The Florida Senate

COMMITTEE MEETING EXPANDED AGENDA

INFRASTRUCTURE AND SECURITY
Senator Lee, Chair
Senator Perry, Vice Chair

MEETING DATE: Monday, September 16, 2019
TIME: 1:00—4:00 p.m.
PLACE: *Toni Jennings Committee Room,* 110 Senate Building

MEMBERS: Senator Lee, Chair; Senator Perry, Vice Chair; Senators Bean, Cruz, Hooper, Hutson, Stewart, and Taddeo

TAB	BILL NO. and INTRODUCER	BILL DESCRIPTION and SENATE COMMITTEE ACTIONS	COMMITTEE ACTION
		Public Safety Workshop: Presentations and Panel Discussion Related to Mass Attacks and Targeted Violence	Discussed
		Review of Recent Legislation	
		Academic Research and Studies: Dr. Jillian Turanovic and Dr. Brendan Lantz, Assistant Professors, Florida State University College of Criminology and Criminal Justice	
		Law Enforcement Issues: Richard Swearingen, Commissioner, Florida Department of Law Enforcement Tom Knight, Sarasota County Sheriff, Florida Sheriffs Association Gary Hester, Florida Police Chiefs Association	
		Mental Health Issues: Rodney Moore, Assistant Secretary for Substance Abuse and Mental Health, Department of Children and Families Dr. Jay Reeve, President and Chief Executive Officer, Apalachee Center, Inc.	
		Judicial/Prosecutorial Issues - Additional workshop panel members may be added. Mr. Phil Archer, State Attorney for the 18th Judicial Circuit, Brevard and Seminole Counties	

Other Related Meeting Documents

2018 and 2019 Public Safety Legislation

Session	Bill	Bill Title	Bill Summary
2018	SB 7026 Chapter No. 2018-3	Public Safety	Comprehensively addresses: • Mental Health - authorized a LEO taking a person into custody for an involuntary examination under the Baker Act to seize and hold a firearm or ammunition; prohibits a person who has been adjudicated mentally defective or who has been committed to a mental institution from owning or possessing a firearm; created a process for law enforcement to petition a court for a risk protection order; and prohibits a person from making, posting, or transmitting a threat to conduct a mass shooting or an act of terrorism. • Gun Safety - requires a three-day waiting period or completion of a records check, whichever is longer, between the purchase and delivery of a firearm; prohibits a person under 21 years of age from purchasing a firearm and prohibits bump-fire stocks. • School Safety - established the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Commission to investigate system failures in the Parkland school shooting and prior mass violence incidents, and develop recommendations for system improvements; codified the Office of Safe Schools within the FDOE and established the Coach Aaron Feis Guardian Program; and required district school boards and superintendents to cooperate with law enforcement agencies to assign one or more safe-school officers at each school facility.
2018	SB 7024 Chapter No. 2018-2	Public Records/Victim of an Incident of Mass Violence	Makes exempt from public records disclosure the address of a victim of an incident of mass violence. An incident of mass violence is defined as an incident in which four or more people, not including the perpetrator, are severely injured or killed by an intentional and indiscriminate violent act. A victim is defined as a person killed or injured during the incident of mass violence.
2018	SB 1940 Chapter No. 2018-1	Public Records and Public Meetings/School Safety	Creates three new public records exemptions. Each of these exemptions is related to legislation on school safety: •The bill protects the identity of a reporting party received through the mobile suspicious activity reporting tool (like "FortifyFL"). •Information held by a law enforcement agency, school district, or charter school which would identify whether a particular individual has been appointed as a safe-school officer is exempt from disclosure. •The bill exempts from disclosure a portion of a meeting of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Commission at which exempt or confidential and exempt information is discussed.
2019	HB 441 Chapter No. 2019-146	E911 Systems	Requires each county to develop a countywide plan to implement text-to-911 services and to implement the plan by January 1, 2022. requires the Technology Program within DMS to develop a plan by February 1, 2020, to upgrade 911 public safety answering points (PSAP) within the state to allow the transfer of an emergency call from one local, multijurisdictional, or regional E911 system to another local, multijurisdictional, or regional E911 system in the state. The bill specifies that this transfer capability should include voice, text message, image, video, caller identification information, location information, and additional standards-based 911 call information. Third, the bill requires the development and implementation of communications systems that allow direct radio communication between each PSAP and first responders.

2018 and 2019 Public Safety Legislation

Session	Bill	Bill Title	Bill Summary
2019	SB 7030 Chapter No. 2019-22	Implementation of Legislative Recommendations of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Commission	Addresses the school safety and security recommendations of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Commission, and strengthens accountability and compliance oversight authority. Major issues addressed in the bill include: •Safe-school officer requirements, including guardian program and training; •Information sharing and reporting requirements, including responses to emergency situations, safety incident reporting, data collection and data sharing; •School district threat assessment teams, use of behavioral threat assessment instruments, and verification of intervention services continuation; •Expansion of the role of the Office of School Security within the Department of Education as it relates to: 1) collection of safe-school officer information, 2) use of the Florida Safe Schools Assessment Tool, 3) development of a standardized behavioral threat assessment instrument, 4) creation of a threat assessment database workgroup, 5) creation of a school hardening and harm mitigation workgroup, and 6) monitoring school compliance with school safety requirements; and •Providing funding opportunities to enhance school safety and security, and to provide additional mental health services to students.
2019	SB 1418 Chapter No. 2019-134	Mental Health	Implements recommendations of a DCF task force on Baker Act cases involving minors. • The bill encourages school districts to adopt a standardized suicide assessment tool that school-based mental health professionals would implement prior to initiation of an involuntary examination. • The bill increases the number of days, from the next working day to five working days that the receiving facility has to submit forms to DCF. This will allow DCF to capture data on whether the minor was admitted, released, or a petition filed with the court. •The bill increases data gathered on involuntary examinations and requires DCF to submit a report to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, every two years on its findings and recommendations related to involuntary examinations initiated on minors. •The bill also requires that when a patient communicates a specific threat against an identifiable individual to a mental health service provider, the provider must notify law enforcement of the potential threat. •The bill further requires that law enforcement notify the target of the threat presented; and provides immunity from civil and criminal liability to service providers acting in good faith when releasing such information.

2018 and 2019 Public Safety Legislation

Session	Bill	Bill Title	Bill Summary
2019	SB 186 Chapter No. 2019-46	Public Records/Victim of Mass Violence	Retains an existing public record exemption which provides that a photograph or video or audio recording that depicts or records the killing of a law enforcement officer who was acting in accordance with his or her official duties is confidential and exempt from public disclosure. The bill creates a new public records exemption which provides that a photograph or video or audio recording that depicts or records the killing of a victim of mass violence is confidential and exempt from public disclosure. The existing exemption and the new exemption only apply to photographs and video and audio recordings held by an agency. The bill defines the term "killing of a victim of mass violence" as events that depict either a victim being killed or the body of a victim killed in an incident in which three or more persons, not including the perpetrator, are killed by the perpetrator of an intentional act of violence.
2019	HB 487 Chapter No. 2019-77	Carrying of Firearms by Tactical Medical Professionals	Authorizes a "tactical medical professional" (TMP) who has a concealed weapons and firearms license to carry firearms, weapons, and ammunition when he or she is actively operating in direct support of a tactical law enforcement operation. The bill also requires the law enforcement agency head to have appointed the TMP, the agency to have an established policy for these appointments, and the TMP to have completed two types of firearms training. A TMP may carry a firearm in the same manner as a law enforcement officer and anywhere that a tactical law enforcement operation occurs. Additionally, a TMP has "the same immunities and privileges as a law enforcement officer . . . in a civil or criminal action arising out of a tactical law enforcement operation when acting within the scope of his or her official duties." The bill defines a TMP as a paramedic, physician, or osteopathic physician who is appointed to provide medical support to a tactical law enforcement unit engaged in high-risk incidents, such as drugs raids and hostage situations.

Committee on Criminal Justice

SB 186 — Public Records/Victim of Mass Violence

by Senators Lee, Book, and Stewart

The bill amends s. 406.136, F.S., and transfers this section to s. 119.071, F.S. The bill retains an existing public record exemption which provides that a photograph or video or audio recording that depicts or records the killing of a law enforcement officer who was acting in accordance with his or her official duties is confidential and exempt from public disclosure. The bill creates a new public records exemption which provides that a photograph or video or audio recording that depicts or records the killing of a victim of mass violence is confidential and exempt from public disclosure. The existing exemption and the new exemption only apply to photographs and video and audio recordings held by an agency.

The bill defines the term "killing of a victim of mass violence" as events that depict either a victim being killed or the body of a victim killed in an incident in which three or more persons, not including the perpetrator, are killed by the perpetrator of an intentional act of violence.

The bill retains provisions relevant to the existing exemption and applies them to the new exemption, including:

- Specifying who may obtain such photograph or video or audio recording, the process of obtaining them pursuant to a court order when good cause is shown, and factors a court must consider in determining good cause;
- Providing that it is a third degree felony for any custodian of such photograph or video or audio recording to willfully and knowingly violate exemption requirements;
- Specifying that the exemption is retroactive and applies to all such photographs or video or audio recordings; and
- Providing that the exemption does not overturn or abrogate or alter any existing orders duly entered into by any court of this state, as of the effective date of this act, which restrict or limit access to such photographs or video or audio recordings.

The bill specifies that a surviving spouse, parent, or adult child of the victim is not precluded from sharing or publicly releasing such photograph or video or audio recording.

The bill provides a public necessity statement as required by the State Constitution. The statement includes legislative findings regarding photographs and video and audio recordings that depict or record the killing of a victim of mass violence. These findings indicate:

- Such photographs and video or audio recordings render a graphic and often disturbing visual or aural representation of the deceased which, if heard, viewed, copied, or publicized, could result in trauma, sorrow, humiliation, or emotional injury to the immediate family of the deceased and detract from the memory of the deceased;
- Widespread unauthorized dissemination of such photographs and video and audio recordings would subject the immediate family of the deceased to continuous injury;
- Dissemination of such photographs and video and audio recordings is harmful to the public because terrorists will use them to attract followers, bring attention to their cause,

and inspire others to kill, and such dissemination may also educe violent acts by the mentally ill or morally corrupt;
- Other types of available information, such as crime scene reports, continue to be available and are less intrusive and injurious to the immediate family of the deceased and continue to provide for public oversight; and
- The exemption should be given retroactive application because it is remedial in nature.

Finally, the bill provides for repeal of the exemption on October 2, 2024, unless reviewed and saved from repeal through reenactment by the Legislature.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect upon becoming law.
Vote: Senate 40-0; House 108-6

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Committee on Innovation, Industry, And Technology

CS/CS/HB 441 — E911 Systems

by Commerce Committee; Energy and Utilities Subcommittee; and Reps. DuBose, Toledo, and others (CS/CS/SB 536 by Appropriations Committee; Innovation, Industry, and Technology Committee; and Senators Brandes, Perry, and Book)

The bill contains three requirements relating to 911 services and provides legislative findings that each serves an important state interest in protecting the public safety.

First, the bill requires each county to develop a countywide plan to implement text-to-911 services and to implement the plan by January 1, 2022.

Second, the bill requires the Technology Program within the Department of Management Services to develop a plan by February 1, 2020, to upgrade 911 public safety answering points (PSAP) within the state to allow the transfer of an emergency call from one local, multijurisdictional, or regional E911 system to another local, multijurisdictional, or regional E911 system in the state. The bill specifies that this transfer capability should include voice, text message, image, video, caller identification information, location information, and additional standards-based 911 call information. It also provides duties in developing the plan.

Third, the bill requires the development and implementation of communications systems that allow direct radio communication between each PSAP and first responders.

Each sheriff must facilitate the development and execution of written interlocal agreements between all primary first responder agencies within the county. Each agreement must establish written protocols that outline circumstances and public safety emergencies under which a PSAP will directly provide notice by radio of an emergency to the on-duty personnel of a first responder agency for which the PSAP does not provide primary dispatch functions. Each agreement must require the PSAP to have direct radio contact with primary first responder agencies and their dispatchers, for whom the PSAP can reasonably receive 911 communications, without having to transfer a 911 communication to another PSAP or dispatch center for dispatch. The method of complying is to be established by the first responder agency heads and set forth in the interlocal agreement.

Each PSAP must be capable of immediately broadcasting 911 communications or public safety information over the primary radio dispatch channels of each first responder agency in the county it serves, except in those first responders service areas where the PSAP cannot reasonably receive 911 calls. If a county or jurisdiction has multiple PSAPs, each PSAP must have this capability.

Unless technologically precluded due to radio incompatibility, upon written request from a law enforcement agency head, a law enforcement agency head in the same county or in an adjacent jurisdiction in another county must authorize the requesting agency to install the responding

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agency's primary dispatch channel or channels in the requesting agency's PSAP, dispatch center, or mobile or portable radios.

Each primary first responder agency, PSAP, and dispatch center within each county is required to train all applicable personnel regarding the procedures and protocols specified in the interlocal agreements. The training must also include radio functionality and how to readily access the necessary dispatch channels in accordance with the interlocal agreements.

By January 1, 2020, each sheriff must provide to the Department of Law Enforcement: a copy of each interlocal agreement and written certification that all PSAPs in his or her county are in compliance.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect July 1, 2019.
Vote: Senate 40-0; House 110-0

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Committee on Judiciary

CS/HB 487 — Carrying of Firearms by Tactical Medical Professionals

by Criminal Justice Subcommittee and Reps. Smith, D., Gottlieb, and others (CS/CS/SB 722 by Rules Committee; Judiciary Committee; and Senator Hooper)

This bill expressly authorizes a "tactical medical professional" (TMP) who has a concealed weapons and firearms license to carry firearms, weapons, and ammunition when he or she is actively operating in direct support of a tactical law enforcement operation. However, for the authorization to apply, the bill also requires the law enforcement agency head to have appointed the TMP, the agency to have an established policy for these appointments, and the TMP to have completed two types of firearms training, one of which must be provided by the agency.

A TMP may carry a firearm in the same manner as a law enforcement officer and anywhere that a tactical law enforcement operation occurs. Additionally, a TMP has "the same immunities and privileges as a law enforcement officer . . . in a civil or criminal action arising out of a tactical law enforcement operation when acting within the scope of his or her official duties."

The bill defines a TMP as a paramedic, physician, or osteopathic physician who is appointed to provide medical support to a tactical law enforcement unit engaged in high-risk incidents, such as drugs raids and hostage situations.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect July 1, 2019.
Vote: Senate 39-1; House 106-7

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Committee on Children, Families, And Elder Affairs

CS/CS/SB 1418 — Mental Health

by Children, Families, and Elder Affairs Committee; Rules Committee; and Senator Powell

The bill implements two recommendations of a Department of Children and Families (DCF) task force on Baker Act cases involving minors. The Florida Mental Health Act, also known as the Baker Act, allows for voluntary and, under certain circumstances, involuntary, examinations of individuals suspected of having a mental illness and presenting a threat of harm to themselves or others, and establishes procedures for courts, law enforcement, and certain health care practitioners to initiate such examinations and then act in response to the findings. The task force found that Florida has seen an increasing trend statewide and in certain counties to initiate involuntary examinations of minors in recent years.

The first recommendation contained in the bill encourages school districts to adopt a standardized suicide assessment tool that school-based mental health professionals would implement prior to initiation of an involuntary examination. The second recommendation increases the number of days, from the next working day to five working days that the receiving facility has to submit forms to DCF. This will allow DCF to capture data on whether the minor was admitted, released, or a petition filed with the court. The bill also increases data gathered on involuntary examinations and requires DCF to submit a report to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, every two years on its findings and recommendations related to involuntary examinations initiated on minors.

The bill also requires that when a patient communicates a specific threat against an identifiable individual to a mental health service provider, the provider must notify law enforcement of the potential threat. The bill further requires that law enforcement notify the target of the threat presented. The bill provides immunity from civil and criminal liability to service providers acting in good faith when releasing such information.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect July 1, 2019.
Vote: Senate 38-0; House 113-0

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Committee on Rules

SB 1940 — Public Records and Public Meetings/School Safety

by Senators Galvano and Benacquisto

This bill creates three new public records exemptions. Each of these exemptions is related to legislation on school safety. The School Safety legislation provides for, among other things, enhancement of the School Safety Awareness Program (FortifyFL) through implementation of a new mobile suspicious activity reporting tool, the designation of school guardians and other safe-school officers, and the creation of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Commission.

First, the bill makes confidential and exempt from disclosure the identity of a reporting party received through the mobile suspicious activity reporting tool which is held by the Department of Law Enforcement, law enforcement agencies, or school officials. Without the exemption, a person may be fearful of reporting suspicious activity which could otherwise be used by law enforcement as a lead in preventing an incident of mass violence.

Another public records exemption is created to make exempt from disclosure information held by a law enforcement agency, school district, or charter school which would identify whether a particular individual has been appointed as a safe-school officer. The exemption is needed to maximize the effectiveness of safe-school officers, including adequately responding to an active assailant situation.

Finally, the bill makes exempt from disclosure a portion of a meeting of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Commission (commission) at which exempt or confidential and exempt information is discussed. In investigating failures in the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School shooting and other mass violence incidents in the state, the commission will have for its review sensitive information that may already be protected from public records disclosure. Without the exemption provided in this bill, existing public records exemptions would be negated.

Each of these public records exemptions is subject to the Open Government Sunset Review and stands repealed October 2, 2023, unless the Legislature reviews the exemptions and saves them from repeal before that date.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect on the same date that SB 7026 takes effect, which is upon becoming law.
Vote: Senate 36-0; House 114-2

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Committee on Rules

SB 7024 — Public Records/Victim of an Incident of Mass Violence

by Rules Committee

This bill makes exempt from public records disclosure the address of a victim of an incident of mass violence. An incident of mass violence is defined as an incident in which four or more people, not including the perpetrator, are severely injured or killed by an intentional and indiscriminate violent act. A victim is defined as a person killed or injured during the incident of mass violence.

Without the exemption, the media or others could invade the privacy of the victim or the victim's family and subject them to harassment and additional pain and suffering.

In the Open Government Sunset Review, the bill provides that the public records exemption stands repealed on October 2, 2023, unless the Legislature reviews and saves the exemption from repeal before that date.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect upon becoming law.
Vote: Senate 35-1; House 117-0

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Committee on Rules

CS/SB 7026 — Public Safety

by Appropriations Committee and Rules Committee

The bill (Chapter 2018-3, L.O.F.) comprehensively addresses the crisis of gun violence, including but not limited to, gun violence on school campuses. The Legislature intends to address this crisis by providing law enforcement and the courts with the tools to enhance public safety by temporarily restricting firearm possession by a person who is undergoing a mental health crisis and when there is evidence of a threat of violence, and by promoting school safety and enhanced coordination between education and law enforcement entities at the state and local level.

In the area of mental health, the bill:

- Authorizes a law enforcement officer who is taking a person into custody for an involuntary examination under the Baker Act to seize and hold a firearm or ammunition in the person's possession and to seek the voluntary surrender of other firearms or ammunition kept in the residence.
- Provides that the firearms or ammunition seized or voluntarily surrendered must be available for return no longer than 24 hours after the person taken into custody can document that he or she is no longer subject to involuntary examination and has been released or discharged or discharged from any inpatient or involuntary outpatient treatment provided or ordered and does not have a risk protection order against them or is the subject of a firearm disability.
- Prohibits a person who has been adjudicated mentally defective or who has been committed to a mental institution from owning or possessing a firearm until a court orders otherwise.
- Creates a process for a law enforcement officer or law enforcement agency to petition a court for a risk protection order to temporarily prevent persons who are at high risk of harming themselves or others from possessing firearms or ammunition when a person poses a significant danger to himself or herself or others, including significant danger as a result of a mental health crisis or violent behavior.
- Allows a court to issue a risk protection order for up to 12 months and requires the surrender of all firearms and ammunition if a risk protection order is issued.
- Provides a process for a risk protection order to be vacated or extended by the court.

The bill provides the following in the area of gun safety:

- Requires a three-day waiting period between the purchase and delivery of a firearm or until the background check is completed, whichever is later.
- Provides exceptions of the three-day waiting period for concealed weapons permit holder, and for the purchase of firearms other than handguns, an exception for:
    - Individuals who have completed a 16-hour hunter safety course and possess a hunter safety certification card;
    - Persons who are exempt from the hunter safety course requirements and hold a valid Florida hunting license; or

  - Law enforcement officers, correctional officers, and servicemembers.
- Prohibits a person under 21 years of age from purchasing a firearm and a licensed firearm dealer, importer, and manufacturer, from selling a firearm, except in the case of a member of the military, or a law enforcement or correctional officer when purchasing a rifle or shotgun.
- Prohibits a bump-fire stock from being imported, transferred, distributed, sold, keeping for sale, offering for sale, possessing, or giving away within the state beginning October 1, 2018.

The bill improves school safety through the following provisions:

- Establishes the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Commission (commission) to investigate system failures in the Parkland school shooting and prior mass violence incidents, and develop recommendations for system improvements. An initial report from the commission is due to the Governor and the Legislature by January 1, 2019; and the commission is scheduled to repeal on July 1, 2023.
- Codifies the Office of Safe Schools within the Florida Department of Education (DOE) which will serve as a central repository for the best practices, training standards, and compliance regarding school safety and security.
- Permits a sheriff to establish a Coach Aaron Feis Guardian Program to aid in the prevention or abatement of active assailant incidents on school premises. The bill allows school districts to decide whether to participate in the school guardian program if it is available in their county. A school guardian must complete 132 hours of comprehensive firearm safety and proficiency training, 12 hours of diversity training, pass a psychological evaluation, and initial drug test and subsequent random drug tests. No teacher will be required to participate. In fact, the legislation provides that personnel that are strictly classroom teachers with no other responsibilities cannot participate, with specified exceptions.
- Requires each district school board and school district superintendent to cooperate with law enforcement agencies to assign one or more safe-school officers at each school facility.
- Requires each district school board to:
  - Designate a school administrator who completes the required training within the specified timeframe as the school safety specialist for the district to serve as the district's primary point of public contact for public school safety functions.
  - Designate a threat assessment team at each school, and requires the team to operate under the district school safety specialist's direction. The bill requires the threat assessment team to consult with law enforcement when a student exhibits a pattern of behavior, based upon previous acts or the severity of an act that would pose a threat to school safety.
  - Formulate and prescribe policies and procedures, in consultation with the appropriate public safety agencies, for emergency drills for hostage and active shooter situations and incorporate procedures to address active shooter situations in the model emergency management and emergency preparedness procedures.

  - Requires each school safety specialist to coordinate with appropriate public safety agencies that are designated as the first responders to a school's campus to tour such campus once every 3 years and provide recommendations related to school safety.
- Requires the DOE to contract for the development of a Florida Safe School Assessment Tool to be used by each school district and public school in conducting security assessments to identify threats and vulnerabilities.
- Requires the DOE to establish evidence-based youth mental health awareness and assistance training program to help school personnel identify and understand the signs of emotional disturbance, mental illness, and substance use disorders and provide such personnel with the skills to help a person who is experiencing or developing an emotional disturbance, mental health, or substance abuse problem.
- Creates the mental health assistance allocation within the Florida Education Finance Program to provide funding to assist school districts in establishing or expanding school-based mental health care.
- Clarifies that the cost per student station does not include specified costs related to improving school safety.

The bill also:

- Prohibits a person from making, posting, or transmitting a threat to conduct a mass shooting or an act of terrorism.
- Requires the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to contract for community action treatment teams to provide behavioral health and support services.
- Requires the Florida Department of Law Enforcement to procure a mobile app that would allow students and the community to relay information anonymously concerning unsafe, potentially harmful, dangerous, violent, or criminal activities or threats. The students of Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School recommended that the program be named "FortifyFL."

The bill includes, but is not limited to, the following appropriations for the proposals discussed above:

- Over $69 million to the DOE to fund the mental health assistance allocation;
- $1 million for the design and construction of a memorial honoring those who lost their lives on February 14, 2018, at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School.
- Over $25 million for replacing building 12 at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School.
- Over $67 million for sheriff's offices who decide to establish a school guardian program.
- Over $97 million to aid for the safe school allocation.
- Over $98 million to implement a grant program for improving the physical security of school buildings.
- $400,000 for the "FortifyFL" mobile app.
- $18.3 million to the DCF for additional mobile crisis teams to ensure reasonable access among all counties.

These provisions were approved by the Governor and take effect on March 9, 2018, unless otherwise provided.
Vote: Senate 20-18; House 67-50

Committee on Education

CS/CS/SB 7030 — Implementation of Legislative Recommendations of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Commission

by Appropriations Committee; Infrastructure and Security Committee; and Education Committee

The bill addresses the school safety and security recommendations of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Commission, and strengthens accountability and compliance oversight authority.

School Security

The bill enhances school security measures. Specifically, the bill:

- Requires sheriffs to assist district school boards and charter school governing boards in complying with safe-school officer requirements, including providing guardian training either directly or through a contract with another sheriff's office under specified circumstances.
- Requires district school boards to collaborate with charter school governing boards to facilitate charter school access to all safe-school officer options. If a district school board denies a charter school access to any of the safe-school officer options, the school district must assign a school resource officer or school safety officer to the charter school and retain the charter school's share of the costs from the safe schools allocation.
- Delineates that the four safe-school officer options include a school resource officer, a school safety officer, school guardian, and a school security guard. The bill specifies that:
  - A school guardian may be a school district employee or a charter school employee who volunteers to serve as a school guardian in addition to his or her official job duties or an employee of a school district or a charter school who is hired for the specific purpose of serving as a school guardian. The bill removes the prohibition on an individual who exclusively performs duties as a classroom teacher from participating in the guardian program.
  - A school security guard must hold a Class "D" and Class "G" license in accordance with the law and meet the training requirements equivalent to that of a school guardian as a safe-school officer.
- Continues to require a district school board to opt-in to the guardian program through a majority vote and require employees who volunteer to pass a psychological evaluation and complete 144 hours of required training. The bill also requires the employee to complete the required training to the Sheriff's satisfaction and then be appointed by the superintendent or charter school principal, as applicable.
- Applies the penalties specified in law relating to the false personation of a law enforcement officer to the false personation of a school guardian and a licensed security officer.

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Student Safety

The bill improves student safety by establishing information sharing and reporting requirements for district school boards and charter school governing boards, including responses to emergency situations, safety incident reporting, data collection, and data sharing. Specifically, the bill:

- Requires each district school board and charter school governing board to adopt an active assailant response plan; and annually by October 1, requires each district school superintendent and charter school principal to certify that all school personnel have received annual training on the procedures contained in the plan.
- Requires drills for active shooter and hostage situations to be conducted in accordance with developmentally appropriate and age-appropriate procedures.
- Requires each district school board to define criteria for reporting to a law enforcement agency any act that poses a threat to school safety as well as acts of misconduct which are not a threat to school safety and do not require consultation with law enforcement.
- Requires that the Florida Safe Schools Assessment Tool (FSSAT) be the primary physical site security assessment tool used by school officials at each school district and public school site in conducting security assessments; and requires each school district to report to the Department of Education (DOE) by October 15 that all schools within the district have completed the school security risk assessment using the FSSAT.
- Enhances oversight and enforcement as it relates to School Environmental and Safety Incident Reporting (SESIR) by requiring school districts and charter schools to report specified incidents; and requires the OSS to collect, review, and evaluate data regarding the reports to ensure compliance with the reporting requirements.
- Requires district school boards and charter schools to promote the use of the mobile suspicious activity reporting tool by advertising the tool on its website, school campuses, newsletters, and install the application on all mobile devices and bookmark the website on all computer devices issued to students.
- Modifies requirements relating to new student registration and transfer of student records by clarifying the mental health services-related reporting requirements at the time of initial registration and specifying the information that must be transferred from one public school to another upon a student's transfer.

The bill modifies requirements relating to school district threat assessment teams by:

- Requiring the threat assessment team to use the behavioral threat assessment instrument that is developed by the OSS in accordance with the law.
- Requiring, upon a student's transfer to a different school, a threat assessment team to verify that any intervention services provided to the student remain in place until the threat assessment team of the receiving school independently determines the need for intervention services.

The bill adds authority and responsibilities for the OSS. Specifically, the bill requires the OSS to:

- Annually publish a list including information about the number of safe-school officers in the state and information related to disciplinary incidents involving such officers.

