases the maximum punishment for a second offense to 10 years from 7 years; the minimum punishment for a second offense remains 5 years.



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133-1054

GAILANNE M. CARIDDI
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
FIRST BERKSHIRE DISTRICT

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Committees:

Tourism, Arts and Cultural Development
Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture
Municipalities and Regional Government

September 18, 2013

The Honorable James E. Timilty, Senate Chair
The Honorable Harold Naughton, House Chair
The Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security
State House – Room 167
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Chairman Timilty and Chairman Naughton

I write with great concern about the many bills relative to firearms currently before the Committee. Knowing that the First Berkshire District is one in which there are many lawful firearm owners, many of them hunters, I began in February to seek out and meet with members of the many gun clubs and associations in my district. I also met with a group of school committee people and additionally held a public meeting in North Adams at which over 50 people attended. This hearing was taped by our local community television station and has been broadcasted many times. I have received many comments from people who attended and watched the program.

Below is a summary of the majority of comments from residents of the First Berkshire District:

- Lawful firearms owners do not want more restrictions.
- District Attorneys are not enforcing laws, but rather dropping gun charges.
- Being limited to purchasing one gun a month will not stop crime. Do not support the Governor's bill.
- Current laws are contradictory, confusing, and, therefore, lead to non-enforcement.
- Limiting to seven round magazines is too restrictive on legal owners.
- Too many illegal guns exist. Efforts are needed to get them off our streets.
- Mental health issues are not addressed in schools. Bullying is part the of problem in

schools. A proactive social system is required and schools must take an active role to assist students in need.

- Firearm and hunting fees are too high, especially for families.
- Education is needed on how to handle guns. Years ago, Drury High School in North Adams offered a gun education course. Such classes should be brought back.
- Several persons commented that they cannot get a firearm license because of an infraction that occurred many years ago. They would like to appeal for reinstatement of a license without having to travel to Boston. They need a firearm license before they can get a hunting license.
- Many people spoke that they are afraid the state government wants to take away their guns.
- People are afraid in their homes because of increased break-ins due to drug crimes in the area.
- Non-gun owners expressed concern about safety. Accidental shootings can be decreased with education. Gun safety was in past years taught in our high school.
- Better background checks are necessary and should be coordinated with other states requirements.
- Massachusetts needs to have reciprocal arrangements with other states, especially Vermont and New York, as both states neighbor Northern Berkshire County. It is a difficult process to bring a gun legally outside of Massachusetts.
- Current gun laws are too complicated to own a firearm legally in Massachusetts.
- A police officer should be stationed at a school while doing his usual paperwork. This will deter a person from coming to a school to harm people.
- Massachusetts should join the National Instant Criminal Background Check System
- Gun owners do not want constitutional rights eroded by more restrictive laws.
- Do not infringe on Second Amendment rights.
- Concern when gun owner passes on and guns are left to family members who are non-gun owners.
- Keep the ban on assault weapons.

Throughout the public hearing and my many discussions with the gun club members, most individuals spoke of their frustrations with previously enacted measures and the complexity of enforcing them.

Most constituents, both gun and non-gun owners, want better enforcement of existing laws; those that are unenforceable because of their ambiguity or complexity, should be rescinded.

Many suggestions for education would help the problem of accidental deaths and many suggested stronger influence of mental health assistance in schools and in the community to help avoid tragic shootings.

My personal thoughts are that more needs to be done concerning mental health and education.

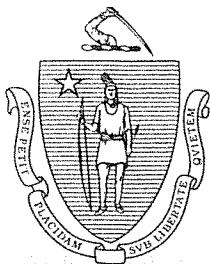
I very much appreciate your attention to this letter and to the thoughts and comments from those in my district. Please know that I forwarded a sizable packet of relative information, testimonies, and news articles from my district to the House Committee Chair. I would be happy to share those same copies with you. Certainly do not hesitate to contact me, as I would happily discuss this further should you need clarification.