- Make the FSSAT available annually by May 1, and provide annual training to each district's school safety specialist and other appropriate personnel on the assessment of physical site school security and completing the FSSAT.
- Specifies additional data that must be included in the centralized integrated data repository in coordination with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE).
- Develop, no later than August 1, 2019, a standardized, statewide behavioral threat assessment instrument for use by all K-12 public schools and evaluate, by August 1, 2020, each school district's and charter school governing board's behavioral threat assessment procedures for compliance with the law.
- Establish a Statewide Threat Assessment Database Workgroup to complement the work of the DOE and the FDLE associated with the centralized integrated data repository and data analytics resources initiative. The workgroup must make recommendations regarding the development of a statewide threat assessment database to provide access to information about any school threat assessment to authorized personnel in each school district. The workgroup must provide a report to the OSS with recommendations that include specified components, no later than December 31, 2019.
- Convene a School Hardening and Harm Mitigation Workgroup comprised of individuals with subject matter expertise on school campus hardening best practices to review school hardening and harm mitigation policies, and submit a report to the executive director of the OSS by August 1, 2020, including a prioritized list for the implementation of school campus hardening and harm mitigation strategies, and related estimated costs and timeframes. The bill also specifies reporting requirements and related deadlines for the OSS and the Commissioner of Education regarding recommendations for policy and funding enhancements and strategies for implementing school campus hardening.
- Monitor school district and charter school compliance with school safety requirements.

School District Funding

The bill provides funding opportunities to enhance school safety and security, and to provide additional mental health services to students. Specifically, the bill:

- Retroactively provides school districts with flexibility for expending 2018-2019 fiscal year safe schools allocation funds for employing or contracting for safe-school officers.
- Provides school districts with greater flexibility to improve school safety by authorizing the transfer of categorical funds within the Florida Education Finance Program towards school safety expenditures, and expands authorized uses of the safe schools allocation.
- Expands the authorized uses of the mental health assistance allocation, provides school district flexibility for expenditures, and requires a program and expenditure plan for school districts and charter schools.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect upon becoming law, except for the provisions related to the safe schools allocation and mental health allocation which are effective July 1, 2019, and the retroactive funding provisions related to the 2018-2019 safe schools allocation.
Vote: Senate 22-17; House 65-47

Mass Shootings and Hate Crimes

Dr. Jillian Turanovic
Dr. Brendan Lantz

College of Criminology and Criminal Justice
Florida State University

Deadly Mass Shootings

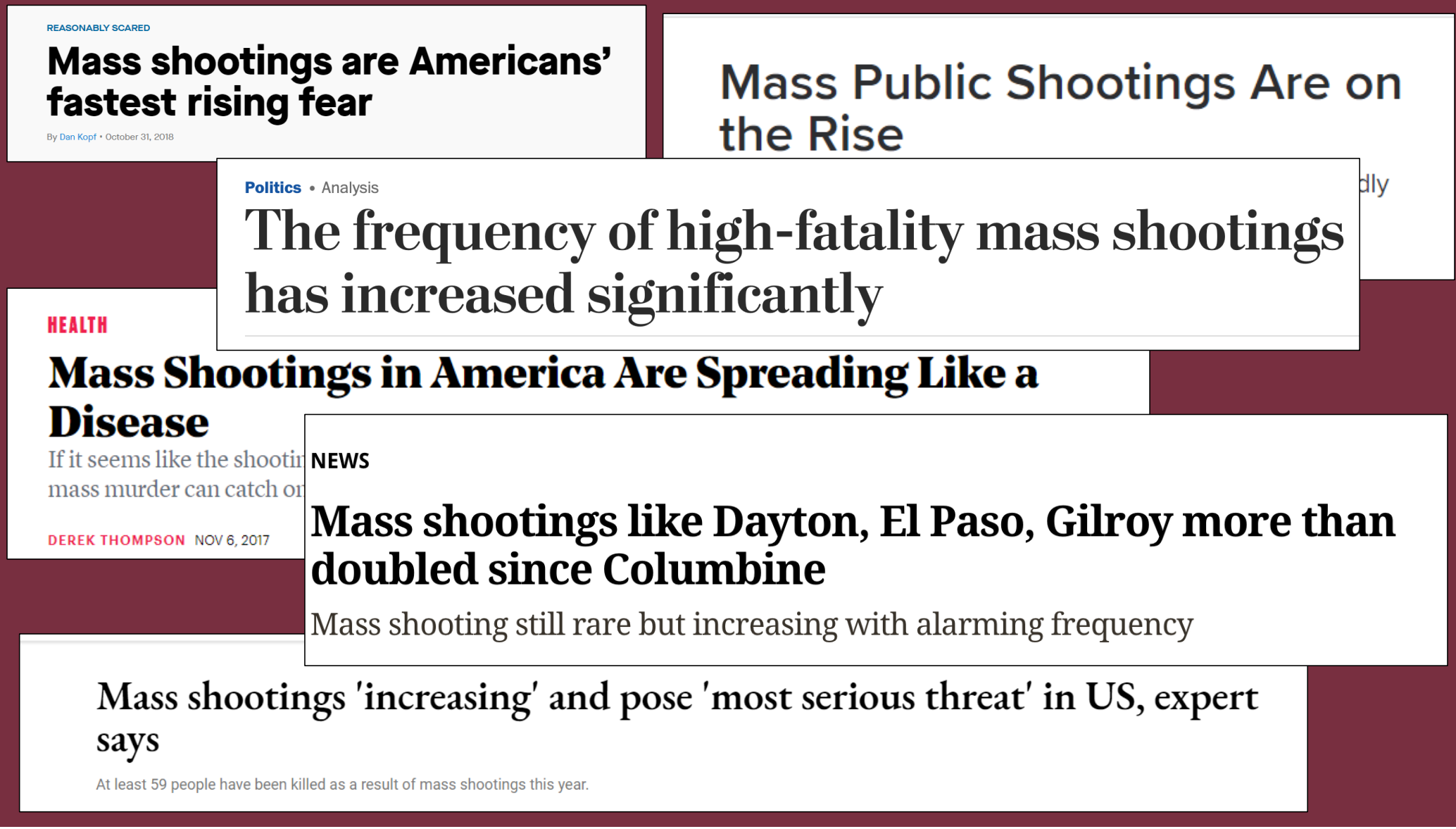
- Have emerged as one of the most prominent social problems in contemporary America
- Such events continue to rise toward the top of U.S. citizens' list of pressing concerns










REASONABLY SCARED
Mass shootings are Americans' fastest rising fear
By Dan Kopf • October 31, 2018
Mass Public Shootings Are on the Rise
Politics • Analysis
The frequency of high-fatality mass shootings has increased significantly
HEALTH
Mass Shootings in America Are Spreading Like a Disease
If it seems like the shootin
mass murder can catch on
DEREK THOMPSON NOV 6, 2017
NEWS
Mass shootings like Dayton, El Paso, Gilroy more than doubled since Columbine
Mass shooting still rare but increasing with alarming frequency
Mass shootings 'increasing' and pose 'most serious threat' in US, expert says
At least 59 people have been killed as a result of mass shootings this year.

Deadly Mass Shootings

- Public perception that deadly mass shooting incidents are becoming increasingly frequent

- Disconnect between reality of deadly incidents and the public's perception of them

Mass Confusion

- Have little in the way of a shared definition with respect to deadly mass shootings

- Existing databases on mass shootings paint very different pictures of the problem
  - Some say close to 300 mass shootings have occurred already in 2019, some say 8

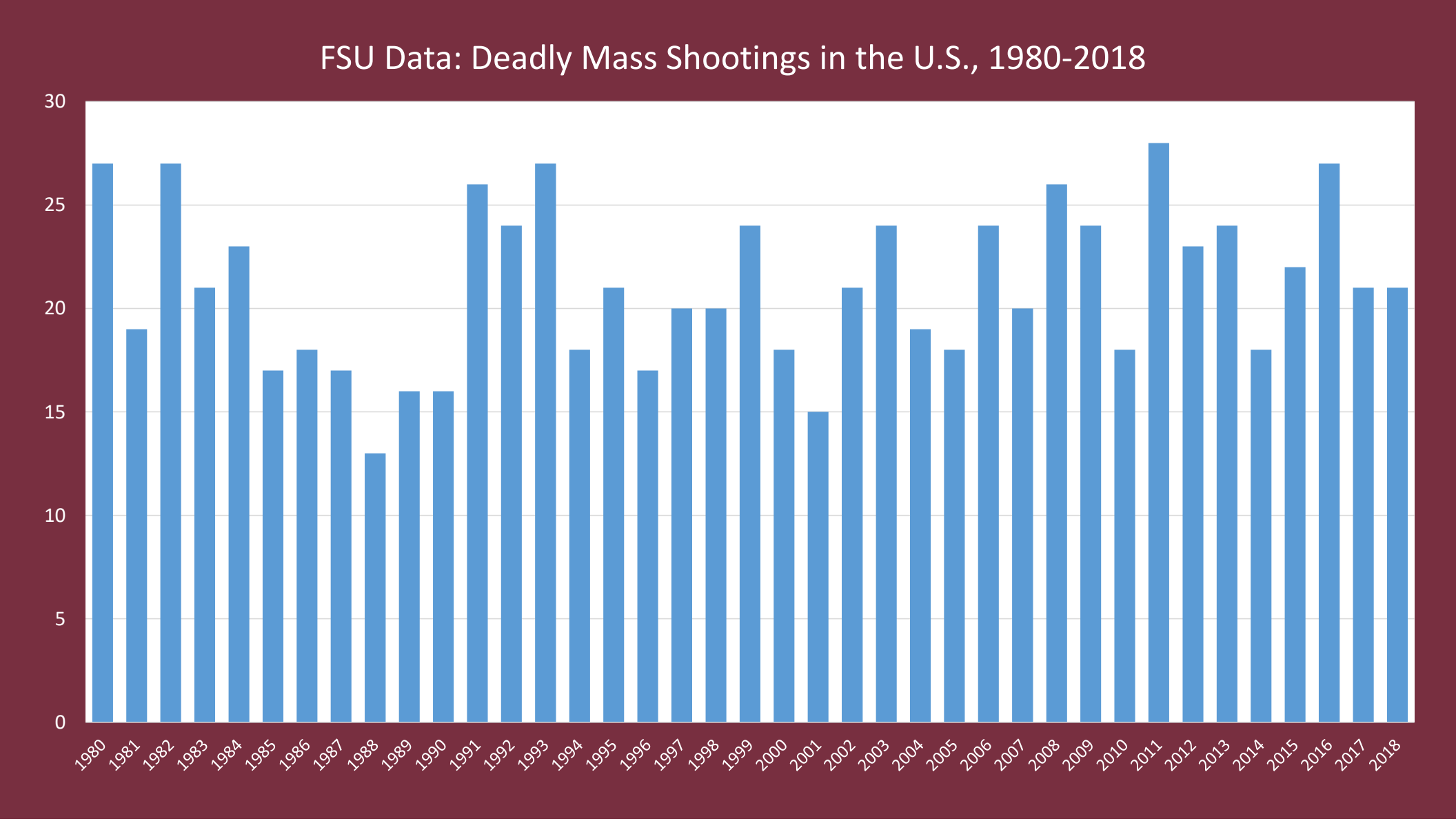
Mass Confusion

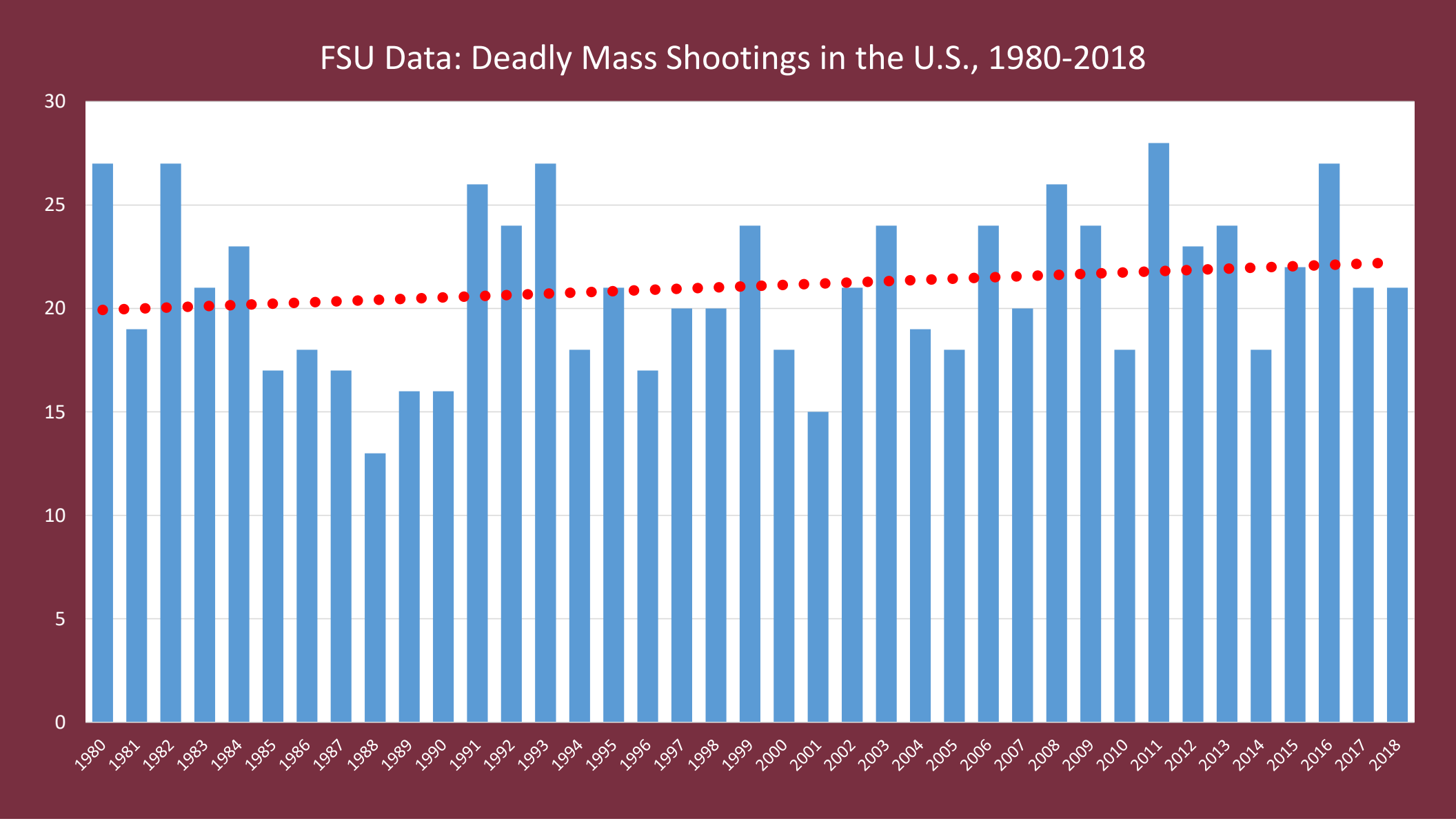
- There is currently no comprehensive and centralized knowledge base about the extent and nature of deadly mass shooting incidents over time

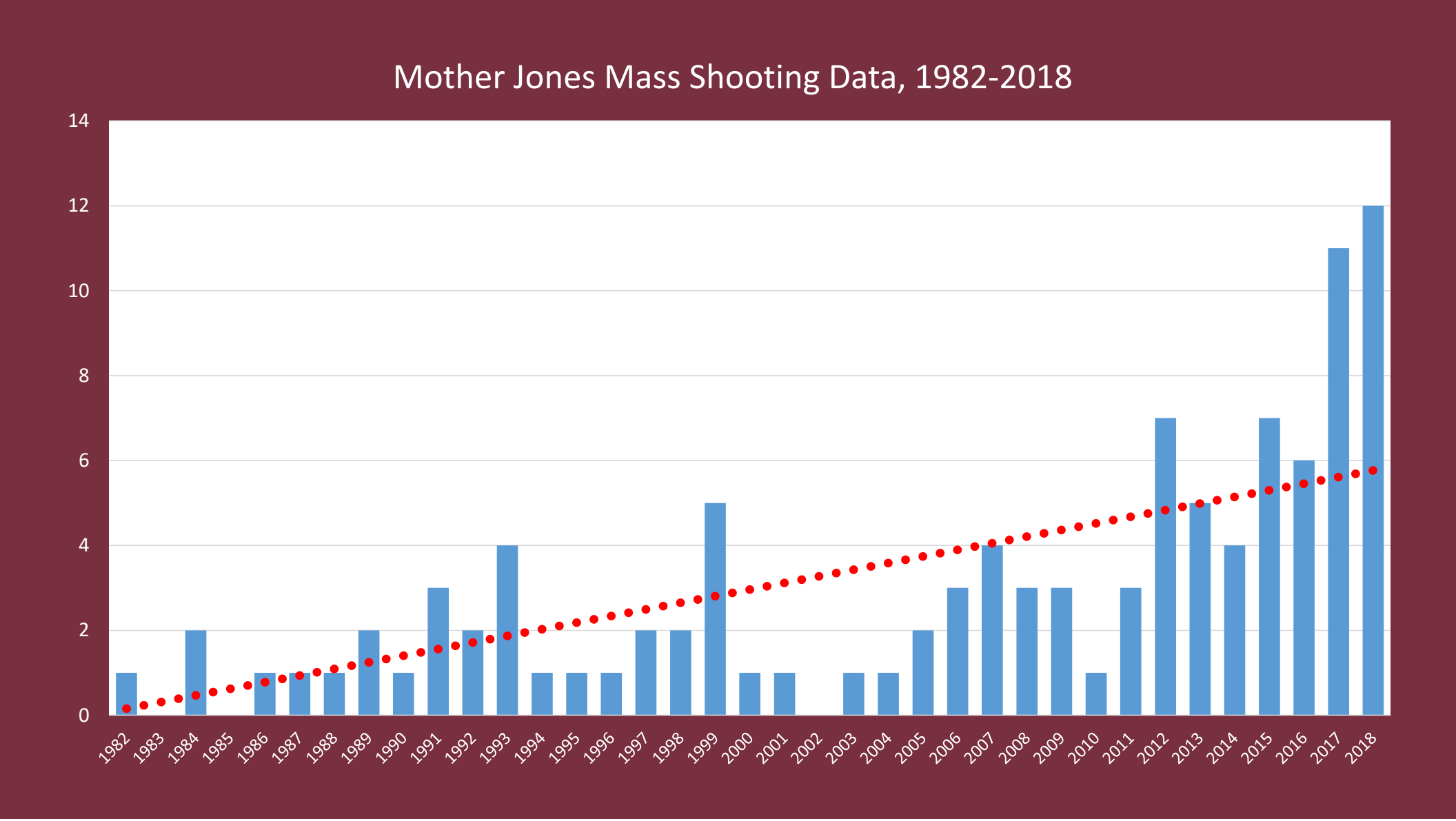
- Difficult to determine the nature and extent of this epidemic

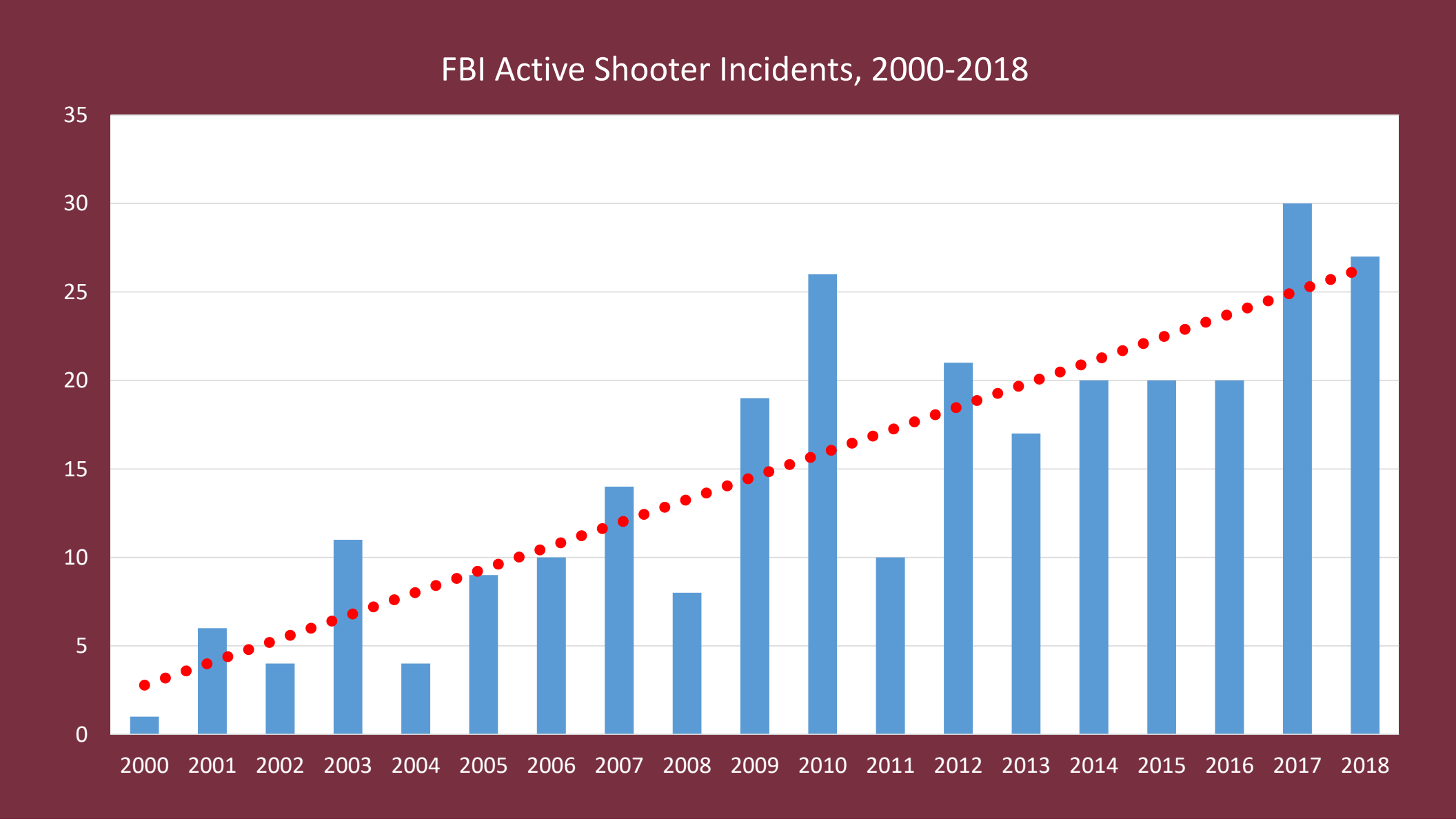
FSU Deadly Mass Shooting Database, 1980-2018

- DOJ-sponsored (National Institute of Justice)
- ***Four or more victims killed by firearm (not including the shooter) in one event, in one location***
- All mass shootings, in public and private spaces
- 800 incidents

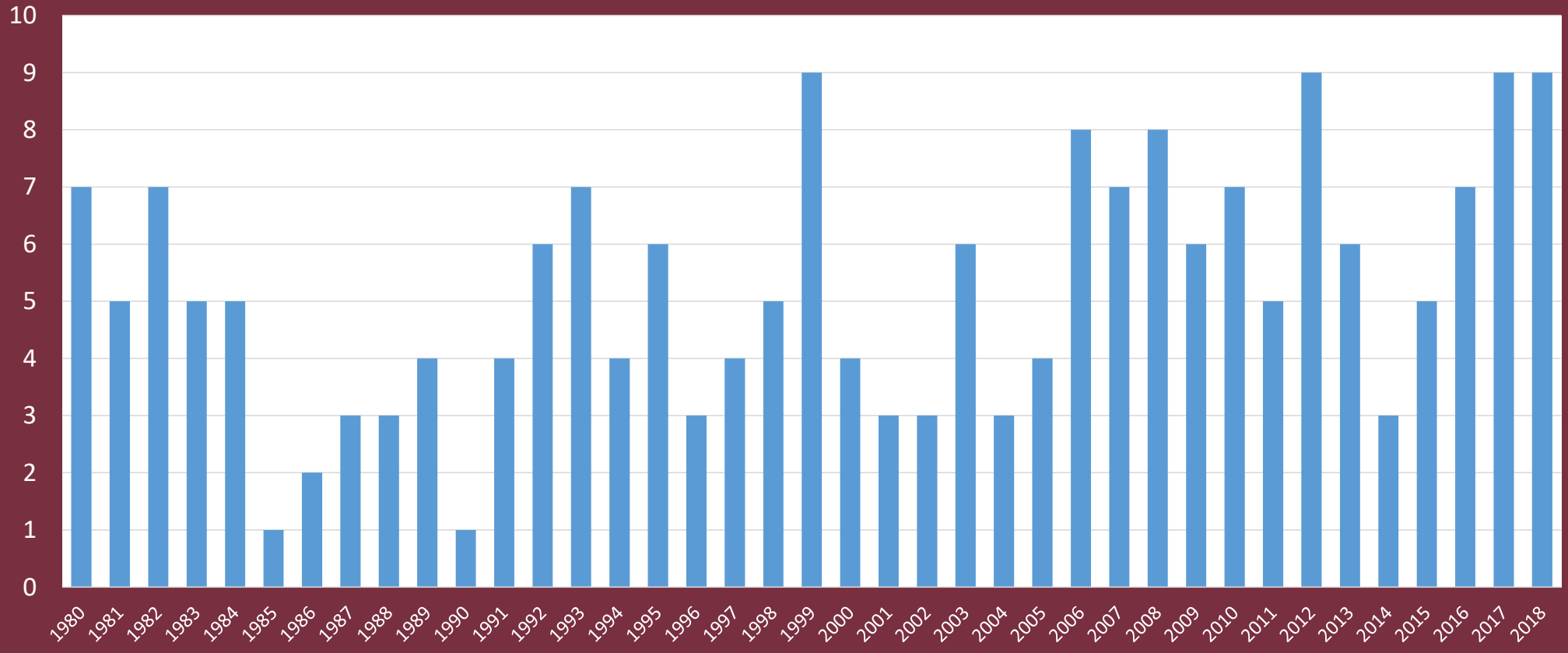

FSU Data: Deadly Mass Shootings in the U.S., 1980-2018
30
25
20
15
10
5
0
1980
1981
1982
1983
1984
1985
1986
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1988
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1992
1993
1994
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2015
2016
2017
2018


FSU Data: Deadly Mass Shootings in the U.S., 1980-2018
30
25
20
15
10
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0
1980
1981
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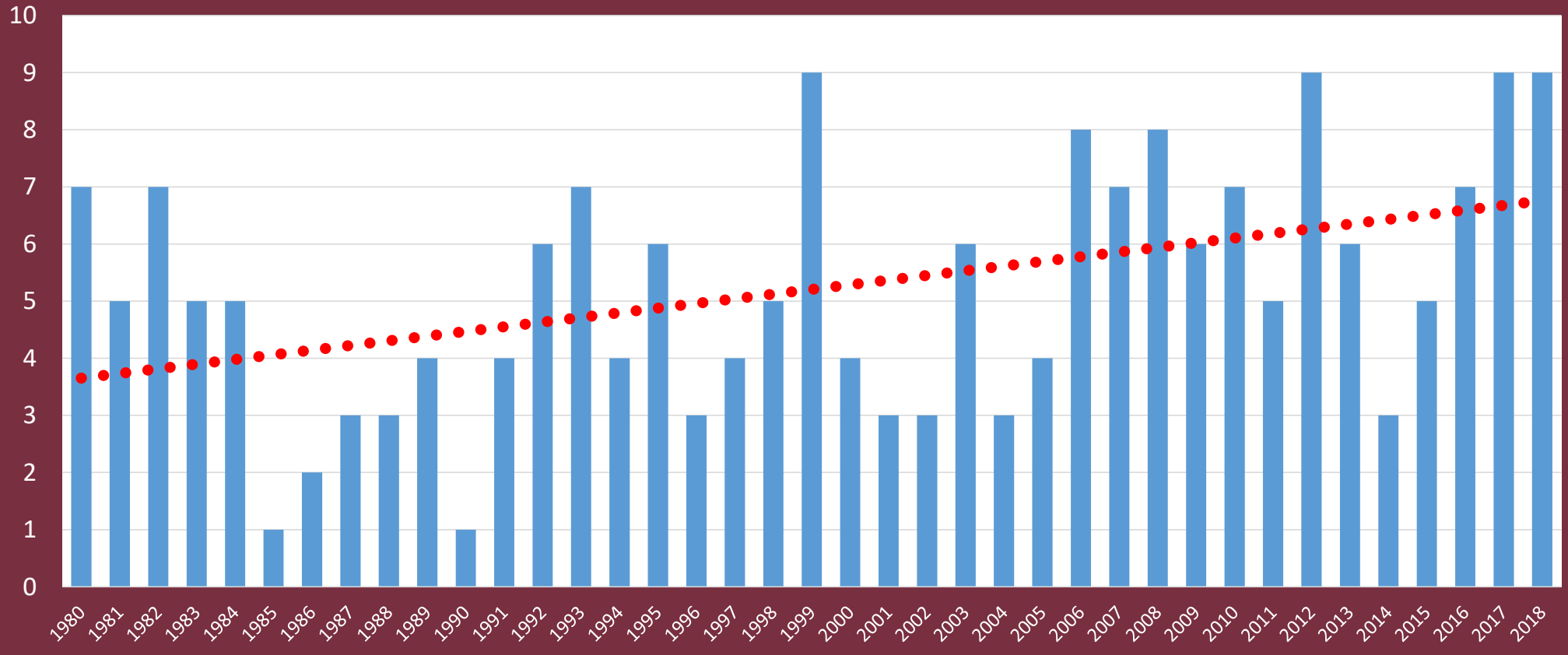

Mother Jones Mass Shooting Data, 1982-2018
14
12
10
8
6
4
2
0
1982
1983
1984
1985
1986
1987
1988
1989
1990
1991
1992
1993
1994
1995
1996
1997
1998
1999
2000
2001
2002
2003
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2005
2006
2007
2008
2009
2010
2011
2012
2013
2014
2015
2016
2017
2018


FBI Active Shooter Incidents, 2000-2018
35
30
25
20
15
10
5
0
2000
2001
2002
2003
2004
2005
2006
2007
2008
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FSU Data: Public Mass Shootings, 1980-2018



FSU Data: Public Mass Shootings, 1980-2018

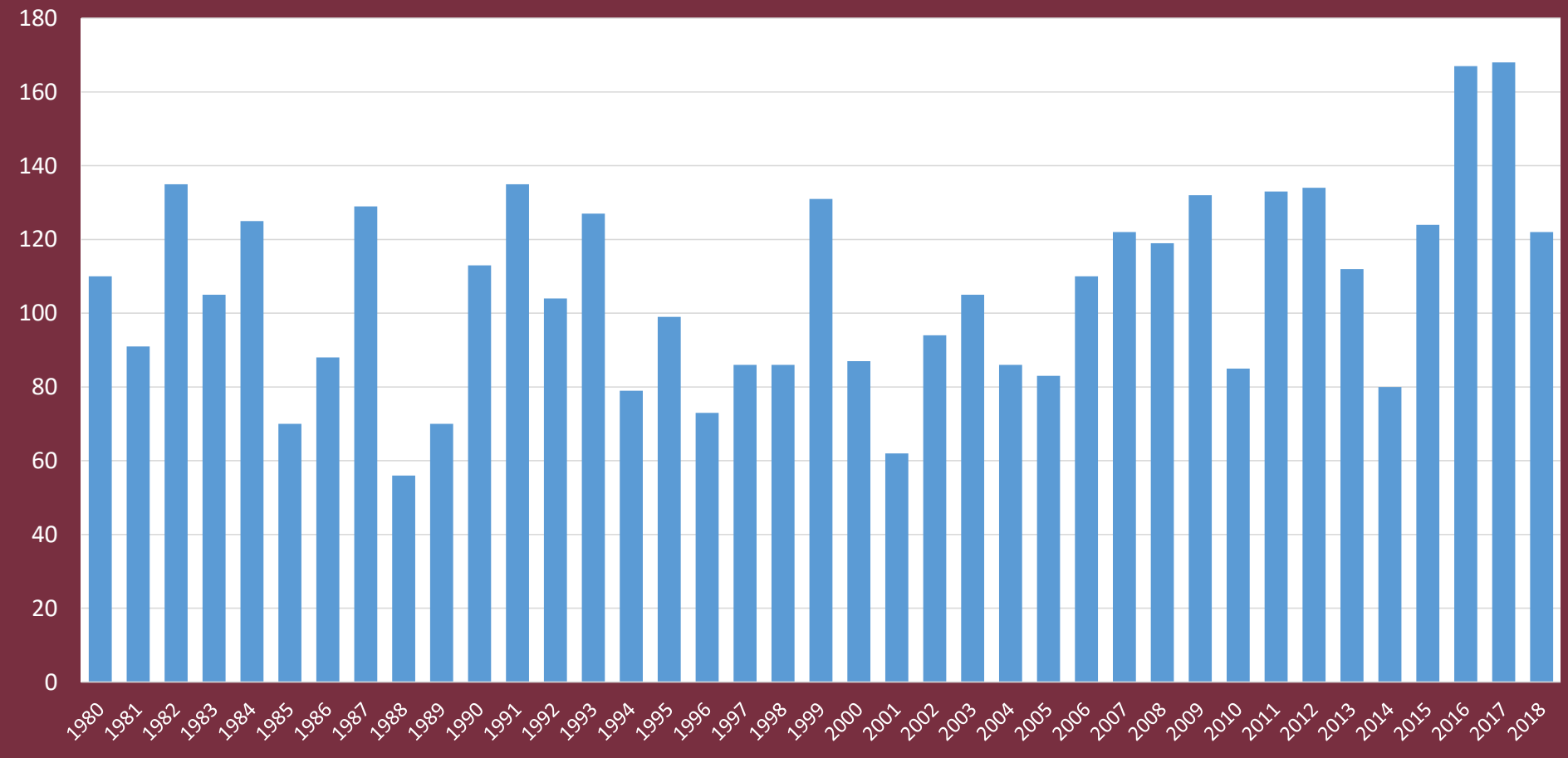


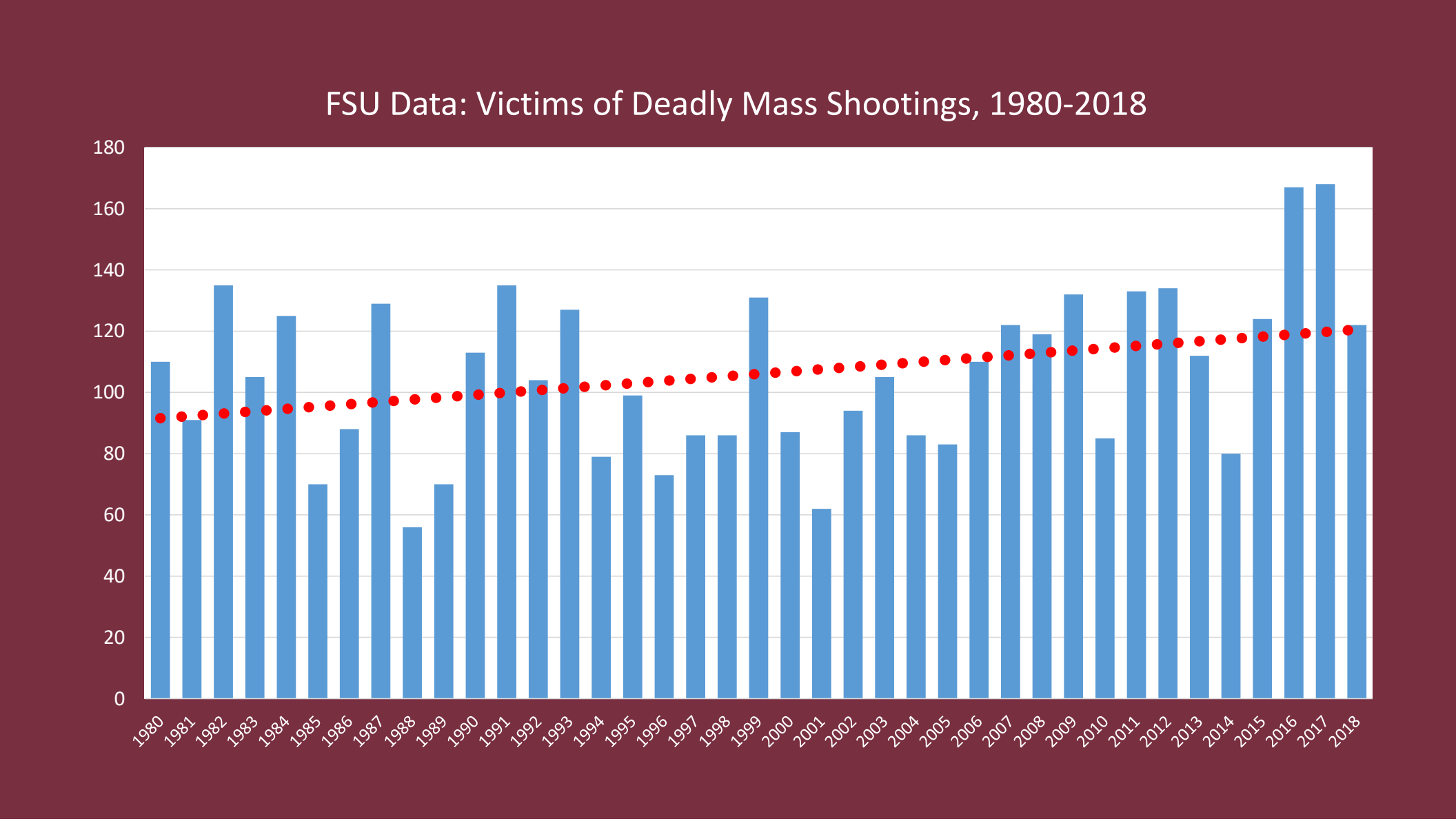
Deadly Mass Shootings

- Are they becoming deadlier over time?



FSU Data: Victims of Deadly Mass Shootings, 1980-2018



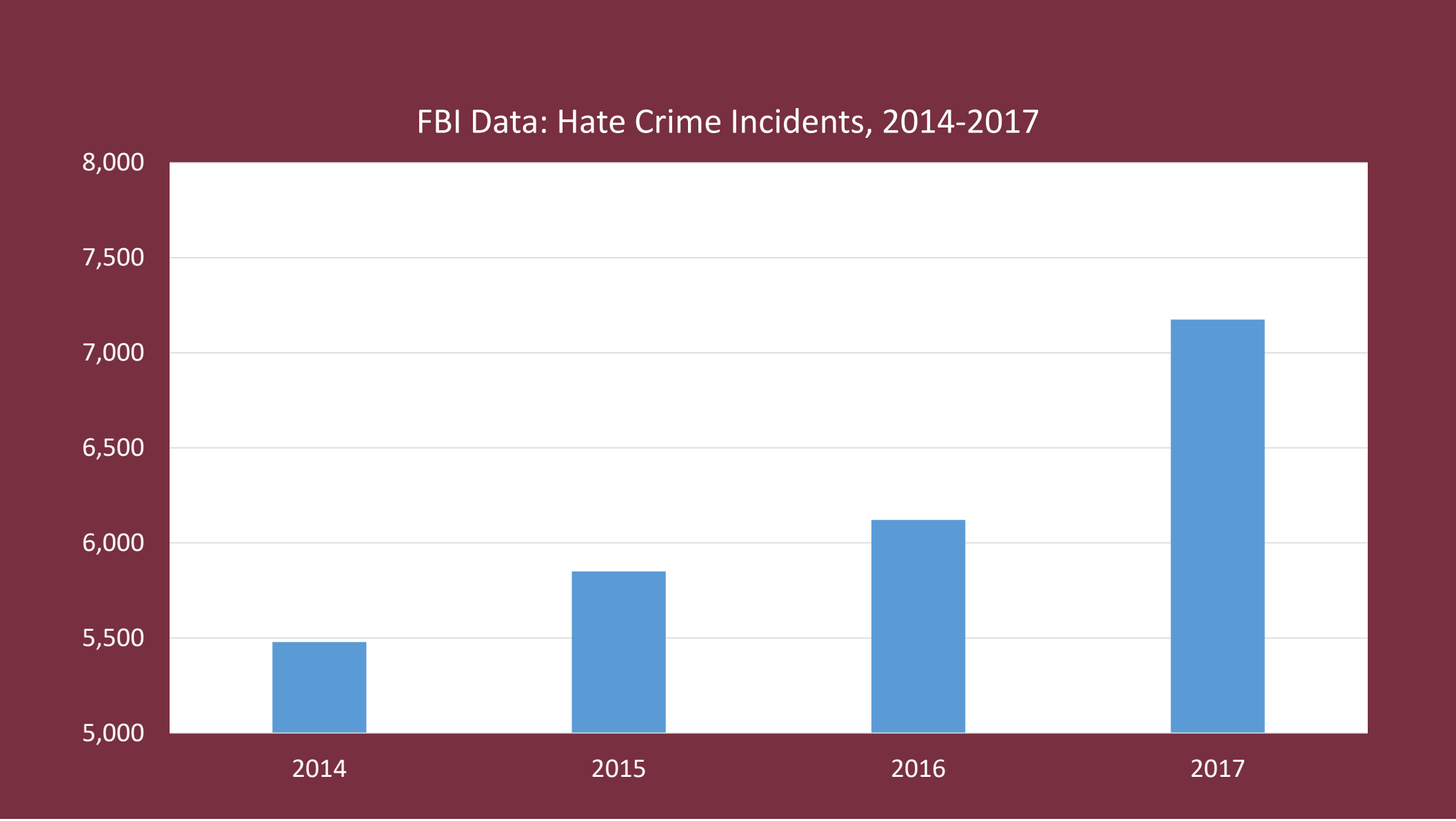

FSU Data: Victims of Deadly Mass Shootings, 1980-2018
180
160
140
120
100
80
60
40
20
0
1980
1981
1982
1983
1984
1985
1986
1987
1988
1989
1990
1991
1992
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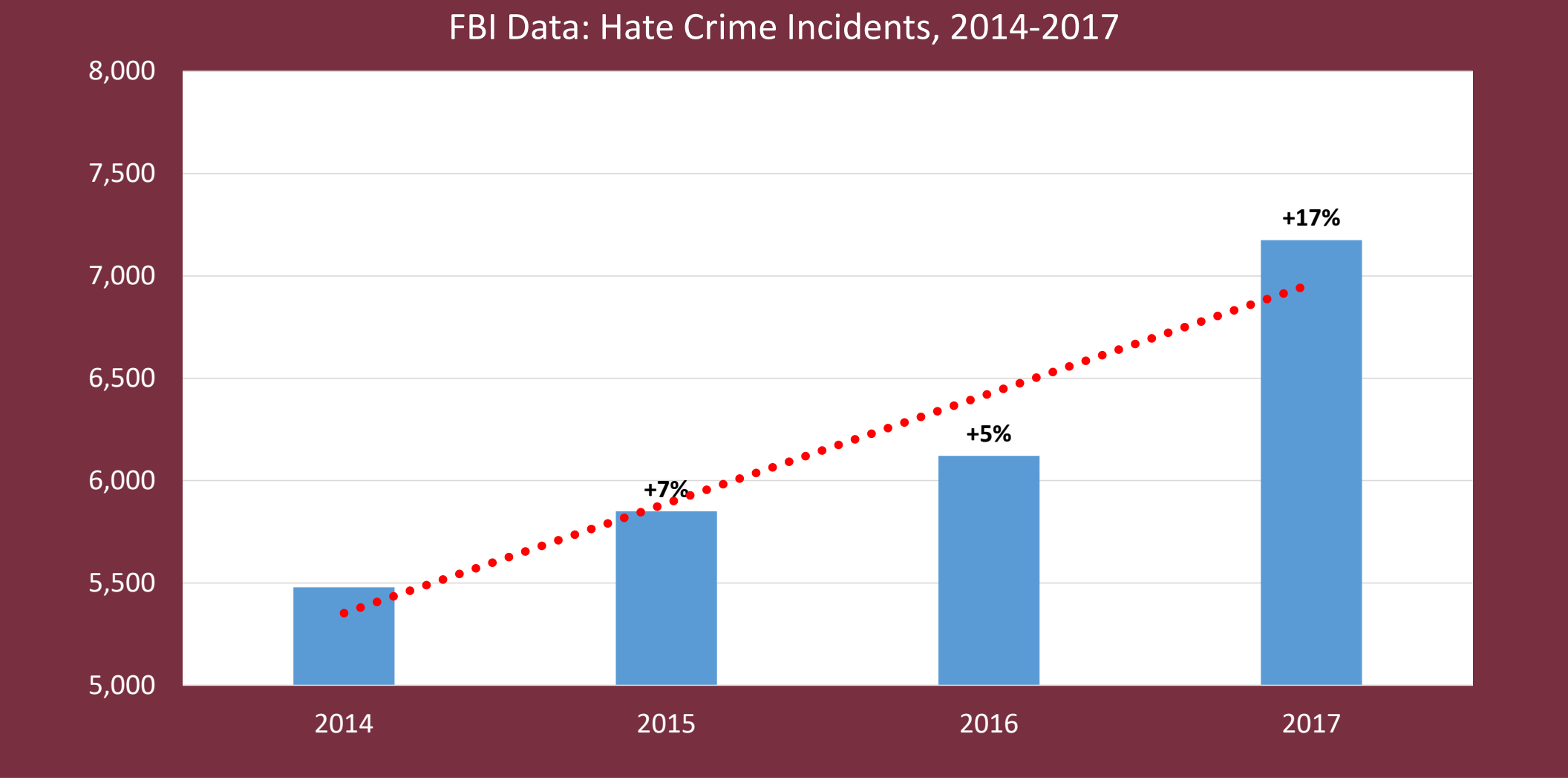
Patterns in FSU Mass Shooting Database

- Mass shootings are becoming deadlier (Vegas, Orlando)
- Most deadly mass shootings are family killings
- Deadly school shootings are most rare (2% of all incidents)
- Workplace and felony-related mass shootings declining
- Public mass shootings increasing - new patterns:
  - Many public mass shooters voice threats and seek validation
  - Several mass shooters radicalize in online hate groups

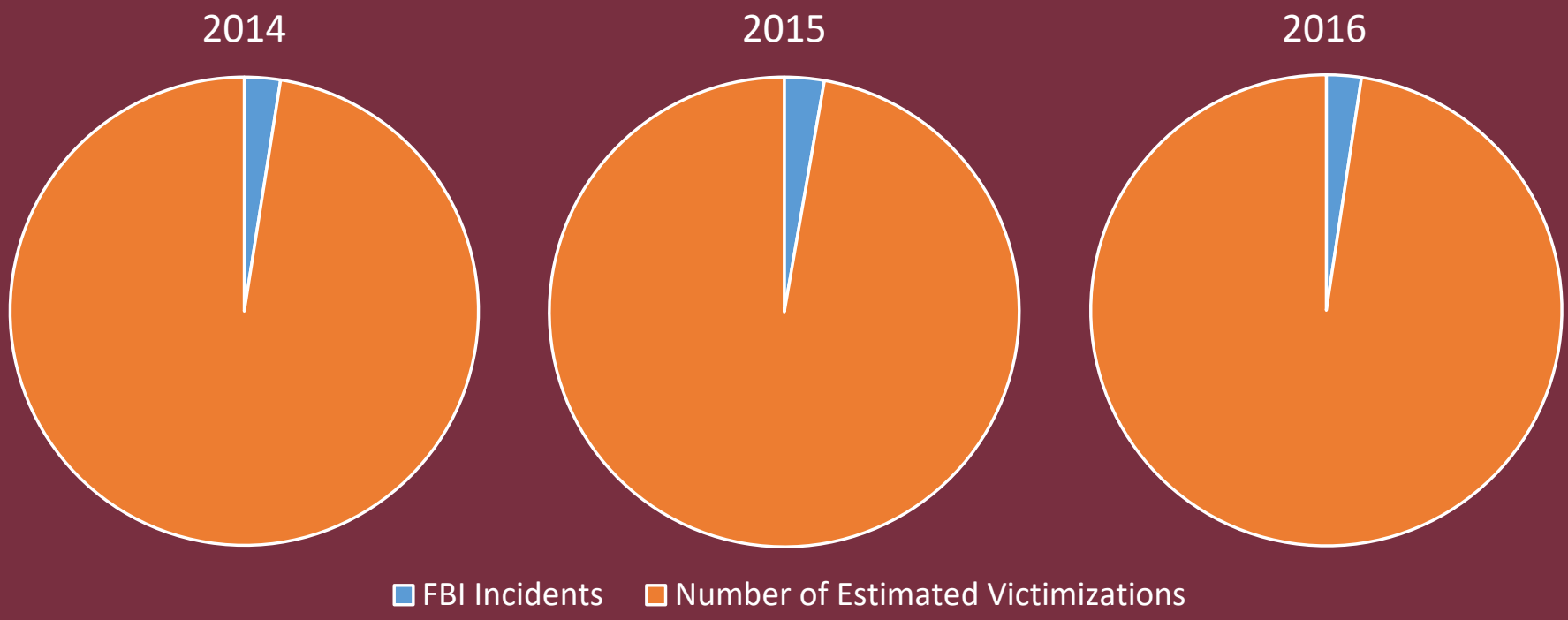
Why does the Internet play such a role?

- Key features of the Internet increase destructive behavior
- People feel more anonymous on the Internet
- The Internet facilitates the mobilization of groups
  - People from different geographies and time zones can easily interact
  - Internet also removes social barriers that prevent anti-social groups from forming
- The Internet can also act as an “echo chamber”
  - Legitimizing hateful behavior in the physical world
  - Acting as a precursor, or red flag, to offline hate


FBI Data: Hate Crime Incidents, 2014-2017
8,000
7,500
7,000
6,500
6,000
5,500
5,000
2014
2015
2016
2017


FBI Data: Hate Crime Incidents, 2014-2017
8,000
7,500
7,000
6,500
6,000
5,500
5,000
+7%
+5%
+17%
2014
2015
2016
2017

FBI Hate Crime Incidents Compared to Estimated Hate Crime Victimizations (NCVS)

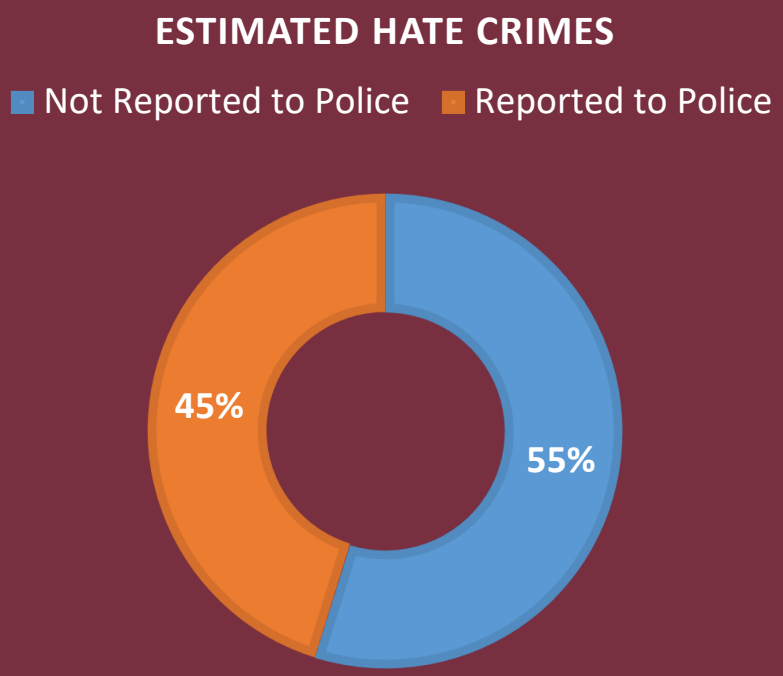


Issues with Current Hate Crime Tracking

- Victims are reluctant to report hate crimes to the police

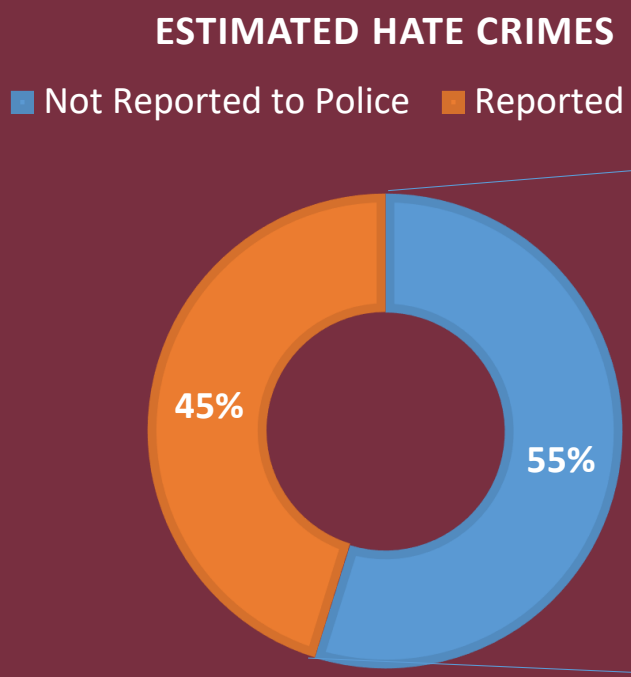
Issues with Current Hate Crime Tracking

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Issues with Current Hate Crime Tracking

- Victims are reluctant to report hate crimes to the police

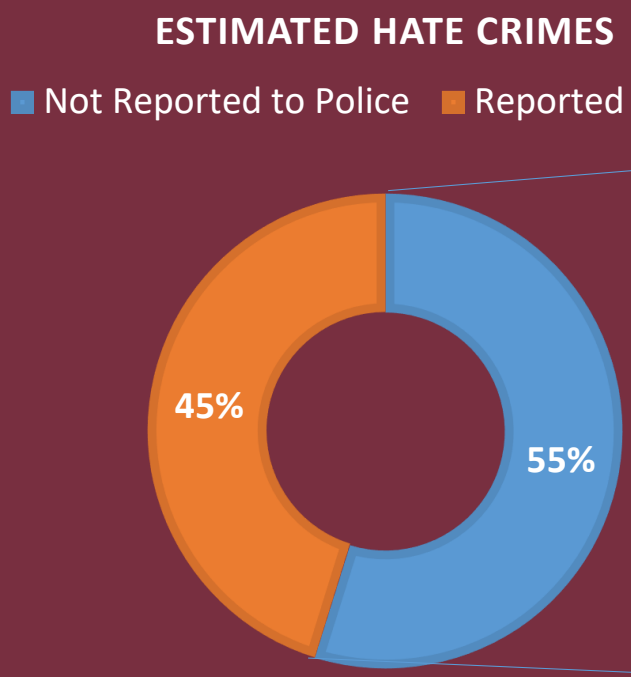


Why?

- 16% Believe police would do nothing
- 14% Report to another official
- 8% Believe police could do nothing
- 5% Fear offender reprisal
- 1% Fear police

Issues with Current Hate Crime Tracking

- Victims are reluctant to report hate crimes to the police



Why?