Thank you and I wish you the best as you lead the committee on these important and emotion-filled initiatives.

Respectfully yours,



GAILANNE M. CARIDDI
State Representative
First Berkshire District



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133-1020

LINDA DEAN CAMPBELL
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
15TH ESSEX DISTRICT

Committees:

Joint Committee on Election Laws (Vice-Chair)

Joint Committee on Public Safety and
Homeland Security

House Committee on Ways and Means

ROOM 237, STATE HOUSE

TEL. (617) 722-2305

April 29, 2013

Senator James E. Timilty
Chairman, Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security
State House, Room 507
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Chairman Timilty,

I am writing to respectfully request favorable action on H3430 **An Act Relative to Mental Illness and Firearms.**

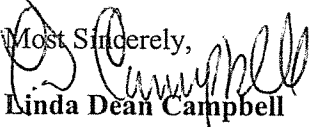
This legislation puts into place regulations and guidelines for those who are deemed "not mentally fit" whether temporarily or permanently in regards to obtaining a firearm (s) in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. As with cases of identified child abuse, it would require that licensed health care providers, including licensed mental health care professionals, report those individuals to a newly established, highly confidential firearms and mental health fitness information registry.

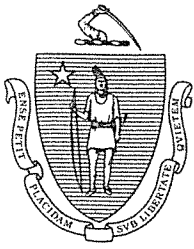
Only local licensing authorities and the Colonel of the State Police may obtain reports for the purpose of denying approval of a license to carry a firearm. Mandatory updating would remove individuals who were considered to be only temporarily incapacitated.

Strong privacy protections are included. Provisions to protect providers from civil and criminal liability are also included. This legislation has been drafted with input from the Massachusetts Psychiatric Society.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you wish to discuss this legislation or to offer recommendations to advance its objectives.

Most Sincerely,


Linda Dean Campbell
State Representative
15th Essex District



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE HOUSE, ROOM 472, BOSTON 02133-1054

TOM SANNICANDRO
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
7TH MIDDLESEX DISTRICT
ASHLAND • FRAMINGHAM

Chair
Joint Committee on
Higher Education

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Tom.Sannicandro@MAhouse.gov

July. 10, 2013

The Honorable James E. Timilty
Public Safety and Homeland Security, Chairman
State House, Room 507
Boston, Ma 02133

The Honorable Harold P. Naughton, Jr
Public Safety and Homeland Security, Chairman
State House, Room 167
Boston, Ma 02133

Dear Chairman Timilty and Chairman Naughton,

I write you today to urge favorable action on H. 3238, *An act to establish a special commission relative to gun violence and the reduction of poverty in the Commonwealth*. This legislation establishes a commission to research solutions for the growing poverty gap, gun violence in urban and suburban areas, and job growth particularly in Boston, the 24 gateway cities, and Framingham. This bill will improve the quality of life and reduce poverty in these cities.

The link between violence and poverty is well established. A study by Professor Richard Florida of the University of Toronto examined the associated factors which contribute to gun violence. Gun-related deaths occurred more frequently in states which had high levels of poverty and looser gun control legislation than states with lower levels of poverty and stricter gun control legislation.

Massachusetts gateway cities have high levels of poverty. The per capita income is below the statewide average, and those who hold a bachelors degree or higher is below the state average. As such, they are particularly at risk to gun violence.

This commission would propose methods, programs or legislation targeted at curbing violence and poverty in Massachusetts. It would identify methods for finding employment such as the creation of job training programs. The commission would present a final recommendation to the governor and the General Court. This report would contain legislative recommendations to reduce violence and poverty in Massachusetts by at least 10% in the next five years and 20% in the next ten years.

I urge you to take favorable action on this bill. If you have any questions or comments please contact me at Tom.Sannicandro@mahouse.gov or (617) 722-2013. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom". The letters are cursive and slanted to the right.

Tom Sannicandro
7th Middlesex District