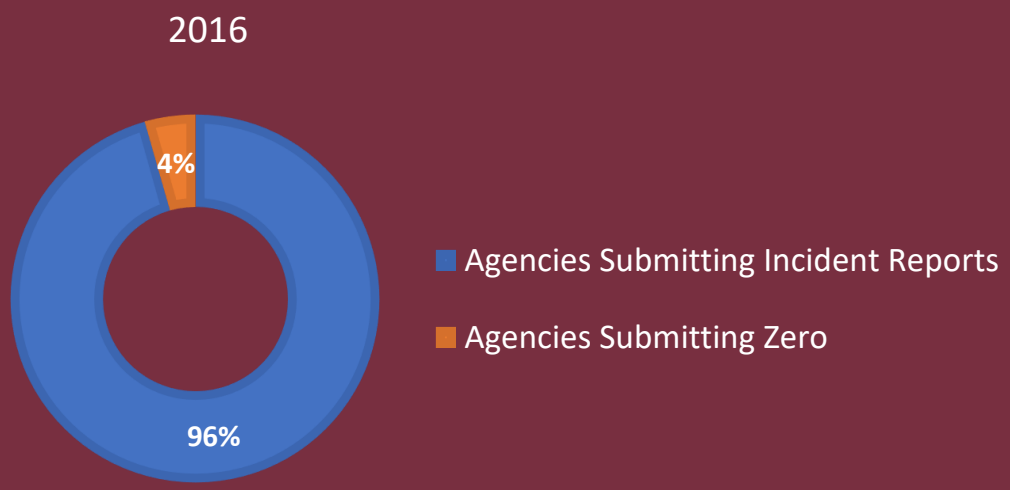
- **16% Believe police would do nothing**
- **14% Report to another official**
- **8% Believe police could do nothing**
- 5% Fear offender reprisal
- 1% Fear police

Issues with Current Hate Crime Tracking

- Law enforcement have limited resources and training for identifying hate crimes
  - Leads to under-reporting and under-recording
  - Many agencies do not participate in reporting hate crimes to the FBI
- Between 2016 and 2017, 895 new agencies participated in reporting hate crime statistics to the FBI
  - **608 (68%)** of these agencies were in Florida

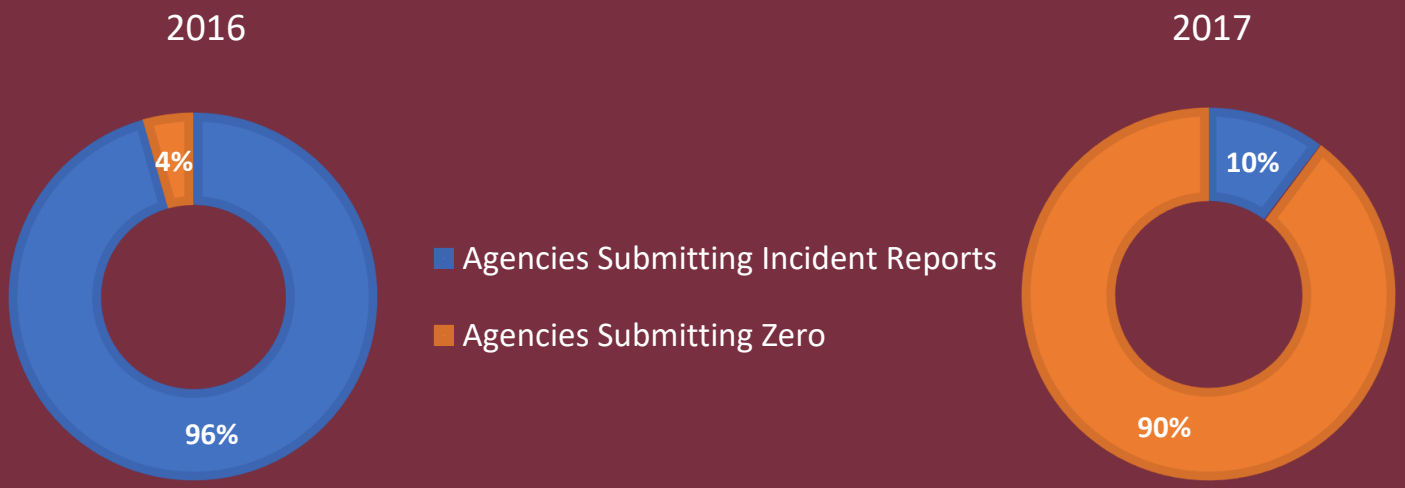
Issues with Current Hate Crime Tracking

- Law enforcement have limited resources and training for identifying hate crimes



Issues with Current Hate Crime Tracking

- Law enforcement have limited resources and training for identifying hate crimes



Issues with Current Hate Crime Tracking

- Online hate → Offline hate

- Hate crimes have been increasing
  - But it is difficult to effectively track them because of issues with under-reporting and under-recording
  - The best way to develop an effective response is to improve tracking of such crimes

Thank you

Dr. Jillian Turanovic
Dr. Brendan Lantz

College of Criminology and Criminal Justice
Florida State University

September 13, 2019

Senator Tom Lee

Chair, Florida Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee

Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Senator Lee,

I live in Boynton Beach, Palm Beach County, Florida. I am 28 years old, and work two retail jobs. Sometimes I work until 11 pm or even midnight. I have plenty of concerns already. The horrible number of mass shootings - and everyday shootings - are always on my mind. Florida can and should require background checks on all gun sales. Knowing that gun sales online, at gun shows, and between private sellers, will all be subject to background checks, will make me feel a lot better.

That is my main concern.

Sincerely,

Hannah Milgrim
7167 Chesapeake Circle
Boynton Beach, FL 33436

September 13, 2019

Senator Tom Lee

Chair, Florida Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee

Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Senator Lee,

I'm writing you to plead with you that background checks are passed immediately. The reason I feel background checks should be passed is similar to why it's important for every other profession that people's lives are in their hands to have background checks. I'm a nurse. I get extensive background checks AND my license and name made public. Why on earth would we not do that for people carrying a weapon. We put the public's safety @ risk due to lack of accountability. Also, there are zero reasons for any civilian to have an automatic weapon. I have family & friends that are military, law enforcement, and FBI. None of them agree w civilian access to weapons of mass destructions.

Megan Marino

Boca Raton, FL

September 13, 2019

Senator Tom Lee

Chair, Florida Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee

Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Senator Lee,

Gun violence goes beyond the horrific mass shootings that happen too often. People die everyday as a result of lax gun laws:

* Domestic violence
* Suicide
* Accidental shootings

Florida is in desperately in need of more effective gun laws. We need background checks on ALL sales, stronger red-flag laws and a complete ban on assault weapons. We must keep our families safe!

Thanks for your support on this crucial issue.

Africa Fine, Boynton Beach, FL

September 13, 2019

Senator Tom Lee

Chair, Florida Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee

Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Senator Lee,

I am writing as a resident of Palm Beach County. As a former teacher, I am extremely concerned about the trauma we are causing our children by the fear generated by constant code red drills. Please do what you can do expand background checks on ALL gun purchases so that disturbed individuals do not gain possession of guns.

Another issue of importance to me is a ban on assault weapons. These do not belong in a civilized society.

Sincerely,

Dixie M. Barghese

Royal Palm Beach

September 13, 2019

Senator Tom Lee

Chair, Florida Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee

Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Senator Lee,

Me & my family live in South Florida. I'm outraged at all the deaths & injuries caused by gun violence in Florida, everyday, while our Legislature does nothing! My own granddaughters & our family suffer to this day from them losing in the Stoneman Douglas Massacre.

Protect the people & Save us, not guns!! Pass comprehensive Universal Background checks, Red Flag Laws, Ban Assault weapons, give more money to mental health issues.

Do your jobs!! It could be you & your family next time. I never thought it would be mine. And then it was.

Elvin Shusterman
Boynton Beach

September 13, 2019

Senator Tom Lee

Chair, Florida Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee

Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Senator Lee,

With the ridiculous number of people killed by guns EVERY DAY, please do what you can to support red flag laws and stronger background checks in the state of Florida. NO civilian needs an assault weapon which endangers all civilians and as evidenced by the recent shootings in Philadelphia, the law enforcement officers who work so hard to protect us.

Thank you for your consideration,

Amy Cox

September 13, 2019

Senator Tom Lee

Chair, Florida Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee

Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Senator Lee,

We must impose background checks for every gun purchase to best protect the citizens of our state. I also urge that we: 1) Ban assault weapons. 2) Strengthen RED FLAG procedures 3) Revisit (repeal) the stand-your-ground law. We have the right to be protected from gun violence. Common sense measures must be taken in FL law.

Thank you.

Amy B. Keller Esq.

Lake Worth, FL

September 13, 2019

Senator Tom Lee

Chair, Florida Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee

Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Senator Lee,

I have been a Florida resident my whole life & attended MSD in high school The problem of gun violence is out of control & something has to change. Please make sure that background checks are required for all gun sales, ban assault weapons, & crack down on red flag laws so that family members can start them. Thank you so much-

Sara Conceicao

Boynton Bch FL

September 13, 2019

Senator Tom Lee

Chair, Florida Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee

Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Senator Lee,

I am a parent and expectant mom living in Palm Beach County, FL. I hope that you will support legislation for comprehensive background checks in our state. The problem of gun violence in Florida is devastating, and we can solve it with thoughtful solutions that protect the second amendment. Thank you for your consideration and leadership issue which is important to voting families like mine.

Best,
Kelsi Stine-Rowe
Boynton Beach, Florida

Sen. Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee,

My name is Jessica Throop. I am a resident of St. Petersburg, FL and have three sons. My reason for writing this letter is to express my views on potential gun safety legislation for the upcoming 2020 session. The current gun violence crisis in our country is devastating and one that has hit too close to home for me to stand idly by. Statistics state that firearms are the second leading cause of death for children and teens.

A year ago this month, my oldest son—who suffers from depression—tried to take his life by gun. He was thankfully unsuccessful. Thirty-six percent of child and teen gun deaths are suicides. Additionally, the firearm suicide rate among children and teens has increased by 76 percent over the past decade. Immediate access to a gun increases the risk of death by suicide three times.

Our middle son is black. Black children and teens are disproportionately impacted by gun violence in our country. It is the leading cause of death for them and they're 14 times more likely than white children and teens to die by gun homicide.

Lastly, a bullet went through the preschool window of our youngest son's classroom while he was in it a little more than two weeks ago. The police are still investigating. According to an analysis conducted by Everytown for Gun Safety, there have been at more 405 incidents of gunfire on school grounds from 2013 to 2018. Of these, 260 of these occurred at an elementary, middle, or high school.

There is nothing more important to me than protecting the lives of my sons. I love them with my whole being and I cannot bear to think of a world in which I lost one of them. But my fears are very real. This is the reason I strongly support the following sensible gun safety legislation.

- Universal background checks
- Ban on assault weapons and high capacity magazines
- Expansion of red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders
- Reinstate the language in §30.15 that prohibited classroom teachers from serving as school guardians
- Prohibit concealed carry licensees from carrying firearms in additional sensitive places, such as daycares, public playgrounds, and at public demonstrations
- Return the burden of proof for stand your ground defense to the defendant

Thank you for taking the time to hear my concerns as one of your constituents. I hope that you will support these measures in an effort to improve our current gun violence crisis and help keep my children safe and alive.

With gratitude,

Jessica Throop
St. Petersburg, FL
33713

September 14, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee:

I am contacting you in support of the Moms Demand Action letter writing campaign for the purpose of reaching out to the Infrastructure and Security Committee on important issues related to lawful firearm possession. Specifically, your committee will be focusing on ways to address gun violence and hate crimes during its September meeting.

As you move forward with the discussion, particularly as it relates to hate crimes, it is my hope that you will consider revisions to the existing Stand Your Ground Law. As you know, the current Stand Your Ground statute modifies common law justified use of force by granting immunity from prosecution to criminal defendants who raise the same defense at a pretrial hearing. However, the burden of proof falls on the prosecutor to overcome the movant/Defendant's claim with clear and convincing evidence. While a Defendant's due process rights are tantamount to the criminal justice system, such burden shifting has a propensity of acting more of a sword than a shield. Ultimately, this serves to exacerbate hate crimes by those seeking to initiate confrontation in order to respond with deadly force. This can be corrected by placing the burden of proof for a stand your ground defense on the movant/Defendant.

Again, my thanks for spearheading the discussion and for your dedication to preserving the health, safety and welfare of us all.

Sincerely,
/s/
David A. Fry
529 North Pine Island Road
Plantation Florida, 33324

September, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Florida Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee
418 Senate Building
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Senator Lee:

Thank you for leading the effort to consider legislation this session to prevent gun violence, including mass shootings. I write to express my support for passing a state law to require criminal background checks on **all** gun sales. Florida state law currently does not require background checks on unlicensed gun sales, leaving a massive loophole in place that makes it far too easy for criminals, people prohibited from having guns because of mental illness, and others with dangerous histories to get their hands on guns through private, online, or gun show sales. Fifteen states have passed laws to require background checks on all gun sales, and those states have seen credible decreases in gun violence. Let's make Florida safer this way also. Background check laws —by point-of-sale check and/or permit— are associated with lower rates of firearm homicide, suicide and firearm trafficking. The Florida Legislature should build upon the important gun violence legislation passed following the Parkland mass shooting and pass a comprehensive background check law.

Sincerely,

Linda Ledbetter
Gainesville, Florida

September, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Florida Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee
418 Senate Building
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Senator Lee:

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Sincerely,

Tom Bittikoffer
Gainesville, Florida

September, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair
Florida Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee
418 Senate Building
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Senator Lee:

As you lead the effort to consider legislation this session to prevent gun violence, including mass shootings, I write to express my support for passing a state law to require criminal background checks on all gun sales. Florida state law currently does not require background checks on unlicensed gun sales, leaving a massive loophole in place that makes it far too easy for criminals, people prohibited from having guns because of mental illness, and others with dangerous histories to get their hands on guns through private, online or gun show sales. Fifteen states have passed laws to require background checks on all gun sales. Background check laws —by point-of-sale check and/or permit— are associated with lower rates of firearm homicide, suicide and firearm trafficking. The Florida Legislature should build upon the important gun violence legislation passed following the Parkland mass shooting and pass a comprehensive background check law.

Sincerely,

Don Romano - Melrose

P.S. Do it it time!

September 15, 2019

Senator Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee,

I am a mom. Like every other mom in the world, I want to see my children grow up, and I am appalled at the inaction of our Congress and state legislators to protect our children from gun violence. I have been fighting along with other moms and supporters of common sense gun reforms since the shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut in 2012. My kids were about the same age as the children who were killed that day and I live in fear that my kids could be next.

After Sandy Hook, I was deeply disappointed in the failure of Congress to stand up to the gun lobby and require background checks on all gun sales. I took my anger and disappointment with me as I began lobbying every elected representative I could find, from our local mayor to the president of the United States. I realized pretty quickly that no matter how compelling the arguments or the data in favor of gun safety policies, I was being ignored because the NRA had a powerful lobbying presence and vested interests in the status quo. Therefore, I jumped at the opportunity to start the Southwest Florida Chapter of Moms Demand Action in January 2016. Since that time, Moms Demand Action has grown to become the largest gun violence prevention organization in the country, with a chapter in every state and more than 6 million supporters nationwide. Also, our Florida chapter has grown to become the largest chapter in the country, with more than 30 local groups and more than 900 members in Naples alone. Today, less than 7 years after we were founded, we are bigger than the NRA.

Each year, more than 2,700 people are killed by a gun in the state of Florida. You and your colleagues have a responsibility to act to protect the public health and safety of every Floridian, and your efforts should start with these policy proposals that will save lives:

1. <u>Require a background check on every gun sale</u>.
   The most effective legislation that you can enact at the state level to reduce gun violence is to require a background check before every gun sale, including sales at gun shows or online. Currently, in the state of Florida and other states that have failed to pass comprehensive background checks, far too many firearms are sold online on websites like Armslist.com without a background check. The data from the states strongly supports the effectiveness of this policy. For example, when Connecticut passed a law requiring background checks on all handgun sales, the law resulted in a 40% reduction in gun homicides and a 15% reduction in gun suicides. In contrast, when

Missouri repealed their permit process that required a background check, their gun homicide rate increased 27% and their gun suicide rate increased 16%. Background checks that prevent guns from falling into the hands of criminals and the dangerously mentally ill have consistently been upheld under the Second Amendment. And more than 90% of Republicans, Democrats and Independents support universal background checks. You should too.

2. Fund sheriffs in our schools and repeal legislation that expanded the guardian program to arm teachers.
   There is no evidence that arming teachers will protect children in schools. To the contrary, research indicates that arming teachers will make children less safe. Teachers, parents and law enforcement all agree that arming teachers is a dangerous idea. While the NRA would like you to believe that more guns will make us safer, we know that more guns in schools will result in more shootings on school property. Plus, it is now evident that the vast majority of our Florida school boards have rejected this policy. We need ongoing funding for the sheriffs to continue doing the important job of protecting our students.

3. Repeal Stand Your Ground.
   The Stand Your Ground law is dangerous and discriminatory against people of color. In Florida, Stand Your Ground has been linked to a substantial increase in firearm homicides, and in the 5 years after the law passed, homicides considered justifiable tripled. Most egregiously, homicides are far more likely to be deemed justified if the shooter is white and the victim is black, rather than the other way around. This law encourages violence and discourages civil behavior. If you want to prevent hate crimes, we suggest you start by repealing Stand Your Ground.

4. Assault weapons and high capacity magazines.
   We support the efforts of the Parkland survivors to bring a ballot initiative to address this issue and would ask the legislature and the Attorney General to stop trying to interfere in these efforts. Let the voters decide whether assault weapons are appropriate in the hands of civilians. We also support legislation to limit high capacity magazines and note that states that have already done this have seen a significant decrease in mass shootings. Finally, I would suggest that if you are serious about finding a solution to this problem, take a close look at policies in countries like Switzerland and Australia that have high rates of gun ownership and much lower rates of gun deaths than we do. It is possible to regulate these weapons, rather than prohibit them.

5. Require people who have been convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence offenses to surrender their firearms.
   Mass shootings are frequently associated with domestic violence and legislation to prevent domestic abusers from having firearms will reduce gun violence.

We appreciate your willingness to schedule a hearing to consider how to prevent gun violence in Florida. We respectfully request that you include testimony from Moms Demand Action, as the largest gun violence prevention organization in the state.

Katherine Cunningham
Local Legislative Lead, Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America
Naples, FL 34103

Dear Senator Lee and the Honorable Members of the Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee,

In advance of the Committee's hearing on potential gun safety legislation for the 2020 session, I wanted to write and express my opinions on the subject.

First, I want to see our red flag laws strengthened. Current red flag legislation is not broad enough. It simply must be expanded so that family members – the people who know the mental state of their loved ones best - can also seek a risk protection order from the courts. The current system is better than nothing, but law enforcement aren't the only ones who can spot red flags. The more people who raise such red flags and seek to obtain risk protection orders, the safer our loved ones and communities will be.

Second, I want universal background checks to be passed and implemented. Universal background checks are both incredibly helpful at saving lives and politically easy to pass. Over 90% of Americans support expanding background checks for every single gun sale! An investigation found that in 2018 alone, there were nearly 1.2 million gun ads on an online gun marketplace called Armslist.com for gun sales where no background check was legally required. And research shows that prohibited people seek guns in those unlicensed gun sales at a disproportionate rate. That raises a second issue, which is that there should be mandatory reporting of failed background checks to law enforcement. This is a no-brainer. If someone who shouldn't be allowed to obtain a firearm is trying to, law enforcement should be automatically informed.

Some other measures that would save lives and make our communities safer include prohibiting concealed carry in sensitive places like places of worship and campuses, requiring safe storage of firearms in vehicles, changing the concealed carry process so that there can be discretionary denials for people who pose a public safety risk, and requiring training before firearms licenses are issued.

Finally, we need to roll back the ability of school districts to arm teachers. This measure has been incredibly unpopular, with a recent Wall Street Journal article noting that only 7 of 67 school districts are even considering allowing teachers to carry firearms. I am lucky enough to live in a county that has opted out of the guardian program, but not all children are as fortunate. We know that increased access to firearms equals increased danger to children. Schools should not be a place where children are exposed to such increased access.Further, active shooter drills are traumatizing to children. I have to make a decision in a year if I want my child to enter the public school system. And it's not because of her deadly peanut allergy. I worry more about the life-long effects of the trauma active shooter drills will cause.

Thank you,
Laura Boone
St. Petersburg, FL 33702

Dear Senator Lee and the Honorable Members of the Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee,

In advance of the Committee's hearing on potential gun safety legislation for the 2020 session, I wanted to write and express my opinions on the subject.

First, I want to see our red flag laws strengthened. Current red flag legislation is not broad enough. It simply must be expanded so that family members – the people who know the mental state of their loved ones best - can also seek a risk protection order from the courts. The current system is better than nothing, but law enforcement aren't the only ones who can spot red flags. The more people who raise such red flags and seek to obtain risk protection orders, the safer our loved ones and communities will be.

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Thank you,

Marcia Klingbeil

St. Petersburg, FL 33702

September 14, 2019

Senator Tom Lee
Chair, Florida Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee
418 Senate Building
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Senator Lee:

As you lead the effort to consider legislation this session to prevent gun violence. Gun-related injuries are the second leading cause of death for US American children and teens. And every year over 36,000 Americans lose their lives to guns. These numbers are a uniquely an American problem. But these numbers don't account for the countless Americans who are injured, or experience the trauma and grief associated with losing a loved one.

As a licensed psychologist working with children, teens, and adults. I have recently worked with a teen overwhelmed with worry that she will be slaughtered in her classroom. I have worked with a child who's mother used the family's firearm to commit suicide as she slept in the next room. And I have worked with a teen contemplating using a firearm to commit suicide. I personally, lost a beloved uncle to gun violence in November 1999 at the age of 14, approximately 6 months after I watched kids like me on television run out of the high school where their peers were slaughtered.

There are a number of evidence-based solutions to combating gun violence. I will keep my recommendations short, but I would be delighted to discuss them in further detail with you.

I write to express my **support for passing a state law to require criminal background checks on all gun sales**. Florida state law currently does not require background checks on unlicensed gun sales, leaving a massive loophole in place that makes it far too easy for criminals, people prohibited from having guns because of mental illness, and others with dangerous histories to get their hands on guns through private, online or gun show sales. In fact, they have blocked more than 3.5 million sales of prohibited purchases since 1994. But criminals exploit the unlicensed sales loophole. When Connecticut passed a law requiring background checks for a purchase permit, and at the point of sale, the state experienced a 40% reduction in gun homicides, and a 15% reduction in the gun suicide rate. The Florida Legislature should build upon the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Public Safety Act and pass a comprehensive background check law.

Reinstate the language in §30.15 that prohibited classroom teachers from serving as school guardians. Access to firearms, regardless of an individual's age, triples the risk of death by suicide and doubles the risk of death by homicide. In addition, a study evaluating the New York City Police Department's firearm training, between 1998 and 2006, found the average hit rate during gunfights was

only 18%, and improved to only 30% when suspects did not return fire. Undoubtedly arming teachers, who may not be psychologically equipped to shoot one of their students, will be detrimental to the safety of students in a crowded school.

The best predictor of future behavior is past behavior. **Require those convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence to surrender firearms.** In an average month, at least 52 American women are shot and killed by an intimate partner, and many more are injured.

Sincerely,



Amanda Thalji-Raitano, Ph.D.
Amanda.Thalji@ gmail.com
(727)543-3235
518 33rd Ave. N.
Saint Petersburg, FL 33704

September 13, 2019

Senator Tom Lee

Chair, Florida Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee

Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Senator Lee,

I am registered voter and I am writing to urge you to support and pass legislation banning assault weapons, requiring background checks and an extended waiting period for the ~~purchase~~ purchase of guns. Every day one hundred Americans are killed as a result of gun violence. There are increasing numbers of mass shootings in our country. It is as though every week we hear of another shooting -- all of them by shooters using Assault Weapons to kill innocent Americans in a matter of seconds. We can do better. We must do better. Over 90% of Americans support a ban on assault weapons and more comprehensive deals. →

Senator Tom Lee, Chairperson
Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

September 10, 2019

Re: Gun Violence in Florida

Dear Senator Lee:

I am a Precinct Committee man from Palm Beach County. I am beseeching you to end this insanity of Gun violence as it pertains to our Schools. This Gun violence has affected not only our Schools but also to Super markets, Synagogues, mosques and our Churches. I personally believe in our Second Amendment rights but it also has its limitation. "The Right to bear Arms isn't absolute." Your attention is greatly appreciated

Sincerely,

Bruce Lee ~~2nd Vice President~~ Delray Beach Fl 33484

Name Address City, State, Zip

Senator Tom Lee, Chairperson
Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

September 10, 2019

Re: Gun Violence in Florida

Dear Senator Lee:

As a voter from Boca Raton, I urge our legislators to address gun violence and take action to keep us safe! At a minimum we need universal background checks, supported by the vast majority of both Floridians and Americans. But further, we MUST ban assault weapons and high capacity magazines. Our founding fathers did NOT envision the populace carrying killing machines, which only have one purpose - the rapid destruction of human tissue - There is no place in our society for these weapons. The second amendment refers to "A well regulated militia", not a country where everyone is "packing". Thank you for your consideration.

Kenneth Tolchin Age 63

Sincerely,

Kenneth Tolchin 11571 Island Lakes Ln. Boca Raton, FL 33498

Name Address City, State, Zip

Senator Tom Lee, Chairperson
Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

September 10, 2019

Re: Gun Violence in Florida

Dear Senator Lee:

I am a activist who is part of Moms Demand Action in Boca Raton, FL just steps away from the tragic MSD school shooting. Several friends are MSD alumni who have personal ties to MSD. I urge the FL Senate to require background checks on all gun sales. I also urge the FL Senate to reinstate language to prohibit classrooms teachers from serving as school guardians which is a terrible idea. As someone who has friends that teach, it's scary the notion of my friends having guns in the classroom. This would be terrible.

Sincerely,

Melanie Tolchin 11571 Island Lakes Blvd Boca Raton, FL 33498

Name Address City, State, Zip

Senator Tom Lee, Chairperson
Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

September 10, 2019

Re: Gun Violence in Florida

Dear Senator Lee:

I am a mother living in Parkland, FL. I urge you to take action to address gun violence. My community was sadly, tragically impacted by the shooting at MSD in Parkland and I have a son who attends school in Parkland. I see no reason for civilians to have access to assault weapons and feel strongly about universal background checks. I feel especially strongly about probibiting guns in schools except by trained policemen. I do not believe teachers should carry guns. Their job is to teach our children - not patrol the halls in defence of shooters. I want fewer guns in schools not more.

Sincerely,

Erin Negrea 7160 NW 70th Ter Parkland, FL 33067

Name Address City, State, Zip

Senator Tom Lee, Chairperson
Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

September 10, 2019

Re: Gun Violence in Florida

Dear Senator Lee:

I have been deeply troubled with the gun violence we are seeing so frequently. We need our legislators to listen to the people not those who depend on gun sales.

Please vote in our interests for
1- Background checks for all guns - even those obtained at gun shows.
2- Ban all assault weapon they are meant for the military against our enemies not for public use.
3 - Encourage implementing red flag laws
4- Prohibit concealed weapons in public institutions, parks, sports events, entertainment areas.

Sincerely,

Ellen Hillman

Name Address City, State, Zip

2003 N. Ocean Blvd Boca Raton, FL 33431

Senator Tom Lee, Chairperson
Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

September 10, 2019

Re: Gun Violence in Florida

Dear Senator Lee:

I am a Mother, Grandmother
a caring Woman who is always
on the verge of tears because of
the breaking news of killings
from Hateful individuals who
have guns that kill ~~done~~
so many in a short time.
PLEASE STOP assault
weapons - Let teachers teach
not carry guns
PLEASE CARE about
the people in our STATE
~~Our~~ our CHILDREN

Sincerely,

Paulette Kenney
6016 Waldwick Circle
Delray Beach, FL 33484

Senator Tom Lee, Chairperson
Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

September 10, 2019

Re: Gun Violence in Florida

Dear Senator Lee:

It is imperative that we insure background checks for ALL gun sales. There is way too much gun violence in our communities and too many innocent people being killed. Additionally, we must ban assault weapons that have absolutely no place outside the military. These assault weapons and high capacity magazines are shredding everyone who is unfortunately in the shooter's path. We are not talking bullet holes - that is bad enough - this is shredding human flesh, organs, bones and cells. Absolutely unacceptable!

Sincerely,

Shelly Gold

Name Address City, State, Zip

Senator Tom Lee, Chairperson
Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

September 10, 2019

Re: Gun Violence in Florida

Dear Senator Lee:

I would appreciate it if you advocated to ban assault weapons completely, but especially those with high capacity magazines. There can be no reason to have a weapon like this but for mass murder. There is no reason why a hunter would need a gun like this for sport. It breaks my heart to think of what the parents from Parkland must imagine when they think about what happened to their children. If a killer could only kill one person at a time, think of how different these mass shootings would be. Please help!

Sincerely,

Mindy Datz
9882 Boca Gardens Pkwy #C
Boca Raton FL 33496

Name Address City, State, Zip

Senator Tom Lee, Chairperson
Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

September 10, 2019

Re: Gun Violence in Florida

Dear Senator Lee:

I write to request your assistance on an urgent matter, gun control. I cannot impress upon you the urgency of this matter. Our children are afraid and us parents live in fear. PLEASE vote to Ban Assault and high capacity magazines. Please vote for background checks, expansion of Red Flag laws and those convicted of Misdemeanor Domestic Violence to surrender their firearms!

Thank you and good luck!

Sincerely,

Robin Seligson 9793 Arbor Oaks Lane, Boca Raton, FL 33428

Name Address City, State, Zip

Senator Tom Lee, Chairperson
Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

September 10, 2019

Re: Gun Violence in Florida

Dear Senator Lee:

I am a voter from Palm Beach County and I urge you to take action to address gun violence! The Florida Senate should be active this year by

1) requiring background checks on all gun sales
2) Ban Assault weapons ~~for~~ with capacity magazines
3) Prohibit teachers from serving as school guardians - no armed teachers
4) Require all persons convicted of domestic violence to surrender all firearms

Sincerely,

Jean B Bryfogle 816 N Ocean Blvd Ocean Ridge FL 33435

Name Address City, State, Zip

Senator Tom Lee, Chairperson
Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

September 10, 2019

Re: Gun Violence in Florida

Dear Senator Lee:

On Saturday Aug 31st 2019 I became a grandmother for the very first time. How exciting BUT also how afraid I am that she is going to grow up without any safety laws to protect her.

I am encouraging all parents and grandparents who represent us in legislation to PASS common sense gun control. Strong background checks & expand Red flag laws. Recently many shootings were stopped because people stopped them. We can not see guns to a person that fails A background check. For my new grandchild and all the others Rep Rodman I urge you to do this.

Sincerely,

11470 Island Lakes Ln
Boca Raton FL 33498

Senator Tom Lee, Chairperson
Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

September 10, 2019

Re: Gun Violence in Florida

Dear Senator Lee:

I am a voter in Boca Raton & I feel it's necessary to take action requiring restrictions on guns & assault weapons. Today we have too many people, especially those with mental issues or looking for retaliation. They should NOT be allowed to own assault weapons or high capacity magazines. No one should be allowed to buy any of these without proper ID & a wait period. Selling guns at gun shows should be banned too! No guns should be allowed in public places!!

Sincerely,

Phyllis Atlas 21946 Oakwood Boca Raton FL 33428

Senator Tom Lee, Chairperson
Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

September 10, 2019

Re: Gun Violence in Florida

Dear Senator Lee:

I am a mother in Boca Raton and I live in fear every day. My daughter is just two years old and I chose her preschool based on the security measures they provide. When I tell people this, they are shocked, but I can guarantee that most mothers are making their decisions with security in mind, rather than the many other reasons to choose a school. It is horrific and just plain sad that I need to risk her in a world where this is a legitimate fear - where I imagine what would happen if a gunman appeared in her school and how she would be protected. I chose a Jewish preschool to allow her to go to school & learn about her faith and unfortunately this decision puts her at greater risk. In the United States of America, this should never be the case. Please support background check legislation on all gun sales, ban assault weapons & high capacity magazines and also support legislation that prohibits concealed carry in sensitive places like playgrounds & daycares.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Wechselbaum, 11217 Sea Grass Circle
Boca Raton, FL 33498

Senator Tom Lee, Chairperson
Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

September 10, 2019

Re: Gun Violence in Florida

Dear Senator Lee:

I am a very concerned mother from Boca Raton. I'm writing to encourage you to PLEASE take legislative action to address our out of control gun violence issue.

Things I would love to see passed include background checks on EVERY single gun sale, EVERY single time. To be included are private & online sales.

Also, I'm working hard to get a proposed amendment on the 2020 ballot to stop any further sale of assault style weapons to civilians. Please help to get these weapons off our FL. streets.

Last, our 'Stand your Ground' law is dangerous & should be discontinued. It's NOT Needed & only encourages MORE gun violence.

Sincerely,

Debbie Albeck
711 SW 15 St
Boca Raton FL 33486

Senator Tom Lee, Chairperson
Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

September 10, 2019

Re: Gun Violence in Florida

Dear Senator Lee:

I am a father of an eight year old in third grade. As a father and voter, I feel that a common sense approach to gun control is needed, and easy to implement.

I urge you to support a ban on assault weapons and high capacity magazines which have no place in civilian life. In addition to this, a requirement for universal background checks on gun purchases regardless of where and how a gun is purchased, is both prudent and necessary.

I appreciate your consideration and hope you can legislate common sense back into gun ownership.

Sincerely,

Nicholas Carrubba 6751 Boca Pines Trail Unit C Boca Raton, Fl. 33433

September, 11th 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee,

As the Infrastructure and Security Committee focuses on ways to address gun violence and hate crimes during its September meeting(s), my family and I are asking you to consider these priorities:

1.) **Require a background checks on every firearm purchase in the State of Florida** – Over 90% of Americans support requiring background checks on all gun sales. An investigation found that in 2018 alone, there were nearly 1.2 million firearm ads on an online gun marketplace called Armslist.com for gun sales where no background check was legally required. And research shows that prohibited people seek guns in those unlicensed gun sales at a disproportionate rate.

2.) **Require the timely reporting of criminal and mental health records to NICS** - Hundreds of thousands of prohibiting criminal and mental health records are missing from the NICS background check system, potentially enabling prohibited people to pass a background check. This is a critical fail that is required to be fixed in order to make background check legislation effective. Legislation to make this reporting mandatory will make us safer.

3.) **Require gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement** - From 2007 to 2017, at least 82,000 guns were reported stolen and never found in Florida. Not knowing a gun is stolen hinders criminal investigations and law enforcement's ability to track gun-trafficking networks. Stolen gun reports also serve as a deterrent to inter-state gun-trafficking. This is a simple measure of accountability that assists law enforcement do its job.

These three (3) proposals would have a positive effect in making Florida safer and would not diminish Florida residents' rights under the 2nd Amendment. It's a win-win for all of us. Please give them strong consideration.

Thank you for helping to keep us safe.

Sincerely,

Oskar Valmana

10355 NW 46th Street

Doral, FL 33178

September, 11th 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee,

As the Infrastructure and Security Committee focuses on ways to address gun violence and hate crimes during its September meeting(s), my family and I are asking you to consider these priorities:

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Thank you for helping to keep us safe.

Sincerely,

Amaia Garmendia

10355 NW 46th Street

Doral, FL 33178

Sen. Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee,

My name is Victoria Edwards and I am a mother of 3 in St. Petersburg. I write to you today regarding the committee's hearing on potential gun safety legislation for the 2020 session. I am very concerned about the current gun violence crisis in our community and nation.

I, along with 90% of American voters, support required background checks on all gun sales. This is the most basic prevention measure we can take regarding the current gun violence crisis. Universal background checks has bipartisan support and could be quickly and easily implemented.

Furthermore, Expanding our current red flag laws to include family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders is another necessary action step we can take to keep our community safer from gun violence. I have a family member that struggles with their mental health. This loved one has been hospitalized for suicide attempt before, and was stil able to obtain a firearm legally. This person shared with me that they were considering suicide again, and had their gun. Eventually, I was able to persuade this person to surrender the gun to the police department, and get to a crisis counselor. If I were not able to convince them to do so willingly, I am afraid of what the outcome could have been. Statistics would not have been in our favor.

Lastly, I urge you to return the burden of proof for stand your ground defense to the defendant. Florida's Stand Your Ground defense, which requires the state to disprove the defense before trial, is very difficult for prosecutors to overcome. Stand Your Ground is unequally harmful for people of color and has given vigilantes the power to take the lives and black and brown people without repercussion.

As a mother, wife, and voter, I urge the committee to hear this testimony and the testimony of hundreds of other concerned citizens. Thank you and the committee for taking time to hear from the people you represent. I am hopeful for a community that is safe from gun violence for my children, and all children.

Victoria Edwards
St. Petersburg, FL
33705

September 11, 2019

Dear Senator Lee and the Honorable Members of the Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee,

In advance of the Committee's hearing on potential gun safety legislation for the 2020 session, I wanted to write and urge you to support the objectives below. I am voting constituent who lives and votes in Pinellas County. I am a Clinical Social Worker, wife, and mother of two elementary school-aged children who deeply cares about our schools and communities. I believe that with better legislation we can lessen the number gun deaths whether it be from a mass shooting, accidental shooting, suicide, intimate partner shooting, etc. Passing legislation to prevent gun violence in our state is what I want most from my elected officials.

1. Background checks on all gun sales.
2. Ban on assault weapons and high capacity magazines.
3. Expansion of red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders.
4. Reinstate the language in §30.15 that prohibited classroom teachers from serving as school guardians.
5. Require those convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence to surrender firearms.
6. Require safe storage of guns in vehicles and homes.
7. Require gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement.
8. Prohibit the printing of 3D guns.

Thank you and the committee for taking time to hear from the people you represent. I am hopeful for a community that is safe from gun violence.

Sincerely,

Karuna Reiff
St Petersburg, FL 33704

September 11, 2019

Senator Tom Lee
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee,

I am glad to see the Florida Senate taking up the important issue of gun violence in our society; we are long overdue for attention and conversation about this growing crisis. I am a volunteer with Moms Demand Action in Tallahassee, Florida. My family moved to Florida 18 years ago from Washington DC and we have loved raising our three children here. Our oldest son is a junior at FSU, our daughter a junior at Leon High School and our youngest son a middle schooler at Fairview Middle School. Just like every American mother, nothing is more important to my husband and me than the health, safety and well-being of our children.

Here in the City of Tallahassee we are grappling with continued gun violence by teenagers and young adults. It has become far too easy for people with dangerous histories to get their hands on firearms and the consequences are life-shattering. We have made progress in Florida in the wake of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas tragedy with bi-partisan legislation that included red flag laws, raising the minimum age and increased school security but we still have much work to do.

The most important and effective legislative solution we have available to us are **criminal background checks on EVERY gun sale**. Technology has changed rapidly over the last 10 years and many Floridians enjoy the convenience of online shopping, but shopping for firearms shouldn't be a one-click checkout for dangerous criminals or domestic abusers. And I'm certain that every Florida gun show has licensed gun dealer sellers in attendance that could easily run background checks for interested buyers. Adding this crucial step of requiring a criminal background check for every gun sale will go a long way toward reducing deaths by firearm in Florida.

I hope the health and safety of Florida residents will be first and foremost in your mind as you consider legislation in the upcoming session. Please do not fall into the trap of thinking that criminal background checks are somehow an infringement on someone's "rights". They are a safety precaution, overwhelmingly favored by voters, and the most effective tool in your legislative toolbox.

Thank you for your consideration!

Peace,
Kate Kile
1564 Lee Avenue
Tallahassee, FL 32303

Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Infrastructure and Security Committee:

I am writing to thank you for your work on gun violence and to ask you to support the commonsense gun reform so **desperately** needed in our state. Based on the experiences here in Miami Dade County, I believe the following changes would be the most impactful in preventing gun violence:

1. Background checks on all gun sales

Most Florida voters support requiring background checks on all gun sales, including 89 percent of Republicans and 87 percent of gun owners. We still have not closed the unlicensed gun sale loophole which means that prohibited buyers can take advantage of this loophole and get armed illegally in person and via internet. This loophole guts the public safety impact of **all** our laws. Criminals, underage buyers and people subject to Extreme Risk Orders can simply circumvent the law and purchase a firearm from an unlicensed seller and skip a background check altogether. It is like going to TSA, skipping the line and being allowed through a side door. Crazy!

2. Ban on high capacity magazines

The August 2019 Dayton, Ohio shooter used a rifle equipped with a high-capacity drum magazine capable of holding 100 rounds. Though law enforcement stopped the shooting in about 30 seconds, the shooter was able to fire dozens of shots—and kill 9 people—largely because of the magazine capacity. Over the past decade, **the four deadliest mass shootings in America involved the use of high-capacity magazines. In fact, 58 percent of mass shootings between 2009 and 2017 were committed with firearms equipped with high-capacity magazines.** Limiting magazine capacity would make **ALL** guns less lethal.

3. Require firearms dealers to notify law enforcement when a customer fails a background check

Failed attempts to purchase guns can foreshadow future criminal activity. People who fail background checks are 28 percent more likely to be arrested in the five years following the denial than in the five years before it. Law enforcement wants to know and should know when prohibited individuals are attempting to purchase guns.

4. Expansion of red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders

When a person is in crisis, loved ones are often the first to see signs that they pose a threat to themselves or others. An Extreme Risk law allows them to petition a court for an order to temporarily remove guns from dangerous situations and prohibit the purchase or possession of firearms while the order is in effect.

5. Require gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement and make responsible storage laws stricter so stolen guns are kept off the streets.

From 2007 to 2017, at least 82,000 guns were reported stolen and never found in Florida. Law enforcement has said over and over that they want to know if a stolen gun is on the street. Here in Miami Dade we need solutions for our urban violence NOW – please raise the bar to make it more difficult for guns to be stolen and for law enforcement to be informed.

The bottom line is that **too** many Floridians are killed with guns. The impact of this violence is heartbreaking and impacts our residents, tourist industry, hospitals and economy through gun trafficking, suicide, domestic violence, injury and death. I ask that you focus on the above priorities to save lives and that you don't wait.

Thank you for your time and attention,

Name Alberto Colon
Address 7869 SW 195 St. Miami, FL. 33157
Phone 3054282415

Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

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The bottom line is that **too** many Floridians are killed with guns. The impact of this violence is heartbreaking and impacts our residents, tourist industry, hospitals and economy through gun trafficking, suicide, domestic violence, injury and death. I ask that you focus on the above priorities to save lives and that you don't wait.

Thank you for your time and attention,

Name Liliana Calon
Address 7869 SW 195 ST. Cutler Bay, FL 33157
Phone 305 428 2415

Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Infrastructure and Security Committee:

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The bottom line is that **too** many Floridians are killed with guns. The impact of this violence is heartbreaking and impacts our residents, tourist industry, hospitals and economy through gun trafficking, suicide, domestic violence, injury and death. I ask that you focus on the above priorities to save lives and that you don't wait.

Thank you for your time and attention,

Name Felipe Colon
Address 7869 SW 195 ST. Miami, Fl. 33157
Phone 3054282415

Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Infrastructure and Security Committee Members:

I am writing to thank you for your work on gun violence and to ask you to continue the very important work of restoring safety in our schools and communities. I believe that implementing the following steps would greatly enhance public safety in Florida.

1. Background checks on all gun sales

The vast majority of Florida voters support requiring background checks on all gun sales, including 89 percent of Republicans and 87 percent of gun owners. Although Florida passed some landmark gun laws in 2018 after Parkland, we still have not **closed the unlicensed gun sale loophole** which means that prohibited people can take advantage of this loophole and get armed illegally. The loophole diminishes the public safety impact of our laws. Underage buyers and people subject to Extreme Risk Orders can simply circumvent the law and purchase a firearm from an unlicensed seller and skip a background check altogether. It is like going to TSA and asking to skip the line and being allowed to do that.

2. Ban on high capacity magazines

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When a person is in crisis, loved ones are often the first to see signs that they pose a threat to themselves or others. An Extreme Risk law allows them to petition a court for an extreme risk protection order to temporarily remove guns from dangerous situations and prohibit the purchase or possession of firearms while the order is in effect.

5. Require gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement

From 2007 to 2017, at least 82,000 guns were reported stolen and never found in Florida. Law enforcement has said over and over that they want to know if a stolen gun is on the street.

Please tighten up these dangerous loopholes and help assure our safety. In advance, thank you for working to reflect the will and safety of your constituents.

Laurie Gunn
4102 University Drive, Coral Gables 33146
305-321-4546

September 10, 2019

Senator Tom Lee, Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee

I am writing to share my concerns regarding ongoing gun violence in our state. While the Marjorie Stoneman Douglas School Safety Act has very strong components that make Floridians safer, there is much more that our elected officials can do to significantly reduce the number of Floridians killed or wounded by gun violence.

The first and most impactful step would be to reduce the accessibility of guns in our state through closing loopholes that allow prohibited persons to obtain a gun. 93 percent of American voters support requiring background checks on all gun sales, including 89 percent of Republicans and 87 percent of gun owners. An investigation found that in 2018 alone, there were nearly 1.2 million gun ads on an online gun marketplace called Armslist.com for gun sales where no background check was legally required. Research shows that prohibited people seek guns in those unlicensed gun sales at a disproportionate rate. Considering there are more licensed gun dealers than schools in our state, completing a background check is not an inconvenience.

When a person is in crisis loved ones and law enforcement are often the first to see signs that they pose a threat. Adjusting Florida's 'red flag' law to allow family members, not just law enforcement, to petition a court for an extreme risk protection order to temporarily remove guns from dangerous situations would save more lives.

Most personally, sending two children to public school every day, I worry that with each legislative session our elected officials will mandate that teachers be allowed to carry guns on school campus regardless of what parents would want and school boards recommend. The research supporting teachers with guns does not indicate that this is an effective solution. Only 7 of 67 counties in Florida are considering arming teachers. We're lucky to live in a county that opted out of the guardian program. Solutions to gun violence should not include adding more guns. If this were effective the United States would be very safe but 100 Americans die every day and hundreds more are wounded by guns.

Other areas of concern that I believe require attention include; banning assault weapons, safe storage legislation and repealing stand your ground. I appreciate the complexity of the issue that you are undertaking and hope that more legislation to protect the lives of Floridians from senseless gun violence will be forthcoming.

Sincerely,

Wynna Dunmyer

Boynton Beach, FL 33436

Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Members of the Infrastructure and Security Committee:

I am writing to you from Miami-Dade County in the hopes of letting you know what issues I would like the Florida legislature to focus on next year in terms of gun violence prevention. My priorities are as follows:

1. Background checks on all gun sales

93 percent of American voters support requiring background checks on all gun sales, including 89 percent of Republicans and 87 percent of gun owners. Florida has not closed the unlicensed sale loophole which means that felons, domestic abusers and other prohibited people cans skip a background check and get armed simply by seeking an unlicensed seller online or even at a gun show. It is like if you went to TSA to board a plane and just asked to skip the line and you were ALLOWED! It just makes no sense. An investigation found that in 2018 alone, there were nearly 1.2 million gun ads on an online gun marketplace called Armslist.com for gun sales. No background check was legally required. Research shows that prohibited people seek guns in those unlicensed gun sales at a disproportionate rate.

2. Expansion of red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders

When a person is in crisis, loved ones are usually the first to see signs that they pose a threat.

3. Require firearms dealers to notify law enforcement when a customer fails a background check

Failed attempts to purchase guns can foreshadow future criminal activity. People who fail background checks are 28 percent more likely to be arrested in the five years following the denial than in the five years before it. Law enforcement should know and WANTS to know when prohibited individuals are attempting to purchase guns.

4. Reform the concealed carry license process to give the Department of Agriculture greater discretion to deny licenses to those individuals who present a public safety threat

The legislature practically apologizes to gun owners for requiring a license to concealed carry: "The Legislature does not delegate to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services the authority to regulate or restrict the issuing of licenses provided for in this section, beyond those provisions contained in this section. Subjective or arbitrary actions or rules which encumber the issuing process by placing burdens on the applicant beyond those sworn statements and specified documents detailed in this section or which create restrictions beyond those specified in this section are in conflict with the intent of this section and are prohibited. This section shall be liberally construed to carry out the constitutional right to bear arms for self-defense. This section is supplemental and additional to existing rights to bear arms, and nothing in this section shall impair or diminish such rights." Fla. Stat. 790.06(15).

5. Require gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement

From 2007 to 2017, at least 82,000 guns were reported stolen and never found in Florida. Requiring safe storage in vehicles would go a long way to reducing these numbers.

On behalf of my family, I urge you as a leader and steward of Florida, to take action on this issue of gun reform. We cannot risk another young life because of our inaction. thank you for taking the time to read this letter.

Sincerely,

Céleste Tameus

Name: Celeste Tameus

Address: 8370 SW 100 St, Miami 33156

Phone Number: 305-972-2456

Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

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On behalf of my family, I urge you as a leader and steward of Florida, to take action on this issue of gun reform. We cannot risk another young life because of our inaction. thank you for taking the time to read this letter.

Sincerely,

Celeste Tamers

Name: Celeste Tamers

Address: 8370 SW 100 Street Miami FL 33156

Phone Number: 305-972-2456

September 11th, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee;

I understand that the Infrastructure and Security Committee will be focusing on ways to address gun violence and hate crimes during its September meeting. While the recent wave of mass shootings has served to focus our attention on this topic, in reality, one hundred Americans lose their lives to gun violence in their own neighborhoods daily. Obviously, this is a vitally important topic, and I thank you for spearheading this discussion.

As you move forward with the discussion, particularly as it relates to hate crimes, it is my hope that you will consider revisions to the existing Stand Your Ground Law. Under the current law, the burden of proof falls to the plaintiff and requires that the state disprove the defense which is difficult, if not impossible, for prosecutors to overcome. Additionally, the existing law is flawed and serves to exacerbate hate crimes in that it provides latitude to initiate a confrontation, then respond with deadly force. This can be corrected by placing the burden of proof for a stand your ground defense on the defendant.

Again, my thanks for spearheading the discussion and for your dedication to preserving the health, safety and welfare of us all.

Joseph Zapata

10030 NW 44 Terrace apt. 203

Doral FL 33178

September 11th, 2019

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Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

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Yolet Mendez

4730 NW 102nd Ave. apt. 102

Doral FL 33131

September 11th, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

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Lourdes Lizarraga

10457 NW 56 terrace

Doral FL 33178

September 11th, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

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Javiera Zapata

10030 NW 44 Terrace apt. 203, Doral FL 33178

September 11th, 2019

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Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

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Again, my thanks for spearheading the discussion and for your dedication to preserving the health, safety and welfare of us all.

Renzo Rocca

10457 NW 56 terrace

Doral FL 33178

September 12th, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee;

Thank you for your work and ongoing concern for the health and safety of all Floridians. As you and the Committee move forward with discussion and creation of legislation that will address hate crimes and gun violence, please consider the following.

Since retirement of the federal ban on assault weapons in 1994, we have seen a drastic increase in the number of deaths associated with mass shootings. While we cannot presume that the rise in incidents can be attributed to assault weapons, we can say with all certainty that more deaths occur per incident when assault weapons are involved. Most recently, the Dayton Ohio shooter used a high-capacity drum magazine holding 100 rounds. Although law enforcement quickly intervened to stop the shooting, within 30 seconds 9 people had been shot and killed, largely due to the magazine capacity. Thus, while a ban on assault weapons may not impact the frequency of mass shootings, it would certainly help to decrease the number of deaths.

In the area of gun safety, please improve the safety standards associated with the training that is required prior to the purchase of a firearm. From 2014 through today, across America, 1,296 children have been killed or injured by guns. Many of these incidents result from accidents associated with the failure of the owner to safely store a weapon. While today's reality may require that we as parents ask whether there is a gun in the house each time we organize a play date, it's imperative that we be assured that those guns are safely stored.

As always, my thanks for your consideration dedication to safeguarding all Floridians.

Sandra Ortiz

7825 NW 107th Ave. Apart. 813

Doral FL 33178

September 12th, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

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Beatriz Morgan

8899 NW 107th CT. Unit 217

Doral FL 33178

September 12th, 2019

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Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

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Francisca Lagos

4559 NW 97th CT

Doral FL 33178

September 12th, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee;

Thank you for your work and ongoing concern for the health and safety of all Floridians. As you and the Committee move forward with discussion and creation of legislation that will address hate crimes and gun violence, please consider the following.

Since retirement of the federal ban on assault weapons in 1994, we have seen a drastic increase in the number of deaths associated with mass shootings. While we cannot presume that the rise in incidents can be attributed to assault weapons, we can say with all certainty that more deaths occur per incident when assault weapons are involved. Most recently, the Dayton Ohio shooter used a high-capacity drum magazine holding 100 rounds. Although law enforcement quickly intervened to stop the shooting, within 30 seconds 9 people had been shot and killed, largely due to the magazine capacity. Thus, while a ban on assault weapons may not impact the frequency of mass shootings, it would certainly help to decrease the number of deaths.

In the area of gun safety, please improve the safety standards associated with the training that is required prior to the purchase of a firearm. From 2014 through today, across America, 1,296 children have been killed or injured by guns. Many of these incidents result from accidents associated with the failure of the owner to safely store a weapon. While today's reality may require that we as parents ask whether there is a gun in the house each time we organize a play date, it's imperative that we be assured that those guns are safely stored.

As always, my thanks for your consideration dedication to safeguarding all Floridians.

Marcelo Lagos

4559 NW 97th CT

Doral FL 33178

September 11th, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee;

I understand that the Infrastructure and Security Committee will be focusing on ways to address gun violence and hate crimes during its September meeting. While the recent wave of mass shootings has served to focus our attention on this topic, in reality, one hundred Americans lose their lives to gun violence in their own neighborhoods daily. Obviously, this is a vitally important topic, and I thank you for spearheading this discussion.

As you move forward with the discussion, particularly as it relates to hate crimes, it is my hope that you will consider revisions to the existing Stand Your Ground Law. Under the current law, the burden of proof falls to the plaintiff and requires that the state disprove the defense which is difficult, if not impossible, for prosecutors to overcome. Additionally, the existing law is flawed and serves to exacerbate hate crimes in that it provides latitude to initiate a confrontation, then respond with deadly force. This can be corrected by placing the burden of proof for a stand your ground defense on the defendant.

Again, my thanks for spearheading the discussion and for your dedication to preserving the health, safety and welfare of us all.

Carmen Ponce

4559 NW 97th CT

Doral FL 33178

Neil D. Bass
11664 NW 69th Pl
Parkland, FL 33076
(201) 874-7478
nbass@basstaxgroup.com

September 11, 2019

Senator Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Mr. Lee:

My understanding is that the Infrastructure Committee is going to hold a public meeting to discuss gun violence solutions on Monday, September 16, 2019. Although I am unable to attend the meeting, I would like you to enter this letter into the record. My daughter attended Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School when a mass shooting occurred there on February 14, 2018, so I have a great deal of sensitivity regarding the gun violence issue. The following are my thoughts.

Background Checks

I believe there should be background checks on ALL sales of firearms. How is it that people can buy firearms without background checks? Is it because the NRA is opposed to universal background checks? According to the NRA's website, the NRA's opposition to background checks is due to the fact that "violent crime is at nearly an all-time low". This is an unacceptable reason for avoiding this important initiative. The fact is, 93 percent of American voters support universal background checks, which includes 89 percent of Republicans and 87 percent of gun owners.

According to the 7 percent of American voters who oppose universal background checks, gun registration and background checks are a slippery slope to confiscation. This is untrue. We register cars and we must prove proficiency to operate them. We are required to have insurance in the event we cause damage with them. It's been that way for decades, and no one is "coming to take your car". Making sure people have the barest minimum of responsibility doesn't lead to loss.

Assault Weapons and High Capacity Magazines

I believe assault weapons and high capacity magazines have no place in the hands of private citizens and should be banned. The framers of the 2nd Amendment could not have imagined the slaughter caused by today's military style assault weapons.

As with most products, the seller doesn't necessarily sell the functionality of the product, but rather how it makes the buyer feel. When it comes to guns, and especially assault weapons, the same holds true. These guns are marketed so the user will feel 'macho', 'having a man-card,' 'using a military-style weapon', etc. They make the user have a false sense of power, irrespective of its functionality. This is

why assault weapons are the weapons of choice of mass shooters. This is why those weapons ought to be banned.

Unfortunately, there are lots of Americans and Floridians who own assault weapons. Many of them believe that they need assault weapons for home defense. This is untrue. A short-barreled shotgun is the best tool for home defense (or a dog). And that only counts if you're insanely proficient with it and you get incredibly lucky. The likelihood that you will get the chance to use it is next to zero. If you do, you're very likely to kill a member of your family accidentally. In a real altercation, you don't get to choose your field of fire. It happens incredibly fast, usually in the dark. If you're popping off with an assault weapon, you are going to hit things you don't intend to. Assault weapons are intended to be used on a battlefield. Battlefield tactics don't work in your house. It is a nonsense argument.

Reg Flag Laws

I believe we should expand red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders. We should be able to have guns removed from people who are at high risk of committing violent acts. When a person is in crisis, loved ones and law enforcement are often the first to see signs that they pose a threat. An Extreme Risk law allows them to petition a court for an extreme risk protection order to temporarily remove guns from dangerous situations and prohibit the purchase or possession of firearms while the order is in effect.

Arming Teachers

I believe we should reinstate the language in §30.15 that prohibited classroom teachers from serving as school guardians. Marjory Stoneman Douglas had armed guards and what use were they? A March 2018 survey of almost 500 U.S. teachers found that **73 percent** oppose proposals to arm school staff. Another survey found that **63 percent** of parents of elementary, middle, and high school students oppose arming teachers.

Concealed Carry

I believe we should reform the concealed carry license process to give the Department of Agriculture greater discretion to deny licenses to those individuals who present a public safety threat.

The Legislature practically apologizes to gun owners for requiring a license to carry a concealed firearm: "The Legislature does not delegate to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services the authority to regulate or restrict the issuing of licenses provided for in this section, beyond those provisions contained in this section. Subjective or arbitrary actions or rules which encumber the issuing process by placing burdens on the applicant beyond those sworn statements and specified documents detailed in this section or which create restrictions beyond those specified in this section are in conflict with the intent of this section and are prohibited. This section shall be liberally construed to carry out the constitutional right to bear arms for self-defense. This section is supplemental and additional to existing rights to bear arms, and nothing in this section shall impair or diminish such rights." Fla. Stat. 790.06(15). Did the NRA write this statute?

Domestic Violence

I believe we should require those convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence to surrender firearms. In an average month, at least 52 American women are shot and killed by an intimate partner, and many more are injured.

Firearm Dealers

I believe we should require firearm dealers to notify law enforcement when a customer fails a background check. Failed attempts to purchase guns can foreshadow future criminal activity. People who fail background checks are 28 percent more likely to be arrested in the five years following the denial than in the five years before it. Law enforcement should know when prohibited individuals are attempting to purchase guns.

Sensitive Places

I believe we should prohibit concealed carry licensees from carrying firearms in additional sensitive places, such as daycare centers, public playgrounds, and at public demonstrations. Florida's list of "sensitive" places is fairly small, and despite the NRA talking point, data from 2009-2016 shows that only 10 percent of the 156 mass shootings during that period happened in a "gun free zone."

Safe Storage

I believe we should require safe storage of guns in vehicles and require gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement. From 2007 to 2017, at least 82,000 guns were reported stolen and never found in Florida.

Safety Training

I believe we should require safety training prior to purchasing a firearm. Gun buyers should be educated on firearm safety, including safe storage. Every year almost 350 children shoot themselves or someone else unintentionally. Most of these shootings take place inside a home where a gun was not properly secured.

NICS Reporting

I believe we should require the timely reporting of criminal and mental health records to NICS. Hundreds of thousands of prohibiting mental health records are missing from the NICS background check system, potentially enabling prohibited people to pass a background check.

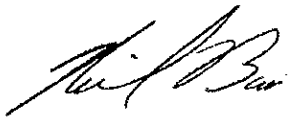
Preemption

I believe we should repeal preemption. Efforts by municipalities to regulate where guns can be carried and fired have been struck down on the basis of Florida's preemption statute. Municipal citizens should have a right to regulate these matters in the interest of their own safety.

3D Printing

I believe we should prohibit the printing of 3D guns. This provides another way for individuals prohibited by law from purchasing a gun to obtain one without a background check.

Respectfully submitted,



Neil D. Bass

September 11, 2019

To: Senator Tom Lee, Chair
Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate/418 Senate Bldg.
404 S. Monroe St.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Senator Lee and Members of the Committee:

Aware that you'll be holding a hearing on potential gun safety legislation for consideration during the 2020 session, I'm writing to express in the strongest possible terms my support for several measures that will save lives by observing good American common sense.

Why the "strongest possible terms?" Because while living in Newtown, CT, my home for 18 years, I attended the funeral of 6 year-old Benjamin Wheeler and mourned with my fellow Newtowners as the parents and loved ones of the twenty-five other victims of the Sandy Hook atrocity were buried. My life has never been the same, and as a volunteer with Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America, I have vowed to spare others the pain I witnessed everywhere around me during those unimaginably dark days.

I urge you and your colleagues to consider:

- An expansion of Florida's existing Red Flag law to enable family members, not just law enforcement personnel, to seek Extreme Risk Protection Orders.
- Background checks on all gun sales—every, single one--a good American common sense gun safety policy supported, according to multiple polls, by 90% of common-sensical Americans.
- Prohibiting concealed carry in sensitive places such as houses of worship and campuses.
- REQUIRING (caps intended) safe storage of firearms in vehicles.
- Training as a prerequisite to issuance of a firearms license.
- Discretionary denials of Concealed Carry permits for people who pose a public safety risk.
- A rollback of the provision allowing armed teachers in our public schools.

I thank you and the Committee for your attention to this letter. I know it will not be the only one you receive from an individual with direct, personal experience of senseless gun violence and its dire consequences. There are far, far too many of us.

Respectfully,

Jan Neuberger
St. Petersburg, FL 33712

What would Jesus carry?

September 11, 2019

To: Senator Tom Lee, Chair
Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate/418 Senate Bldg.
404 S. Monroe St.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Senator Lee and Members of the Committee:

You have the power to set in motion common sense gun safety regulations that will save lives. I believe you are aware of the statistics and arguments that support adoption of each of the following measures, so I simply offer you this list for your consideration:

- Background checks on all gun sales.
- Ban on assault weapons and high-capacity magazines.
- Rollback of the provision allowing classroom teachers to serve as school guardians.
- Reform the concealed carry license process to give the Department of Agriculture greater discretion to deny licenses to those individuals who present a public safety threat.
- Require individuals convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence to surrender firearms.
- Requres firearms dealers to notify law enforcement when a customer fails a background check.
- Prohibit concealed carry licensees from carrying firearms in sensitive places such as daycare facilities, public playgrounds, and churches.
- Require timely reporting of criminal and mental health records to NICS
- Repeal preemption.
- Return the burden of proof for Stand Your Ground defense to the defendant.
- Prohibit the printing of 3D guns.

A retiree, I moved to Florida five years ago. Since then, we have had Pulse and Parkland and, locally, the slaying in cold blood of Markeis McGlockton—these are just the shootings that have made headlines; I know there have been countless others. It doesn't have to be this way. Please do your part, Senator Lee and Committee members, to address Florida's urgent public health crisis of gun violence. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Robert J. Carter
St. Petersburg, FL

September 11, 2019

Dear Mr. Tom Lee,

My name is Wendy Somerset, I am a mother of 3 and a psychiatrist here in Tallahassee, Florida. I strongly support more legislation to eliminate gun violence in Florida.

I believe we need an assault weapons ban and a ban on high capacity magazines. We need comprehensive background checks. We need to expand the Red Flag laws to include family members.

I believe these are common sense gun reform plans. If someone wants to hunt or have a gun at home for self protection, these laws should not impact the vast majority of people. We need to make changes to try to keep our communities safer. Clearly, there is no perfect plan. But doing nothing is not an option.

Thank you for your time.

Wendy Somerset, MD
1615 Village Square Blvd Suite 4
Tallahassee, FL 32309

September 2019

Hon. Sen. Tom Lee, Chair - Infrastructure & Security
Florida Senate 418 Senate Bldg.
404 S. Monroe St.
Tallahassee Fl 32399-1100

Dear Hon. Sen. Lee,

Appreciations for your & your staff's service to the people of Florida & to our visiting family, friends & those who do business in this state.

I write today to ask that you influence your colleagues to take bold efforts to end gun violence in our wonderful state. This is a state where I graduated from jr. high & high school (Sarasota) & also college. It is a state that I have heaped praise upon in three guide books (Scenic Driving Florida, Florida's Famous Animals & Family Fun in Florida, for Falcon/Globe Pequot.)

But today I & also many everyday Floridians painfully know that the business of assault weapon sales is more influential than is the actions for keeping our playgrounds, parks, movie theaters, gas stations, resorts, beaches, work places & schools absent of assault weapons. There is no sane reason these weapons suitable for soldiers & police, should be so easily obtained.

It is true that other developed economies such as in Canada & Sweden have a strong hunting culture, (our daughter's friends are currently moose-hunting north of Sweden.) But they do not have the strong assault weapon culture that has been cultivated in Florida. This can change, *for the good.*

Please know that Florida residents realize now mental illness, drug-addiction & anger-control issues occur in other developed economies - *without the kinds of mass shootings Florida* experiences. In the ways that those economies value life, they have decided not to value easy access to assault weapons. So they aren't available for individuals who are unstable, on drugs or can't control a temper. Those human issues are everywhere. The widely available assault weapons suitable to law enforcement & the military are what makes the difference between our & other developed economies.

Please move strongly & positively for the several proposals of the citizen groups such as Everytown and Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense - Florida, so reasonably seek.

Thank you again for your service.
All good wishes,

Jan Godown
Tallahassee Fl

September 11, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee,

As the Infrastructure and Security Committee focuses on ways to address gun violence and hate crimes during its September meeting(s), my family and I are asking you to consider these priorities:

1.) **Require a background checks on every firearm purchase in the State of Florida** – Over 90% of Americans support requiring background checks on all gun sales. An investigation found that in 2018 alone, there were nearly 1.2 million firearm ads on an online gun marketplace called Armslist.com for gun sales where no background check was legally required. And research shows that prohibited people seek guns in those unlicensed gun sales at a disproportionate rate.

2.) **Require the timely reporting of criminal and mental health records to NICS** - Hundreds of thousands of prohibiting criminal and mental health records are missing from the NICS background check system, potentially enabling prohibited people to pass a background check. This is a critical fail that is required to be fixed in order to make background check legislation effective. Legislation to make this reporting mandatory will make us safer.

3.) **Require gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement** - From 2007 to 2017, at least 82,000 guns were reported stolen and never found in Florida. Not knowing a gun is stolen hinders criminal investigations and law enforcement's ability to track gun-trafficking networks. Stolen gun reports also serve as a deterrent to inter-state gun-trafficking. This is a simple measure of accountability that assists law enforcement do its job.

These three (3) proposals would have a positive effect in making Florida safer and would not diminish Florida residents' rights under the 2nd Amendment. It's a win-win for all of us. Please give them strong consideration.

Thank you for helping to keep us safe.

Sincerely,

C. Frederick

Christopher Frederick
17051 SW 49 Street
Southwest Ranches, FL 33331

Senator Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security
The Florida Senate

September 11, 2019

Dear Honorable Chair Lee:

I am a seven decade (tomorrow) Florida resident who lives in peace in the country between Midway and Havana, around the corner from you in Tallahassee.

Japan has roughly six to ten gun violence deaths in a year. We approach forty *thousand*. We must have a paradigm shift in this state and country if we are to get a handle on this terrible scourge. Updating the 2nd Amendment will have to happen eventually in order to solve this, but we can't accept the current loss of life in the interim.

It seems that the following would be reasonable places to start:

- Ban *possession* of assault rifles as defined in the ongoing assault weapon ban ballot initiative…no weapon would hold more than 10 rounds. No high capacity magazines. No grandfathering (though the ballot initiative allows that).
- Mandate buy-backs of such weapons.
- Deep universal background checks for *all* gun purchases by anyone, anywhere
- Allow *families* to employ the Red Flag Law, not just law enforcement.
- Repeal the option to arm teachers and the permitting of outside "guardians", instead funding actual law enforcement in adequate numbers to satisfy the need until the time school perimeters are made absolutely secure.
- Rather than put *more* guns into schools, spend whatever it takes to absolutely secure school perimeters. This will require restructuring many school campuses, but students deserve *absolute* security. **No guns in schools guarantees no gun violence.**
- Repeal "Stand Your Ground" (SYG), which directs immature minds (below the age of thirty) to ignore the value of life, whereas the old law required one to "Swallow your pride and run". SYG is the most dangerous law ever passed by the Florida Legislature, and continues to lead to unnecessary deaths as immature minds follow its directive. Repealing it as soon as possible is a must if we are to return to reason in Florida.

Thank you for your wise consideration of these life-saving suggestions.

Rick Soskis
Havana

September 11, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee,

As the Infrastructure and Security Committee focuses on ways to address gun violence and hate crimes during its September meeting(s), my family and I are asking you to consider these priorities:

1.) **Require a background checks on every firearm purchase in the State of Florida** – Over 90% of Americans support requiring background checks on all gun sales. An investigation found that in 2018 alone, there were nearly 1.2 million firearm ads on an online gun marketplace called Armslist.com for gun sales where no background check was legally required. And research shows that prohibited people seek guns in those unlicensed gun sales at a disproportionate rate.

2.) **Require the timely reporting of criminal and mental health records to NICS** - Hundreds of thousands of prohibiting criminal and mental health records are missing from the NICS background check system, potentially enabling prohibited people to pass a background check. This is a critical fail that is required to be fixed in order to make background check legislation effective. Legislation to make this reporting mandatory will make us safer.

3.) **Require gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement** - From 2007 to 2017, at least 82,000 guns were reported stolen and never found in Florida. Not knowing a gun is stolen hinders criminal investigations and law enforcement's ability to track gun-trafficking networks. Stolen gun reports also serve as a deterrent to inter-state gun-trafficking. This is a simple measure of accountability that assists law enforcement do its job.

These three (3) proposals would have a positive effect in making Florida safer and would not diminish Florida residents' rights under the 2nd Amendment. It's a win-win for all of us. Please give them strong consideration.

Thank you for helping to keep us safe.

Sincerely,

Sheena Frederick
17051 SW 49th ST,
Southwest Ranches, FL
33331

September 11, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee;

I am a Florida resident who is very concerned about the national public health crisis we have in the US. This is an epidemic that is killing our citizens at an alarming rate. It is my understanding that you and your Committee have been tasked with reviewing hate crimes and gun violence and introducing legislation in the next session to address your findings.

Please consider the expansion of red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders. When a person is in crisis, their loved ones, not law enforcement, are often the first to see signs that they pose a threat. An expanded Extreme Risk law would allow family members to petition a court for an extreme risk protection order to temporarily remove guns from dangerous situations and prohibit the purchase or possession of firearms while the order is in effect. The law that passed last year to allow law enforcement to petition the court has helped but it is not enough. Allowing family members who are more familiar with threats and dangers to petition the court directly would make all of us safer, whether we are Florida residents or visitors to our state.

Also, please consider crafting legislation that requires those convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence to surrender firearms temporarily under the same requirements as under ERPOs. In an average month, at least 52 American women are shot and killed by an intimate partner, and many more are injured. And often, the children are either harmed or also killed, and/or suffer the trauma of witnessing these events or losing both parents simultaneously. We must do more to prevent these tragedies.

These simple expanded protections will surely save the lives of many Floridians. I ask you to consider these as we attempt to be safer in our homes and communities throughout the state. Our "new normal" is not normal. We should not be afraid to send our kids to school, go to a movie theatre, a place of worship or any public place simply because there are unstable people in our midst with easy access to weapons. We should not have to live like this in America. We can take small steps with legislation to help mitigate these killings. Thank you on behalf of all Floridians.

Sincerely,

Tracy Antol

Tracy Antol
1419 NE 57th Court
Fort Lauderdale, FL 3334

Senator Thomas Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security of The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 S. Monroe St.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Sept. 11, 2019

Dear Senator Lee,
My name is Rosemary Nilles and I live in Citrus County, Florida. I'm writing to ask you to take some simple legislative steps to reduce gun violence in Florida. The issue of gun violence has unfortunately become very personal for me. I'm asking for the following:

Background Checks on Every Gun Sale: We need to close the loopholes that allow felons, domestic abusers, and other dangerous people from buying a gun online or at a gun show, or from a private seller, with NO background check! Most Americans, including gun owners, agree that keeping guns out of the hands of dangerous people is urgently important. In no way would this impact law-abiding citizens who already buy their guns with a background check that is readily completed. Let's move forward on this important, simple step.

Banning Assault-Style Weapons and High Capacity Magazines: There is no reason for Americans to carry weapons of war. In fact, many law enforcement agencies have spoken out on this issue. These weapons have been used in a large number of recent mass shootings.

Red Flag Laws: I am thankful that Florida had the courage to enact Red Flag Laws after the Parkland Massacre. Now, it's time to expand the law to allow family members and loved ones, who know a person in crisis best, to petition for the temporary removal of firearms using due process. Let's make it easy and inexpensive for a family member to petition, so that there are no barriers to protecting others from a would-be shooter.

Make Sure that Convicted Domestic Abusers Surrender their Firearms: It only makes sense that if a person has been deemed through the courts to be too dangerous to *buy* a gun, they are also too dangerous to *have* a gun. Other states have enacted this type of legislation, which is already saving lives. The presence of a gun in a domestic abuse situation makes it *five times* more likely that the woman will be killed.

Keep Gun Free Zones: We all have a right to feel safe in our communities. Bringing guns to our churches, shopping malls, theaters, schools, and recreational areas doesn't make us safer. And please, repeal the law that allows classroom staff to be armed. *Only trained law enforcement should be entrusted with a weapon near our children.*

Reporting Stolen Guns: Too many are killed with stolen guns. Law enforcement needs to know when a gun is missing. And gun owners should be held accountable for keeping their guns secured. That will also make suicides harder to commit. And secured guns will prevent unintentional death and injury to children.

Senator Lee, I realize that this is a lengthy list of requests. But I believe that you are committed to saving lives and preventing life-changing injuries. These are practical suggestions that still respect our Second Amendment rights. As you lead the Senate Infrastructure and Security meeting, I trust that you will consider these important steps.

Respectfully,
Rosemary Nilles
934 Stetson Terrace
Inverness, FL 34450

September 11, 2019

The Honerable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee,

As the infrastructure and Security Committee focuses on ways to address gun violence and hate crimes during its September meeting(s), my familoy and I are asking you to consider these priorities:

1) **Require a background checks on every firearm purchase in the State of Florida** – Over 90% of Americans support requiring background checks on all gun sales. An investigation found that in 2018 alone, there were nearly 1.2 million firearm ads on an online gun marketplace called Armslist.com for gun sales where no background check was legally required. And research shows that prohibited people seek guns in those unlicensed gun sales at a disproportionate rate.

2) **Require the timely reporting of criminal and mental health records to NICS** – Hundreds of thousands of prohibiting criminal and mental health records are missing from the NICS background check system, potentially enabling prohibited people to pass a background check legislstion effective. Legislation to make this reporting mandatory will make us safer.

3) **Require gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement** – From 2007 to 2017, at least 82,000 guns were reported stolen and never found in Florida. Not knowing a gun is stolen hinders criminal investigations and law enfircement's ability to track gun-trafficking networks. Stolen gun reports also serve as a deterrent to inter-state gun-trafficking. This is a simple measure of accountability that assists law enforcement do its job.

These three (3) proposals would have a positive effect in making Florida safer and would not diminish Florida residents' rights under the 2nd Amendment. It's a win-win for all of us. Please give them strong consideration.

Thank you for helping to keep us safe.

Sincerely,

Signed:

Ruth Bryer
4309 S.E. Cove Lake Circle
Apt. 101
Stuart, FL 34997

September 11, 2001

Senator Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee:

My wife also sent you a letter urging you to address gun safety legislation as a new legislative session begins. I also would like to strongly urge the Infrastructure and Security Committee to commit to addressing gun violence that has affected our state and our country. Below are some of the issues that I believe those elected to protect Floridians should consider in addition to requiring background checks on all gun sales, banning assault weapons and high capacity magazines and reinstate the language that prohibited classroom teachers from serving as school guardians:

1. Require those convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence to surrender firearms. In an average month it is reported that at least 52 American women are shot and killed by an intimate partner and many more are injured.

2. Require firearms dealers to notify law enforcement when a customer fails a background check. Failed attempts to purchase guns can foreshadow future criminal activity. It is reported that people who fail background checks are 28 percent more likely to be arrested in the five years following the denial than in the five years before it. It makes sense that law enforcement should know when prohibited individuals are attempting to purchase guns.

3. Repeal preemption. Efforts by municipalities to regulate where guns can be carried and fired have been struck down based on Florida's preemption statute. To strike down laws that are being written to keep people safer is, in my opinion and with all due respect, absurd.

There are so many more issues surrounding gun violence that need to be addressed that my letter would go on for pages. From requiring safe storage of guns in vehicles to requiring safety training prior to purchasing firearms there is much that can be done to keep Floridians safe. Please do it now. If not now, what better time to keep your constituents safe?

Thank you for serving our state and for all you do.

Best regards,

Larry Paul
920 Wandering Woods Way
Ponte Vedra, Florida 32081
904-373-5366

September 11, 2001

Senator Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee:

As this day of remembrance is commemorated throughout our country, there is no better time to consider how to protect our citizens from murder and mayhem then this. As a new legislative session begins, I would like to strongly urge the Infrastructure and Security Committee to commit to addressing gun violence that has affected our state and our country. Below are some of the issues that I believe those elected to protect Floridians should consider:

1. The majority of American voters support requiring background checks on all gun sales. Sadly, in 2018 an investigation found that there were nearly 1.2 million gun ads on an online gun marketplace called Armslist.com for gun sales where no background check was legally required. Research tells us that prohibited people seek guns in those unlicensed gun sales at a disproportionate rate. For the safety of all, we need to close the loopholes in the laws that allow this to happen.

2. The August 2019 Dayton, Ohio shooter used a rifle equipped with a high-capacity drum magazine capable of holding 100 rounds. Over the past decade, the four deadliest mass shootings in America involved the use of high-capacity magazines. It is a fact that 58 percent of mass shootings between 2009 and 2017 were committed with firearms equipped with high-capacity magazines. I strongly believe it is time to ban assault weapons and high capacity magazines.

3. Reinstate the language that prohibited classroom teachers from serving as school guardians. I have not spoken to one teacher who thinks that guns in classrooms are a good idea.

There are so many more issues surrounding gun violence that need to be addressed that my letter would go on for pages. From requiring safe storage of guns in vehicles to requiring safety training prior to purchasing firearms there is much that can be done to keep Floridians safe. It would be nice if they could all be addressed. I believe they will have to be eventually, so why not do it now?

Thank you for all that you do to keep us safe. It is greatly appreciated.

Best regards,

Lynn Paul
920 Wandering Woods Way
Ponte Vedra, Florida 32081
904-373-5366

September 11, 2019

Sen Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32339

Dear Senator Lee and the Honorable Members of the Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee:

As a concerned Florida citizen, I wanted to write and express my opinions on the subject in advance of the Committee's hearing on potential gun safety legislation for the 2020 session.

I feel unsafe with the plethora of guns available in our State and society. I am confident that committed, smart people can figure out how to balance the safety of the public, and the rights guaranteed under First Amendment, with those of the Second Amendment.

Here are things that I feel are important to appropriately safeguard our citizenry and that would balance the needs here in Florida.

1. **Background checks on <u>all</u> gun sales, closing the private sale loophole**
2. **Expand red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders**
3. **Reinstate the language in §30.15 that prohibited classroom teachers from serving as school guardians**
4. **Reform the concealed carry license process to give the Department of Agriculture greater discretion to deny licenses to those individuals who present a public safety threat**
5. **Require those convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence to surrender firearms**
6. **Prohibit concealed carry licensees from carrying firearms in additional sensitive places, such as daycares, public playgrounds, and at public demonstrations**
7. **Require safe storage of guns in vehicles and require gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement**
8. **Require safety training prior to purchasing a firearm**
9. **Repeal preemption**
10. **Return the burden of proof for stand your ground defense to the defendant**
11. **Prohibit the printing of 3D guns**
12. **Ban on assault weapons and high capacity magazines**

Thank you for holding these hearings and for reviewing my opinions. Florida is a wonderful state and one we adopted just over 5 years ago. If we can make our communities safer from gun violence, it will be an even better place to live.

Kind Regards,

Virginia McCallum & Mark Brown
Bradenton, FL 34202

September 11, 2019

Senator Aaron Bean
The Florida Senate
405 Senate Building
405 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Senator Bean,

Today we remember those we lost across America and the heroes who gave their lives to save others. You have the opportunity on September 16th to save others as well. I hope that you will take a strong stance in our state to reduce lost lives due to gun violence.

Americans across party lines overwhelmingly support expanded background checks. Requiring background checks on ALL gun sales needs to be a top priority this session. Mass shootings continue across our country and homicides in my city of Jacksonville have reached an all-time high. You must do your part to do what is needed to reduce the rising gun violence.

I also implore you to be a leader to support reimposing the Federal Assault Weapons Ban. This law should never have been allowed to lapse. No one but active military needs possession of assault style weapons. Weapons of war do not belong in civilian hands.

As a household of two retired teachers with a combined 81 years of experience and proud grandparents of four, we adamantly oppose teachers serving as guardians, and arming of school staff. I sincerely hope the hastily enacted guardian program will be reconsidered this next session.

You have the opportunity to take the common sense steps to address gun violence in our state.

Sincerely,

Deborah Holden
1114 Seawood Drive
Neptune Beach, FL 32266

Dear Senator Lee and the Honorable Members of the Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee,

In advance of the Committee's hearing on potential gun safety legislation for the 2020 session, I wanted to write and express my opinions on the subject. Although I'm not an expert qualified to testify at your hearing, I am an expert in my life.

You see, my brother-in-law died by gun suicide more than 15 years ago, and hus death that did not need to happen. Indeed, a red flag law might have stopped Chris, a person with a diagnosed mental illness and frequent bouts of suicidal ideation, from having access to firearms. Unfortunately, such legislation didn't exist then. And even if our current legislation had been on the books, it is possible that it would not have helped him. That's because current red flag legislation is not broad enough. It simply must be expanded so that family members – the people who know the mental state of their loved ones best - can also seek a risk protection order from the courts. The current system is better than nothing, but law enforcement meant aren't the only ones who can spot red flags. The more people who raise such red flags and seek to obtain risk protection orders, the safer our loved ones and communities will be.

Other gun violence prevention solutions are necessary, as well. The most basic of these relate to background checks. Universal background checks are both incredibly helpful at saving lives and politically easy to pass. Over 90% of Americans support expanding background checks for every single gun sale! We know that the mass shooter in Midland, Texas was able to buy a firearm from an unlicensed dealer, and thus evade a background check which he would not have passed. That raises a second issue, which is that there should be mandatory reporting of failed background checks to law enforcement. This is a no-brainer. If someone who shouldn't be allowed to obtain a firearm is trying to, law enforcement should be automatically informed.

Some other measures that would save lives and make our communities safer include prohibiting concealed carry in sensitive places like places of worship and campuses, requiring safe storage of firearms in vehicles, changing the concealed carry process so that there can be discretionary denials for people who pose a public safety risk, and requiring training before firearms licenses are issued.

Finally, as a mother of a new kindergartner in public school, I would be incredibly remiss if I did not mention the need to roll back the ability of school districts to arm teachers. This measure has been incredibly unpopular, with a recent Wall Street Journal article noting that only 7 of 67 school districts are even considering allowing teachers to carry firearms. I am lucky enough to live in a county that has opted out of the guardian program, but not all children are as fortunate. We know that increased access to firearms equals increased danger to children. Schools should not be a place where children are exposed to such increased access.

Thank you for holding these hearings and for reviewing the words I have written. Florida is a wonderful state, the place of my birth and the place I'm proud to call home. If we can make our communities safer from gun violence, it will be an even better place to live.

Thank you,
Kelly Moore
St. Petersburg, FL 33702

Senator Tom Lee
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

September 11, 2019

Dear Senator Lee:

I am a registered voter in Jacksonville, FL and I am concerned about gun safety.

I value freedom from violence for everyone most particularly for children. Using violence to curb violence does not free anyone from violence. Teachers understand that good discipline controls violence and disorder. They understand setting limits. They understand that discipline delayed makes order more difficult to attain. Florida has done a bad job of keeping order. Failing to set limits on gun ownership, we are now paying the price. The pain will probably get worse before it gets better as we belatedly establish limits. But if we want to curb the violence, we have to set limits. That's why I believe we must:

- Close all loopholes to background checks on guns;
- Establish a longer waiting period for buying guns;
- Hold gun owners accountable for guns carelessly stored;
- Ban buying, selling, and manufacture of semi-automatic guns, bump stock, high capacity magazines;
- Outlaw 3D printing of guns;
- Repeal arming of teachers
- Repeal Stand Your Ground
- Require liability insurance for any guns anyone owns;
- Include family members in Red Flag laws.

Of course, none of these laws will stop violence immediately or completely but they will provide limits to help us make a safer world for our children. Discipline takes time to shape behavior but we can do it.

Thank you for your work as a legislator.

Ila Rae Merten
2804 Post St
Jacksonville, FL 32205
904-387-2092
ilaraemerten@gmail.com

Sen. Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

September 11, 2019

Dear Senator Lee,

I wanted to start by thanking you for your efforts, and the efforts of all the members of the Senate Committee on Infrastructure and Security, for agreeing to work to reduce gun violence in the state of Florida. I am a former Marine Officer and with multiple deployments under my belt and I've seen first-hand what a weapon of war can do, especially to civilians so while I have respect for the 2nd Amendment and the protections and rights it offers I also believe that the people of Florida have a right to Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness and that a balance must be struck between these two competing interests. I also recognize that this problem is complicated and no easy answers are available, but I believe there are a several things we can do to which would have an immediate and measurable impact and I strongly urge you to support these measures as we move forward toward the 2020 legislative session.

First and foremost, we must change the laws so that criminal background checks are performed on all gun sales in the state. Right now, it is much too easy for a prohibited gun buyer to exploit our laws and arrange to obtain a gun through a private sale. This is something that polls have consistently shown is supported by 93% of American voters, including 89% of Republicans and 87% of gun owners. I know many gun enthusiasts like to purchase guns at gun shows but I would ask that you look at the "net-value" of enacting such a law, namely less guns in the hands of people who need them the least. In Florida most people live within 10 miles of a gun shop, meaning this would not be an overly burdensome requirement and as I believe most gun owners in the state are responsible people who don't want to see their guns in the hands of prohibited buyers, this shouldn't be a controversial item.

I'd also like to see an expansion of our current ERPO law to bring it in line with most of the other state laws throughout the country. As it now stands, family members cannot petition directly for intervention and that is a problem, given that they are almost always the ones who are first alerted to a problem when someone appears to be a danger to themselves or others. This seems absurd on its face and would only inconvenience a very small number of people in the state and would possibly save many lives.

Finally, I'd like to see the committee take a comprehensive look at a range of issue surrounding safe gun storage: requiring guns to be locked when stored in vehicles, increasing the requirements and penalties associated with keeping guns out of the hands of minors, reporting stolen guns, etc. We don't want to take guns away from the responsible gun owners, but it is

vitally important that we find ways to keep them out of the hands of those who should not have them. Guns provide great power and a sense of security, but there needs to be a sense of grave responsibility that comes with this. I was trained to feel this way about weapons during my time in the Marine Corps and I think society would benefit from having this mentality among gun owners. Otherwise, over time support for the 2nd Amendment will continue to grow and a large backlash against the rights of gun owners could possibly sweep away much of what they've fought for over the past generation.

Thank you for your consideration,

Alex Peaks
849 Strathmore Dr.
Orlando, FL 32803

Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Infrastructure and Security Committee:

I am writing from Miami -Dade County to thank you for your work on gun violence and to ask you to support the common sense gun reform so desperately needed in our state. Based on the experiences we have had in Miami Date County, I believe the following changes would be the most impactful in preventing gun violence:

1. Background checks on all gun sales

The vast majority of Florida voters support requiring background checks on all gun sales, including 89 percent of Republicans and 87 percent of gun owners. Although Florida passed some landmark gun laws in 2018 after Parkland, we still have not closed the unlicensed gun sale loophole which means that prohibited people can take advantage of this loophole and get armed illegally. The loophole diminishes the public safety impact of our laws. Underage buyers and people subject to Extreme Risk Orders can simply circumvent the law and purchase a firearm from an unlicensed seller and skip a background check altogether. It is like going to TSA and asking to skip the line and being allowed to do that. Crazy!

2. Ban on high capacity magazines

The August 2019 Dayton, Ohio shooter used a rifle equipped with a high-capacity drum magazine capable of holding 100 rounds. Though law enforcement stopped the shooting in about 30 seconds, the shooter was able to fire dozens of shots—and kill 9 people—largely because of the magazine capacity. Over the past decade, the four deadliest mass shootings in America involved the use of high-capacity magazines. In fact, 58 percent of mass shootings between 2009 and 2017 were committed with firearms equipped with high-capacity magazines.

3. Require firearms dealers to notify law enforcement when a customer fails a background check

Failed attempts to purchase guns can foreshadow future criminal activity. People who fail background checks are 28 percent more likely to be arrested in the five years following the denial than in the five years before it. Law enforcement wants to know and should know when prohibited individuals are attempting to purchase guns. To that end,

4. Expansion of red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders

When a person is in crisis, loved ones are often the first to see signs that they pose a threat to themselves or others. An Extreme Risk law allows them to petition a court for an extreme risk protection order to temporarily remove guns from dangerous situations and prohibit the purchase or possession of firearms while the order is in effect.

5. Require gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement

From 2007 to 2017, at least 82,000 guns were reported stolen and never found in Florida. Law enforcement has said over and over that they want to know if a stolen gun is on the street.

The bottom line is that too many Floridians are killed with guns. The loopholes in our background check laws are negatively impacting our state in terms of gun trafficking, suicide, domestic violence and homicide. I ask that you focus on the above priorities to save lives. The time is now, ladies and gentlemen. We cannot afford one more mass shooting – not in Florida, nor anywhere else in this nation.

Thank you for your time and attention,

Erin Rodgers
6490 SW 106th Street
Miami, Florida 33156
305-613-6843

11 September 2019

Dear Senator Lee,

First of all, thank you for considering the issue of gun safety laws in your committee. The time is long overdue for something to be done, especially because the majority of Floridians support passage of common-sense laws.

While no single law will prevent all gun deaths and injuries, I hope you will consider at least the following steps that would go a long way toward reducing the massacres we have endured recently:

- Expand the Red Flag law beyond the police, to include requests from household/family members for risk protection orders against those believed to pose a danger to themselves or others. Furthermore, mandate that individuals convicted of domestic violence charges must surrender their firearms.
- Enact comprehensive universal background checks that would include sales between two non-licensed people or via the internet, in addition to the licensed dealers currently covered by law. In addition, make it mandatory to report individuals who fail a background check to law enforcement officials.
- Ban semi-automatic assault weapons and high capacity magazines, since we know that shooting deaths nationally are three times higher and the wounding rate is six times higher since the assault weapons ban was allowed to expire in 2004. *(Tores J. "Did the assault weapons ban actually work? Here's what the numbers actually say." https://www.ledger-enquirer.com/opinion/opn-columns-blogs/article234055992.html#storylink=cpy)*

Respectfully,

Jean Siebenaler
7502 Old Bay Pointe Road
Milton, FL 32583

September 11th, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee;

I understand that the Infrastructure and Security Committee will be focusing on ways to address gun violence and hate crimes during its September meeting. While the recent wave of mass shootings has served to focus our attention on this topic, in reality, one hundred Americans lose their lives to gun violence in their own neighborhoods daily. Obviously, this is a vitally important topic, and I thank you for spearheading this discussion.

As you move forward with the discussion, particularly as it relates to hate crimes, it is my hope that you will consider revisions to the existing Stand Your Ground Law. Under the current law, the burden of proof falls to the plaintiff and requires that the state disprove the defense which is difficult, if not impossible, for prosecutors to overcome. Additionally, the existing law is flawed and serves to exacerbate hate crimes in that it provides latitude to initiate a confrontation, then respond with deadly force. This can be corrected by placing the burden of proof for a stand your ground defense on the defendant.

Again, my thanks for spearheading the discussion and for your dedication to preserving the health, safety and welfare of us all.

Yudy Jaramillo

5204 NW 103 Ave.

Doral FL 33178

September 11th, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

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Again, my thanks for spearheading the discussion and for your dedication to preserving the health, safety and welfare of us all.

Ellen Kadur

5212 nw 103th Ave.

Doral FL 33178

September 11th, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

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Kevin Kadur

5212 nw 103th Ave.

Doral FL 33178

September 11th, 2019

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Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

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Brian Kadur

5212 nw 103th Ave.

Doral FL 33178

September 11th, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

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Again, my thanks for spearheading the discussion and for your dedication to preserving the health, safety and welfare of us all.

Julian Kadur

5212 nw 103th Ave.

Doral FL 33178

September 11th, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

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Again, my thanks for spearheading the discussion and for your dedication to preserving the health, safety and welfare of us all.

Franco Rocca

10457 NW 56 terrace

Doral FL 33178

September 11th, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

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Again, my thanks for spearheading the discussion and for your dedication to preserving the health, safety and welfare of us all.

Daniela Rocca

10457 NW 56 terrace

Doral FL 33178

September 11th, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

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Again, my thanks for spearheading the discussion and for your dedication to preserving the health, safety and welfare of us all.

Jose Rocca

10457 NW 56 terrace

Doral FL 33178

September 11th, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

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Again, my thanks for spearheading the discussion and for your dedication to preserving the health, safety and welfare of us all.

Juan David Castaño

5204 NW 103 Ave. Doral FL 33178

September 11th, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

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Again, my thanks for spearheading the discussion and for your dedication to preserving the health, safety and welfare of us all.

Gabriel Castaño

5204 NW 103 Ave.

Doral FL 33178

Senator Tom Lee, Chairperson
Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

September 10, 2019

Re: Gun Violence in Florida

Dear Senator Lee:

Hello Senator Lee.
Thank you for your attention.
I would like to specifically address assault weapons and high capacity magazines because both of these can be eliminated without violating the second amendment + would save lives.
As a retired teacher, I can state that firearms do not belong in classrooms. They create hazards, not eliminate them.
Red flag laws are also life-saving so individuals and families can be protected, along with those perpetrating domestic violence. These people must surrender firearms.
Thank you for your attention - stopping gun violence is essential for everyone's well-being.

Sincerely,

Mary Rao 21910 Pine Bark Way Boca Raton, FL 33428
Name Address

Senator Tom Lee, Chairperson
Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

September 10, 2019

Re: Gun Violence in Florida

Dear Senator Lee:

MY NAME IS JOHN MORGAN. I HAVE LIVED IN SOUTH FLORIDA FOR 25 YEARS NOW. I HAVE A SPOUSE AND TWO TEENAGE KIDS WHO HAVE BEEN DIRECTLY IMPACTED BY GUN VIOLENCE. WE ALMOST ENROLLED MY SON AT PARKLAND AND HE WOULD HAVE BEEN IN THAT FRESHMAN BLOCK AND BOTH OF MY KIDS HAVE FRIENDS WHO ATTEND THE SCHOOL. IT IS WAY PAST TIME FOR COMMON SENSE GUN LAWS.

WE NEED YOU TO HELP PASS THE FOLLOWING:

1. BACKGROUND CHECKS ON ALL GUN SALES.
2. BAN ASSAULT STYLE WEAPONS AND HIGH CAPACITY MAGAZINES.
3. EXPAND RED FLAG LAWS TO ALLOW FAMILY MEMBERS TO APPLY FOR EXTREME RISK PROTECTION ORDERS FOR PEOPLE WHO MAY HARM THEMSELVES OR SOMEONE ELSE.

NOW IS THE TIME!

Sincerely,

JOHN MORGAN 22952 GREENVIEW TERRACE, BOCA RATON, FL 33433

Senator Tom Lee, Chairperson
Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

September 10, 2019

Re: Gun Violence in Florida

Dear Senator Lee:

Please pass the Bipartisan Background Checks, Red Flag Law and ban assault rifles in Florida. I am a member of Moms Demand Action to save the lives of children in schools and everyone else. Community Safety in churches, movies, schools and outdoor events should be the priority of all politicians.

Sincerely,

Amy Greesman 18284 102nd Way S. Boca Raton, FL 33498

Name Address City, State, Zip

Senator Tom Lee, Chairperson
Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

September 10, 2019

Re: Gun Violence in Florida

Dear Senator Lee:

My Name is Anggie Leon. I am a Mother and a grandmother. It breaks my heart That all Children and parents are so freightened with regard To The situation We are living with gun violence.

We are adults. We can make our children feel safe.

There should be a background check on all gun sales. IT'S Being responsible adults.

Assault weapons should be banned. We are not at war in our own country.

Sincerely,

Anggie Leon

Name Address City, State, Zip

Senator Tom Lee, Chairperson
Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

September 10, 2019

Re: Gun Violence in Florida

Dear Senator Lee:

Please consider requiring background checks on all gun sales so that people who have mental issues, are felons and are prone to violence cannot get a firearm. Also, expand red flag laws ~~to~~ so that families can get protection orders for people who may harm themselves and others.
This is very important to me and my community. These mass shootings have got to stop

Sincerely,

Carol S. Levy 273 Piedmont E Delray Beach, FL 33484

Name Address City, State, Zip

September 14, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee;

Thank you for your work and ongoing concern for the health and safety of all Floridians. I am a Florida resident who is very concerned about my own safety and that of my family and friends. It is my understanding that you and your Committee have been tasked with reviewing hate crimes and gun violence and introducing legislation in the next session to address your findings. Following, please find 3 areas that I ask you to consider.

First, please consider the expansion of red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders. When a person is in crisis, their loved ones, not law enforcement, are often the first to see signs that they pose a threat. An expanded Extreme Risk law would allow family members to petition a court for an extreme risk protection order to temporarily remove guns from dangerous situations and prohibit the purchase or possession of firearms while the order is in effect. The law passed last year that allows law enforcement to petition the court has helped but it is not enough. Allowing family members who are more familiar with threats and dangers to petition the court directly would make all of us safer, whether we are Florida residents or visitors to our state.

Also, please consider crafting legislation that requires those convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence to surrender firearms temporarily under the same requirements as under ERPOs. In an average month, at least 52 American women are shot and killed by an intimate partner, and many more are injured. And often, the children are either harmed or also killed, and/or suffer the trauma of witnessing these events or losing both parents simultaneously. We must do more to prevent these tragedies.

Third, please consider requiring background checks on every firearm purchase in the State of Florida – Over 90% of Americans support requiring background checks on all gun sales. An investigation found that in 2018 alone, there were nearly 1.2 million firearm ads on an online gun marketplace called Armslist.com for gun sales where no background check was legally required. And research shows that prohibited people seek guns in those unlicensed gun sales at a disproportionate rate. We must address these so called loopholes. In order for this to work properly, background checks need to be required on every gun sale.

Thank you in advance for helping to keep us safe.

Sincerely,

Signed:

Name: Jules M Romfh

Full Address: 167 Waterford Dr, Jupiter, FL. 33458

9-14-19

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure & Security Committe
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Bldg.
404 South Monroe St.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee,

Thank you for your ongoing work on the discussion and creation of legislation that will address these issues of gun violence.

Please consider that there is no legitimate reason for a non-military non-law enforcement personnel to have assault rifles. They have killed and wounded too many of our fellow citizens.

Please improve our community and ban assault weapons

Sincerely,
Kristi Mackenzie, Broward County, FL

Sept 14, 2018

Dear Senator Lee,

I understand that the Infastructure & ecurity Committee will be focusing on ways -o address gun violence & hate crimes during t's September 16th meeting with the goal f drafting legistlation to bring forward next ession.

is a Florida resident, I am most concerned x'h background checks on ALL gun sales, he expansion of Red Flag laws to allow family nembers to petition for Extreme Risk rotection Orders, and the banning of assault veapons such as AR-15's and AK-47's.

hank you so much for taking the time o read this letter.

Sincerely,

Stacey Wasson

7862 SW 62 way
Parkland, FL 33067

Senator Tom Lee, Chairperson
Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

September 10, 2019

Re: Gun Violence in Florida

Dear Senator Lee:

I am writing to you because I am concerned that people show signs of potential violence and I feel that a red flag law should be passed. It is not taking ~~guns~~ people's guns away unless they are dangerous. It is a simple yet important law that can potentially save lives.

Sincerely,

Isabelle Oatz 9892 Boca Gardens Pkwy Boca Raton FL, 33496

Senator Tom Lee, Chairperson
Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

September 10, 2019

Re: Gun Violence in Florida

Dear Senator Lee:

I am a Mom and and FAU professor from ~~Boca Raton~~ Delray Beach and I urge you to take action to address gun violence! The Florida Senate should take action this year by:

- Requiring background checks on ALL gun sales
- Banning assault weapons and high capacity magazines
- prohibiting guns on campus, in schools, daycares, and other sensitive places.

I want to live in a state where I am not constantly terrified for my life and the life of my family.

Sincerely,

Emily A. Fenichel 5554 Aspen Ridge Circle Delray Beach, FL 33484

Senator Tom Lee, Chairperson
Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

September 10, 2019

Re: Gun Violence in Florida

Dear Senator Lee:

I am a former teacher and voter from Boca Raton and I urge you to take action to curb violence and address the gun safety issue. My view is to require complete background checks on all gun sales - public and private. In addition, I urge the senate to take action and ban assault weapons and high capacity magazines. With 98% of the population in favor of gun safety reform, I urge the senate to take action and listen to your constituents to keep our citizens safe. - Pass gun safety Reform

Sincerely,

Myra Lowell 22651 Meridiana Dr. Boca Raton, FL 33433

Name Address City, State, Zip

Senator Tom Lee, Chairperson
Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

September 10, 2019

Re: Gun Violence in Florida

Dear Senator Lee:

Required Background check on ALL gun sales is #1 priority.

Sincerely,

Name Address City, State, Zip

9-10-2019

September 14, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee:

Thank you for your work and ongoing concern for the health and safety of all Floridians. I am a Florida resident, responsible gun owner, holder of a concealed carry permit, and lifelong Republican, who is very concerned about my own safety and that of my family and friends.

It is my understanding that you and your Committee have been tasked with reviewing hate crimes and gun violence and introducing legislation in the next session to address your findings.

Following, please find 3 areas that I ask you to consider.

First, please consider the expansion of red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders. When a person is in crisis, their loved ones, not law enforcement, are often the first to see signs that they pose a threat. An expanded Extreme Risk law would allow family members to petition a court for an extreme risk protection order to temporarily remove guns from dangerous situations and prohibit the purchase or possession of firearms while the order is in effect. The law passed last year that allows law enforcement to petition the court has helped but it is not enough. Allowing family members who are more familiar with threats and dangers to petition the court directly would make all of us safer, whether we are Florida residents or visitors to our state.

Also, please consider crafting legislation that requires those convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence to surrender firearms temporarily under the same requirements as under ERPOs. In an average month, at least 52 American women are shot and killed by an intimate partner, and many more are injured. And often, the children are either harmed or also killed, and/or suffer the trauma of witnessing these events or losing both parents simultaneously. We must do more to prevent these tragedies.

Third, please consider requiring background checks on every firearm purchase in the State of Florida – Over 90% of Americans support requiring background checks on all gun sales. An investigation found that in 2018 alone, there were nearly 1.2 million firearm ads on an online gun marketplace called Armslist.com for gun sales where no background check was legally required. Research shows that prohibited people seek guns in those unlicensed gun sales at a disproportionate rate. We must address these so called loopholes. In order for this to work properly, background checks need to be required on every gun sale.

Thank you in advance for helping to keep us safe.
Sincerely,

/s/ James P. Jesteadt
Name: James P. Jesteadt
Full Address: 14851 64th Way North, Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33418

Senator Tom Lee, Chairperson
Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

September 10, 2019

Re: Gun Violence in Florida

Dear Senator Lee:

My name is Jason Goldstein from Palm Beach County, FL. As a voter, it is my duty to inform you that you need to ACT NOW AND VOTE TO REQUIRE BACKGROUND CHECKS ON ALL GUN SALES. Ninety-three percent of Americans support it, including a majority of Democrats and Republicans, and your colleagues are NOT doing anything about it. It's past time that you need to stand with the majority of Americans to support gun laws. The Second Amendment states that "A well-regulated militia [illegible] that the RIGHT to keep and Bear Arms shall not be infringed!! Background checks work and should be regulated in this state and everywhere around the country.

Thank you

Sincerely,

Name	Address	City, State, Zip
Jason	10133 Boca Vista Dr.	Boca Raton, FL. 33498

Senator Tom Lee, Chairperson
Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

September 10, 2019

Re: Gun Violence in Florida

Dear Senator Lee:

I am a voter from Boca Raton.
I urge you to take immediate action
to address gun violence!!
The Florida Senate must take
action ASAP. Time to stop being
quiet, start talk and speak
out!!!

Be Strong!!!

Sincerely,

[author block]
5487 NW 20 ave
Boca Raton FL
33496

William W. Taylor
10720 NW 5th Street
Plantation, Florida 33324-1517

September 14, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee,

I understand that the Infrastructure and Security Committee will be focusing on ways to address gun violence and hate crimes during its September meeting. While the recent wave of mass shootings has served to focus our attention on this topic, the reality is that one hundred Americans lose their lives to gun violence in their own neighborhoods daily. Obviously, this is a vitally important topic, and I thank you for spearheading this discussion.

As you move forward with the discussion, particularly as it relates to hate crimes, it is my hope that you will consider revisions to the existing Stand Your Ground Law. Under the current law the burden of proof falls to the plaintiff and requires that the state disprove the defense, which is difficult if not impossible for prosecutors to overcome. Additionally, the existing law is flawed and serves to exacerbate hate crimes in that it provides latitude to initiate a confrontation, then respond with deadly force. This can be corrected by placing the burden of proof for a stand your ground defense where it belongs: on the defendant.

I am 71 years old and I have not in my lifetime seen many laws more unneeded than Stand Your Ground, and none more harmful to public and individual safety and to common sense. My late father, a proud Republican, was a street patrol officer and a detective for the Metropolitan Police of Washington, D.C. Throughout his life and career, he possessed a handgun for family and self-protection, and stood up for the rights of citizens and victims of violent crime. However, he would have been absolutely <u>appalled</u> (as I am) at the passage of the original Stand Your Ground law, and the subsequent amendments which have only made it easier for murderers to get away unpunished. Law enforcement and Florida state attorneys almost universally believe that Stand Your Ground laws are misguided, ineffective, and unnecessary in the first place. The legislature should listen to the professionals who put their lives on the line to protect us.

Again, my thanks for spearheading the discussion and for your dedication to preserving the health, safety and welfare of us all.

Sincerely,

William W. Taylor

September 14, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee,

I understand that the Infrastructure and Security Committee will be focusing on ways to address gun violence and hate crimes during its September 16th meeting with the goal of drafting legislation to bring forward next session.

As a Florida resident, I am most concerned with the ban on assault weapons and high capacity magazines. The August 2019 Dayton, Ohio shooter used a rifle equipped with a high-capacity drum magazine capable of holding 100 rounds. Though law enforcement stopped the shooting in about 30 seconds, the shooter fired dozens of shots - and killed 9 people - largely because of the magazine capacity. Over the past decade, the four deadliest mass shootings in America involved the use of high-capacity →

magazines. In fact, 58% of mass shootings from 2009 - 2017 were committed with firearms equipped with high-capacity magazines.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth J. DeCastro

Liz DeCastro (Proud Mother of a Marjory Stoneman Douglas HS Victim)
2338 NW 121st Way
Parkland, FL 33076

#MSDStrong

The Honorable Tom Lee

Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee

The Florida Senate

418 Senate Building

404 South Monroe Street

Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee;

I am a Florida resident who is very concerned about my own safety and that of my family and friends. It is my understanding that you and your Committee have been tasked with reviewing hate crimes and gun violence and introducing legislation in the next session to address your findings.

Please consider the expansion of red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders. When a person is in crisis, their loved ones, not law enforcement, are often the first to see signs that they pose a threat. An expanded Extreme Risk law would allow family members to petition a court for an extreme risk protection order to temporarily remove guns from dangerous situations and prohibit the purchase or possession of firearms while the order is in effect. The law passed last year that allows law enforcement to petition the court has helped but it is not enough. Allowing family members who are more familiar with threats and dangers to petition the court directly would make all of us safer, whether we are Florida residents or visitors to our state.

Also, please consider crafting legislation that requires those convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence to surrender firearms temporarily under the same requirements as under ERPOs. In an average month, at least 52 American women are shot and killed by an intimate partner, and many more are injured. And often, the children are either harmed or also killed, and/or suffer the trauma of witnessing these events or losing both parents simultaneously. We must do more to prevent these tragedies.

These simple expanded protections will surely save the lives of many Floridians. I ask you to consider these as we attempt to be safer in our homes and communities throughout the state.

My thanks in advance for your efforts on behalf of all Floridians.

Sincerely,

Kristi Moreau

Kristi Moreau

RVO protection orders are critical tools for law enforcement + families. Your leadership in this area is urged

September 13, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair
Florida Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee
418 Senate Building
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Senator Lee:

I am writing you as a Florida resident and a teacher. As you know, gun violence is a serious problem in our state and nation with nearly 100 Americans dying every day due to senseless acts of gun violence. In Florida alone we have experienced two of the most horrific mass shootings in history at the Pulse nightclub in Orlando and at Marjory Stoneman Douglass High School in Parkland, Florida. As a volunteer for Moms Demand Action, I have met too many wonderful people that have had their lives shattered by gun violence. This should not be our reality. We should all feel safe to live happy lives free from gun violence in our communities.

As you lead the effort to consider legislation this session to prevent gun violence, including mass shootings, I write to express my support for the following common-sense ideas I hope you will consider:

- Background Checks on all Gun Sales – States that have implemented this simple measure have reduced gun homicides and suicides by gun. It's painfully simple to understand that not having this law enables a clear workaround for those who wouldn't be able to pass a background check to purchase in person or online from an unlicensed seller.
- Expand Red Flag Laws – This law, already used frequently in Florida, to allow firearms to be temporarily removed from those who pose a risk to themselves or others could be even stronger if we allowed family members to ability to use it.
- Ban Assault Weapons and High Capacity Magazines – With assault weapons being the weapon of choice for every mass shooting, this seems like a no brainer. They do not serve any real purpose for hunting or home protection. In my view, the fact that is it used to kill as many people as possible (9 in 30 seconds in Dayton, OH) should make it illegal for a civilian to own and operate.
- Repeal Arming Teachers – Since passing this bill, the vast majority of schools, teachers, parents, and school boards have opted out the program. They know it will make them and their kids less safe. More guns don't stop guns. It only reduces the reaction time of actual law enforcement, increases the risk of escalations, and could lead to unintentional shootings (which have happened around the country). There's no evidence that arming teachers discourages shootings or decreases gun violence in any form.
- Repeal Stand Your Ground – In the years since this law was enacted, homicide rates have increased dramatically in Florida since there is less fear of repercussions. Incidents like the one in Clearwater may have been avoided if the shooter was not emboldened by this law.
- Prohibit the Printing of 3D guns – These cruder guns can avoid detection and also provide a way around background checks.
- Require those Convicted of Misdemeanor Domestic Violence to Surrender Firearms – Each month, an average of 52 women are killed by an intimate partner. They should not be armed.

I really appreciate your consideration in this matter.

Thank you,
Sonia Ledger
Moms Demand Action Osceola
Local Group Lead

4930 Corto Dr.
Orlando, FL 32837

September 12, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
418 Senate Office Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee,

I write to you today as a gun owning mom who is concerned about the future of her kids in this country. I am a lifelong Republican. I also hold a concealed carry permit. HOWEVER, my 26 year told me the other day that she will not have children in this country if we do not get this gun violence epidemic under control. My other kids are fearful when they attend any function that has large groups at it including going to the movies. This is no way for my kids to feel. A different daughter was in her first semester at FSU when a mentally disturbed student opened fire on the campus. In her senior year, a fellow class mate was murdered at her yoga class and in the middle of those experiences we ran in fear at the Ft. Lauderdale airport after the murder of passengers in Terminal 1, thinking there might be a second shooter. Then of course there is the Parkland tragedy. As we live in Broward, she knew families impacted by that horrible day. Senator Lee, she is a 23 year old, upper middle class kid who has been exposed to this much gun violence already. This just isn't the way we are supposed to live.

As the Infrastructure and Security Committee focuses on ways to address gun violence and hate crimes during its September meeting(s), my family and I are asking you to consider these priorities:

1.) **Require a background checks on every firearm purchase in the State of Florida** – Over 90% of Americans support requiring background checks on all gun sales. An investigation found that in 2018 alone, there were nearly 1.2 million firearm ads on an online gun marketplace called Armslist.com for gun sales where no background check was legally required. And research shows that prohibited people seek guns in those unlicensed gun sales at a disproportionate rate.

2.) **Require the timely reporting of criminal and mental health records to NICS** - Hundreds of thousands of prohibiting criminal and mental health records are missing from the NICS background check system, potentially enabling prohibited people to pass a background check. It is critical that this is fixed in order to make background check legislation effective.

3.) **Require gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement** - From 2007 to 2017, at least 82,000 guns were reported stolen and never found in Florida. Not knowing a gun is stolen hinders criminal investigations and law enforcement's ability to track gun-trafficking networks. Stolen gun reports also serve as a deterrent to inter-state gun-trafficking. This is a simple measure of accountability that assists law enforcement do its job.

Thank you for your consideration of this important subject.

Sincerely,

Julie Morrall, 2600 NE 21st Street, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33305

September 13, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee,

As the Infrastructure and Security Committee focuses on ways to address gun violence and hate crimes during its September meeting(s), my family and I are asking you to consider these priorities:

1.) **Require a background checks on every firearm purchase in the State of Florida** – Over 90% of Americans support requiring background checks on all gun sales. An investigation found that in 2018 alone, there were nearly 1.2 million firearm ads on an online gun marketplace called Armslist.com for gun sales where no background check was legally required. And research shows that prohibited people seek guns in those unlicensed gun sales at a disproportionate rate.

2.) **Require the timely reporting of criminal and mental health records to NICS** - Hundreds of thousands of prohibiting criminal and mental health records are missing from the NICS background check system, potentially enabling prohibited people to pass a background check. This is a critical fail that is required to be fixed in order to make background check legislation effective. Legislation to make this reporting mandatory will make us safer.

3.) **Require gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement** - From 2007 to 2017, at least 82,000 guns were reported stolen and never found in Florida. Not knowing a gun is stolen hinders criminal investigations and law enforcement's ability to track gun-trafficking networks. Stolen gun reports also serve as a deterrent to inter-state gun-trafficking. This is a simple measure of accountability that assists law enforcement do its job.

These three (3) proposals would have a positive effect in making Florida safer and would not diminish Florida residents' rights under the 2nd Amendment. It's a win-win for all of us. Please give them strong consideration.

Thank you for helping to keep us safe.

Sincerely,

Nancy Fry

529 N. Pine Island Rd.
Plantation, FL 33324

September 13, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee,

As the Infrastructure and Security Committee focuses on ways to address gun violence and hate crimes during its September meeting(s), my family and I are asking you to consider these priorities:

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These three (3) proposals would have a positive effect in making Florida safer and would not diminish Florida residents' rights under the 2nd Amendment. It's a win-win for all of us.Please give them strong consideration.

Thank you for helping to keep my family & grandchildren safe.

Sincerely,

Martin Mendelson

Martin Mendelson
7743 NW 124th Terr.
Parkland, Fl. 33076

Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Infrastructure and Security Committee:

I am writing from Miami -Dade County to thank you for your work on gun violence and to ask you to support the common sense gun reform so desperately needed in our state. Based on the experiences we have had in Miami Date County, I believe the following changes would be the most impactful in preventing gun violence:

1. Background checks on all gun sales

The vast majority of Florida voters support requiring background checks on all gun sales, including 89 percent of Republicans and 87 percent of gun owners. Although Florida passed some landmark gun laws in 2018 after Parkland, we still have not closed the unlicensed gun sale loophole which means that prohibited people can take advantage of this loophole and get armed illegally. The loophole diminishes the public safety impact of our laws. Underage buyers and people subject to Extreme Risk Orders can simply circumvent the law and purchase a firearm from an unlicensed seller and skip a background check altogether. It is like going to TSA and asking to skip the line and being allowed to do that. Crazy!

2. Ban on high capacity magazines

The August 2019 Dayton, Ohio shooter used a rifle equipped with a high-capacity drum magazine capable of holding 100 rounds. Though law enforcement stopped the shooting in about 30 seconds, the shooter was able to fire dozens of shots—and kill 9 people—largely because of the magazine capacity. Over the past decade, the four deadliest mass shootings in America involved the use of high-capacity magazines. In fact, 58 percent of mass shootings between 2009 and 2017 were committed with firearms equipped with high-capacity magazines.

3. Require firearms dealers to notify law enforcement when a customer fails a background check

Failed attempts to purchase guns can foreshadow future criminal activity. People who fail background checks are 28 percent more likely to be arrested in the five years following the denial than in the five years before it. Law enforcement wants to know and should know when prohibited individuals are attempting to purchase guns. To that end,

4. Expansion of red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders

When a person is in crisis, loved ones are often the first to see signs that they pose a threat to themselves or others. An Extreme Risk law allows them to petition a court for an extreme risk protection order to temporarily remove guns from dangerous situations and prohibit the purchase or possession of firearms while the order is in effect.

5. Require gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement

From 2007 to 2017, at least 82,000 guns were reported stolen and never found in Florida. Law enforcement has said over and over that they want to know if a stolen gun is on the street.

The bottom line is that too many Floridians are killed with guns. The loopholes in our background check laws are negatively impacting our state in terms of gun trafficking, suicide, domestic violence and homicide. I ask that you focus on the above priorities to save lives.

Thank you for your time and attention

Maria Jimenez-Marcos
1800 Sunset Harbour #1406
Miami Beach, FL 33139
786-472-1950

Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Infrastructure and Security Committee:

I am writing from Miami -Dade County to thank you for your work on gun violence and to ask you to support the common sense gun reform so desperately needed in our state. Based on the experiences we have had in Miami Date County, I believe the following changes would be the most impactful in preventing gun violence:

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The bottom line is that too many Floridians are killed with guns. The loopholes in our background check laws are negatively impacting our state in terms of gun trafficking, suicide, domestic violence and homicide. I ask that you focus on the above priorities to save lives.

Thank you for your time and attention,

Joan E McCaughan
435 Warren Ln
Key Biscayne, FL 33149
305-361-9554

September 12, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee

Chair, Florida Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee

418 Senate Building

Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Senator Lee;

I am writing to express my support for the passage of a Florida law to require criminal background checks on all gun sales. Florida does not require background checks on unlicensed gun sales, leaving a massive loophole that makes it way too easy for criminals, people prohibited from having guns because of dangerous mental illnesses and others with histories of violence to get their hands on guns through private, online or gun show sales. Fifteen states have passed laws to require background checks on all gun sales. Background check laws – by point-of-sale check and/or permit – are associated with lower rates of firearm homicide, suicide and firearm trafficking.

As a teacher in Palm Beach County, it is my job to teach my 2nd graders what to do during a Code Red. Standing in a dark, locked bathroom during these drills is just a reminder of how important the passage of a comprehensive background check law is.

Sincerely,

Susan Feldbaum

Lake Worth Beach, FL

September 11, 2019

Senator Tom Lee

Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee

Florida Senate

Tallahassee, FL

Dear Senator Lee,

I am writing as a concerned Floridan and father to express my strongest support of comprehensive background check legislation that would require a background check on every gun sale. Too many guns are ending up in hands that would otherwise NOT have passed a background check. I can go online right now and make an arrangement with an unlicensed seller and have a gun in my hands in less than a few hours. Well over 90% of Americans support a background check on every gun sale and this includes responsible gun owners.

Another issue I would like to see addressed by my state elected officials is a ban on assault weapons, the components to adapt guns to make them 'automatic' and restrictions on high capacity ammunition magazines. No Floridian need own an assault weapon.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Gary Dunmyer

Boynton Beach, FL

September, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair
Florida Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee
418 Senate Building
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Senator Lee:

As you lead the effort to consider legislation this session to prevent gun violence, including mass shootings, I write to express my support for passing a state law to require criminal background checks on all gun sales. Florida state law currently does not require background checks on unlicensed gun sales, leaving a massive loophole in place that makes it far too easy for criminals, people prohibited from having guns because of mental illness, and others with dangerous histories to get their hands on guns through private, online or gun show sales. Fifteen states have passed laws to require background checks on all gun sales. Background check laws —by point-of-sale check and/or permit— are associated with lower rates of firearm homicide, suicide and firearm trafficking. The Florida Legislature should build upon the important gun violence legislation passed following the Parkland mass shooting and pass a comprehensive background check law.

Sincerely,

Sandra Gourash

Sen. Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee,

Thank you, and the committee, for taking the time to address gun violence in Florida.

I care deeply about the issue of gun violence prevention because my younger sister Sarah Browder, was shot and killed by her abusive husband, a Marine, when she tried to leave him in 2012. He then shot and killed himself.

Her husband obtained the personal handgun that he used to kill her and himself via a private sale that does not require a background check. In states that require background checks on all gun sales, there is a 40% reduction in homicides and a 15% reduction in suicides. Background checks are easy and convenient; nearly 90% of NICS checks are determined immediately.

Former Governor Rick Scott signed a Red Flag bill that included the ability for law enforcement to petition a court to temporarily remove firearms from someone showing a risk to themselves or others. Expanding this law to include family members, who are the first to see signs of threat, would save lives.

Background checks on all gun sales and expansion of Florida's Red Flag Law to include family members would make communities safer, with fewer people, like my family, having to suffer the traumatic ripple effect of gun violence.

Please act now to save lives.

Sincerely,
Katie Browder
Gainesville, FL

September 13, 2019

Senator Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee FL 32399

Dear Senator Lee:

I wanted to thank you and the committee for taking the time to discuss gun violence prevention in advance of the upcoming legislative session. My heart is heavy with what seems like a constant stream of tragedies, many of which may have had a different outcome if proper measures were in place to protect the innocent lives affected or lost.

There are a number of actions that I believe will help decrease incidences of gun violence in our state, the first being comprehensive background checks. Over 90% of voters in this country support a universal background check on all gun purchases, making this an excellent opportunity for a bipartisan effort. In line with this, it would make sense to require firearm dealers to notify law enforcement officials when a potential buyer fails a background check. Individuals who fail a background check are over 25% more likely to be arrested in the five years after being denied than in the five years before it. This information should absolutely be available to law enforcement.

I also support enhancing our red flag laws by passing an Extreme Risk law, which would allow concerned family members to petition a court to temporarily prohibit the purchase or possession of a gun by a loved one who may be in crisis. Who better to notice when someone may be a danger to themselves or others than a member of their own family? This would allow time for the afflicted person to get the help they need, while keeping lives safe.

Finally, as a mother of two young, school-aged children, I strongly oppose allowing classroom teachers to be armed as school guardians. My family is very fortunate in that we live in a county that has rejected this, but this is not true for all Florida families. A classroom is no place for a gun and the presence of one increases the chances that a tragedy will occur. The children of our state all deserve the chance to play, learn and succeed in a safe, educational environment.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my thoughts. Florida has a great opportunity to lead the way in enacting sensible gun violence prevention laws. Our residents deserve it.

Sincerely,
Kelly Doroshenk
Ponte Vedra, FL 32081

September, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair
Florida Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee
418 Senate Building
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Senator Lee:

Thank you for leading the effort to consider legislation this session to prevent gun violence, including mass shootings. I am writing to express my **VERY STRONG** support for passing a state law to **require criminal background checks on all gun sales**. Florida state law currently does not require background checks on unlicensed gun sales, leaving a massive loophole in place that makes it far too easy for criminals, people prohibited from having guns because of mental illness, and others with dangerous histories to get their hands on guns through private, online or gun show sales. Fifteen states have passed laws to require background checks on all gun sales. Let's make Florida the sixteenth!

Background check laws —by point-of-sale check and/or permit— **are associated with lower rates of firearm homicide, suicide and firearm trafficking**. The Florida Legislature should build upon the important gun violence legislation passed following the Parkland mass shooting and pass a comprehensive background check law.

Sincerely,

Miriam Laing

Miriam Laing
6538 Columbia Ave.
Lake Worth, FL 33467

KELLY SMITH

3537 FORTINGALE DR
WESLEY CHAPEL FL 33543
813-716-8454
KELLY@KELLYFORPASCO.COM

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Florida Senate Infrastructure and
Security Committee
418 Senate Building
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Senator Lee,

As you lead the effort to consider legislation this session to prevent gun violence, including mass shootings, I write to express my support for passing legislation to enhance the existing Risk Protection Order law. At this time only law enforcement can petition the court for a Risk Protection Order. Family members, who are often the first to see signs that a loved one poses a risk, are not able to seek Risk Protection Orders through the courts directly. This creates a delay in a Risk Protection Order being issued and a barrier to the safety of the community.

In addition, I am requesting that the existing Risk Protection Order statutes be modified to require mental health treatment when recommended by the required mental health evaluation and that mental health/substance abuse treatment funding be provided in this year's budget.

Thank you for taking up this extremely important issue.

Yours Sincerely,

Kelly Smith

Kelly Smith

Pasco County Chapter Lead, Moms Demand Action

September 9, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
State Senator, District #20
The Capitol
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee:

Living and working in Pasco County for the last nineteen years, I feel the need as a constituent to voice my concern for legislation pertaining to gun violence. I have been an educator for thirty-nine years and know the importance of public education in our schools and the safety that is required. The fact that educators are now participating in drills for active shooters is unconscionable. My third grade students should be focused on knowing their multiplication facts and reading the next chapter book in a popular series, but instead they are building barricades and looking for a safe place in our pod.

My suggestions for legislation include background checks on all gun sales, even 87 percent of gun owners support this common sense policy. Responsible people will wait and plan appropriately to access their right to own a firearm.

When I was 16 years old I hunted with my father in Pennsylvania and attended a safety course before going into the woods. I can personally say there is no reason for anyone to own weapons that include a high-capacity drum magazine capable of holding 100 rounds or an assault weapon. Why would we have weapons of war in our homes and neighborhoods?

Another issue is mental health and the support of our state to fund appropriately the need for citizens to have access to care. This includes the expansion of red flag laws to allow family members to petition for extreme risk protection orders. This seems to follow the "see something say something," movement that has been encouraged by law enforcement.

I attended the legislative session last year and watched the committee meetings that debated the safe school initiatives. It broke my heart. I will be there again and I hope to observe more of what citizens want from this legislature and not what the gun lobbyists promote.

Sincerely,

Lisa Mazza
37213 Price Drive
Zephyrhills, FL 33541
813-770-9223

Senator Tom Lee

Chairman, Infrastructure and Security

The Florida Senate

418 Senate Building

404 S Monroe Street

Tallahassee, Fl 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee:

I write this letter as I await the funeral of my ten-year-old nephew, who was a bright, sunny and kind child, who was killed by his 14-year-old friend with a gun. One life lost the other will never be the same. The heartache and pain my family are going through cannot be expressed in words. Yet, what can be expressed in action is your committee addressing the issue of gun violence in Florida and our country. I ask that your committee consider background checks on all gun sales which is supported by 93 percent of American voters regardless of party affiliation.

By doing this one more person who should not have a gun will not be able to purchase one. Your committee can go one step farther and expand Red Flag laws that help keep guns out of the hands of those in crisis. Which could save someone or them from unnecessary gun violence because it gives love ones and law enforcement the ability to ask that a person in crisis guns be removed until the danger has passed.

Finally, as a public-school teacher I ask that we as a state prohibit classroom teachers from being armed by reinstating the language of §30.15. Our job is to educate the children of Florida to be the best and brightest. We are good at that job what we are not good at is taking on the role of law enforcement. precious lives of our students should be in the hands of trained professions and schoolteachers should not be armed in the classroom.

As you consider all I have asked to know that in action will on result in another person with a heavy heart writing more letters to try and spare another family from the heartache of losing a love one to gun violence. So, in closing I not only ask of you but beg of you to save the lives of Floridians by supporting background checks, expanding Red Flag laws and lastly by not arming teachers in the classroom

Thank you for your time and consideration on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Leona Jackson

Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Members of the Infrastructure and Security Committee:

I am writing to you from Miami-Dade County in the hopes of letting you know what issues I would like the Florida legislature to focus on next year in terms of gun violence prevention. My priorities are as follows:

1. Background checks on all gun sales

93 percent of American voters support requiring background checks on all gun sales, including 89 percent of Republicans and 87 percent of gun owners. Florida has not closed the unlicensed sale loophole which means that felons, domestic abusers and other prohibited people cans skip a background check and get armed simply by seeking an unlicensed seller online or even at a gun show. It is like if you went to TSA to board a plane and just asked to skip the line and you were ALLOWED! It just makes no sense. An investigation found that in 2018 alone, there were nearly 1.2 million gun ads on an online gun marketplace called Armslist.com for gun sales. No background check was legally required. Research shows that prohibited people seek guns in those unlicensed gun sales at a disproportionate rate.

2. Expansion of red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders

When a person is in crisis, loved ones are usually the first to see signs that they pose a threat.

3. Require firearms dealers to notify law enforcement when a customer fails a background check

Failed attempts to purchase guns can foreshadow future criminal activity. People who fail background checks are 28 percent more likely to be arrested in the five years following the denial than in the five years before it. Law enforcement should know and WANTS to know when prohibited individuals are attempting to purchase guns.

4. Reform the concealed carry license process to give the Department of Agriculture greater discretion to deny licenses to those individuals who present a public safety threat

The legislature practically apologizes to gun owners for requiring a license to concealed carry: "The Legislature does not delegate to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services the authority to regulate or restrict the issuing of licenses provided for in this section, beyond those provisions contained in this section. Subjective or arbitrary actions or rules which encumber the issuing process by placing burdens on the applicant beyond those sworn statements and specified documents detailed in this section or which create restrictions beyond those specified in this section are in conflict with the intent of this section and are prohibited. This section shall be liberally construed to carry out the constitutional right to bear arms for self-defense. This section is supplemental and additional to existing rights to bear arms, and nothing in this section shall impair or diminish such rights." Fla. Stat. 790.06(15).

5. Require gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement

From 2007 to 2017, at least 82,000 guns were reported stolen and never found in Florida. Requiring safe storage in vehicles would go a long way to reducing these numbers.

And MOST importantly.....

6. Ban assault weapons and high capacity magazines

These are designed to kill as many people as possible as quickly as possible and have no place in a civilian environment.

Sincerely,

Dr. G Mackenzie
2418 country club prado
Coral gables, Fl 33134
205 421 4812

Dr. Michaela Moura-Kocoglu
10680 Cobalt Ct
Parkland, FL 33076

Sen. Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

September 9, 2019

Dear Senator Lee,

As a mother of a survivor of the shooting at Stoneman Douglas High School on February 14, 2018, where we lost 17 of our students and staff members, I ask you to support legislation that addresses gun violence in our country. Below some of the legislation I feel is urgently required to make sure our children can grow up in communities that are safe from gun violence.

Background checks on all gun sales1
93 percent of American voters support requiring background checks on all gun sales, including 89 percent of Republicans and 87 percent of gun owners. An investigation found that in 2018 alone, there were nearly 1.2 million gun ads on an online gun marketplace called Armslist.com for gun sales where no background check was legally required. And research shows that prohibited people seek guns in those unlicensed gun sales at a disproportionate rate.

Ban on assault weapons and high capacity magazines2
The August 2019 Dayton, Ohio shooter used a rifle equipped with a high-capacity drum magazine capable of holding 100 rounds. Though law enforcement stopped the shooting in about 30 seconds, the shooter was able to fire dozens of shots—and kill 9 people—largely because of the magazine capacity. Over the past decade, the four deadliest mass shootings in America involved the use of high-capacity magazines. In fact, 58 percent of mass shootings between 2009 and 2017 were committed with firearms equipped with high-capacity magazines.5

Expansion of red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders3
When a person is in crisis, loved ones and law enforcement are often the first to see signs that they pose a threat. An Extreme Risk law allows them to petition a court for an extreme risk protection order to temporarily remove guns from dangerous situations and prohibit the purchase or possession of firearms while the order is in effect.

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[1] https://everytownresearch.org/background-checks-save-lives-protect-communities/
[2] https://everytown.org/learn/h-r-1186-prohibiting-high-capacity-magazines-would-reduce-the-devastation-of-gun-violence/
[3] https://everytownresearch.org/extreme-risk-laws/

Reinstate the language in §30.15 that prohibited classroom teachers from serving as school guardians4
I have three children, and my high school children tell me that it makes them feel unsafe to see armed officers walking the cafeteria during lunch time, and they cannot imagine how they would feel if they knew their teacher was armed. A March 2018 survey of almost 500 U.S. teachers found that **73 percent** oppose proposals to arm school staff. Another survey found that **63 percent** of parents of elementary, middle, and high school students oppose arming teachers.

Reform the concealed carry license process to give the Department of Agriculture greater discretion to deny licenses to those individuals who present a public safety threat5
The legislature practically apologizes to gun owners for requiring a license to concealed carry: "The Legislature does not delegate to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services the authority to regulate or restrict the issuing of licenses provided for in this section, beyond those provisions contained in this section. Subjective or arbitrary actions or rules which encumber the issuing process by placing burdens on the applicant beyond those sworn statements and specified documents detailed in this section or which create restrictions beyond those specified in this section are in conflict with the intent of this section and are prohibited. This section shall be liberally construed to carry out the constitutional right to bear arms for self-defense. This section is supplemental and additional to existing rights to bear arms, and nothing in this section shall impair or diminish such rights." Fla. Stat. 790.06(15).

Require those convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence to surrender firearms6
In an average month, at least 52 American women are shot and killed by an intimate partner, and many more are injured.

Require firearms dealers to notify law enforcement when a customer fails a background check7
Failed attempts to purchase guns can foreshadow future criminal activity. People who fail background checks are 28 percent more likely to be arrested in the five years following the denial than in the five years before it. Law enforcement should know when prohibited individuals are attempting to purchase guns.

Prohibit concealed carry licensees from carrying firearms in additional sensitive places, such as daycares, public playgrounds, and at public demonstrations8
Florida's list of "sensitive" places is fairly small, and despite the NRA talking point, data from 2009-2016 shows that only 10 percent of the 156 mass shootings during that period happened in a "gun free zone."

Require safe storage of guns in vehicles and Require gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement9
From 2007 to 2017, at least 82,000 guns were reported stolen and never found in Florida.

Require safety training prior to purchasing a firearm10

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[4] https://everytownresearch.org/arming-teachers-introduces-new-risks-into-schools/
[5] https://www.freshfromflorida.com/Consumer-Resources/Concealed-Weapon-License/Applying-for-a-Concealed-Weapon-License/Eligibility-Requirements
[6] https://everytownresearch.org/reports/guns-violence-women-americas-uniquely-lethal-domestic-violence-problem/
[7] https://www.thetrace.org/2018/03/florida-lie-and-try-loophole-background-check-denials/
[8] https://www.freshfromflorida.com/Consumer-Resources/Concealed-Weapon-License/Possession-Restrictions
[9] https://projects.tampabay.com/projects/2017/special-report/unlocked-loaded/stolen-guns/
[10] https://everytownresearch.org/secure-storage/

Gun buyers should be educated on firearm safety, including safe storage. Every year almost 350 children shoot themselves or someone else unintentionally. Most of these shootings take place inside a home where a gun was not properly secured.

Require the timely reporting of criminal and mental health records to NICS11
Hundreds of thousands of prohibiting mental health records are missing from the NICS background check system, potentially enabling prohibited people to pass a background check.

Repeal preemption12
Efforts by municipalities to regulate where guns can be carried and fired have been struck down on the basis of Florida's preemption statute.

Return the burden of proof for stand your ground defense to the defendant13
Florida's Stand Your Ground defense, which requires the state to disprove the defense before trial, is very difficult for prosecutors to overcome.

Prohibit the printing of 3D guns14
3d Printed guns provide another way for individuals prohibited by law from purchasing a gun to obtain one without a background check.

Sincerely,



Michaela Moura-Kocoglu

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[11] https://everytownresearch.org/reports/fatal-gaps-mental-health-records/
[12] https://everytownresearch.org/fact-sheet-preemption-laws/
[13] https://slate.com/news-and-politics/2019/01/florida-stand-your-ground-law-just-got-way-worse.html
[14] https://www.npr.org/2019/02/14/694641578/texas-man-with-3d-printed-gun-and-hit-list-of-lawmakers-sentenced-to-8-years

Infrastructure and Security Committee

The Florida Senate

418 Senate Building

404 South Monroe Street

Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Infrastructure and Security Committee:

I am writing to thank you for your work on gun violence and to ask you to support the common sense gun reform so desperately needed in our state. Based on the experiences we have had in our community, I believe the following changes would be the most impactful in preventing gun violence:

1. Background checks on all gun sales

The vast majority of Florida voters support requiring background checks on all gun sales, including 89 percent of Republicans and 87 percent of gun owners. Although Florida passed some landmark gun laws in 2018 after Parkland, we still have not closed the unlicensed gun sale loophole which means that prohibited people can take advantage of this loophole and get armed illegally. The loophole diminishes the public safety impact of our laws. Underage buyers and people subject to Extreme Risk Orders can simply circumvent the law and purchase a firearm from an unlicensed seller and skip a background check altogether. It is like going to TSA and asking to skip the line and being allowed to do that. Crazy!

2. Ban on high capacity magazines

The August 2019 Dayton, Ohio shooter used a rifle equipped with a high-capacity drum magazine capable of holding 100 rounds. Though law enforcement stopped the shooting in about 30 seconds, the shooter was able to fire dozens of shots—and kill 9 people—largely because of the magazine capacity. Over the past decade, the four deadliest mass shootings in America involved the use of high-capacity magazines. In fact, 58 percent of mass shootings between 2009 and 2017 were committed with firearms equipped with high-capacity magazines.

3. Require firearms dealers to notify law enforcement when a customer fails a background check

Failed attempts to purchase guns can foreshadow future criminal activity. People who fail background checks are 28 percent more likely to be arrested in the five years following the denial than in the five years before it. Law enforcement wants to know and should know when prohibited individuals are attempting to purchase guns.

4. Expansion of red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders

When a person is in crisis, loved ones are often the first to see signs that they pose a threat to themselves or others. An Extreme Risk law allows them to petition a court for an extreme risk protection order to temporarily remove guns from dangerous situations and prohibit the purchase or possession of firearms while the order is in effect.

5. Require gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement

From 2007 to 2017, at least 82,000 guns were reported stolen and never found in Florida. Law enforcement has said over and over that they want to know if a stolen gun is on the street.

The bottom line is that too many Floridians are killed with guns. The loopholes in our background check laws are negatively impacting our residents, tourist industry, hospitals and economy through gun trafficking, suicide, domestic violence, injury and death. I ask that you focus on the above priorities to save lives.

Thank you for your time and attention,

Josefina and Ricardo Moran

Address: 600 Grapetree Drive, apt 6bn, Key Biscayne, FL 33149

786-353-2755

Senator Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe St.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

September 12, 2019

Dear Senator Lee,

I am writing to share my input on steps that can be taken to decrease the volume of senseless gun violence in our state. While there are many proposals underway, I urge the committee to implement a ban on all assault weapons and high capacity magazines. There is simply no need for any law abiding citizen who wishes to protect themselves to own or have access to such a lethal weapon. Since these weapons have been tragically used in so many mass shootings in our country, this seems like a critical law to minimize the senseless acts of violence we have witnessed in our country. Stringent laws such as this that are enforced could help protect our fellow Americans, especially our youth. .

Another step that can be taken to reduce gun violence is to require a mandatory criminal background check on all gun sales, regardless of where the sale occurs.

Thank you for supporting gun violence legislation in Florida and any steps you and the other members of the Senate Committee on Infrastructure and Security can take to help us make our beloved state a safer place for all.

Respectfully,

Lucy Buckner
132 Wild Cypress Circle
Ponte Vedra Florida 32081

Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Enough is Enough!

Dear Infrastructure and Security Committee:

I am writing to thank you for your work on gun violence and to ask you to support the commonsense gun reform so **desperately** needed in our state. Based on the experiences here in Miami Dade County, I believe the following changes would be the most impactful in preventing gun violence:

1. Background checks on all gun sales

Most Florida voters support requiring background checks on all gun sales, including 89 percent of Republicans and 87 percent of gun owners. We still have not closed the unlicensed gun sale loophole which means that prohibited buyers can take advantage of this loophole and get armed illegally in person and via internet. This loophole guts the public safety impact of **all** our laws. Criminals, underage buyers and people subject to Extreme Risk Orders can simply circumvent the law and purchase a firearm from an unlicensed seller and skip a background check altogether. It is like going to TSA, skipping the line and being allowed through a side door. Crazy!

2. Ban on high capacity magazines

The August 2019 Dayton, Ohio shooter used a rifle equipped with a high-capacity drum magazine capable of holding 100 rounds. Though law enforcement stopped the shooting in about 30 seconds, the shooter was able to fire dozens of shots—and kill 9 people—largely because of the magazine capacity. Over the past decade, **the four deadliest mass shootings in America involved the use of high-capacity magazines. In fact, 58 percent of mass shootings between 2009 and 2017 were committed with firearms equipped with high-capacity magazines**. Limiting magazine capacity would make **ALL** guns less lethal.

3. Require firearms dealers to notify law enforcement when a customer fails a background check

Failed attempts to purchase guns can foreshadow future criminal activity. People who fail background checks are 28 percent more likely to be arrested in the five years following the denial than in the five years before it. Law enforcement wants to know and should know when prohibited individuals are attempting to purchase guns.

4. Expansion of red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders

When a person is in crisis, loved ones are often the first to see signs that they pose a threat to themselves or others. An Extreme Risk law allows them to petition a court for an order to temporarily remove guns from dangerous situations and prohibit the purchase or possession of firearms while the order is in effect.

5. Require gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement and make responsible storage laws stricter so stolen guns are kept off the streets.

From 2007 to 2017, at least 82,000 guns were reported stolen and never found in Florida. Law enforcement has said over and over that they want to know if a stolen gun is on the street. Here in Miami Dade we need solutions for our urban violence NOW – please raise the bar to make it more difficult for guns to be stolen and for law enforcement to be informed.

The bottom line is that too many Floridians are killed with guns. The impact of this violence is heartbreaking and impacts our residents, tourist industry, hospitals and economy through gun trafficking, suicide, domestic violence, injury and death. I ask that you focus on the above priorities to save lives and that you don't wait.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Name Jaelle Turner
Address 15921 SW 97 Ave
Phone (786) 514-3632

Vote now!

Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

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Thank you for your time and attention,

Name Rachelle Adyer
Address 15700 SW 158 CT
Miami 33187
Phone 305-255-3438

Close the loopholes!

Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Infrastructure and Security Committee:

I am writing to thank you for your work on gun violence and to ask you to support the commonsense gun reform so **desperately** needed in our state. Based on the experiences here in Miami Dade County, I believe the following changes would be the most impactful in preventing gun violence:

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Thank you for your time and attention,

Name Michele Cole
Address 10240 SW 22 1st Court, FL 33170
Phone

Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Backgrounds check & Red Flag Law LEP Reduce gun Violence

Dear Infrastructure and Security Committee:

I am writing to thank you for your work on gun violence and to ask you to support the commonsense gun reform so **desperately** needed in our state. Based on the experiences here in Miami Dade County, I believe the following changes would be the most impactful in preventing gun violence:

1. Background checks on all gun sales

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The bottom line is that too many Floridians are killed with guns. The impact of this violence is heartbreaking and impacts our residents, tourist industry, hospitals and economy through gun trafficking, suicide, domestic violence, injury and death. I ask that you focus on the above priorities to save lives and that you don't wait.

Thank you for your time and attention,

Name Mildred Ziegelasch
Address 17925 S.W. 207 Lane
Phone 786-592-1623

Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Vote Now

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Thank you for your time and attention,

Name Mary J. Strawbridge
Address 10487 S.W. 216 St
Phone Cut Bay

Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

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Thank you for your time and attention,

Name Andrew, Bethel
Address 9801 SW 165th Terr
Phone

Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Background checks save lives

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Thank you for your time and attention,

Name Mariagrace Williams
Address 11940 SW 31st St
Phone 305 235 7073

Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

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Name Heydi Robles
Address 11350 SW 216st
Phone (305)255-2899

ENG 1 1 1 0 0

Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

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Thank you for your time and attention,

Name Reely Hughes
Address 15375 SW 284st Homestead Flg Apt
Phone 786 414 3932

I'm a grandmother and yes should pass this law

Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

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Thank you for your time and attention.

Name Ana Dibbel
Address Miami FL 33157
Phone

I think that the government need focused resources to prevent violence and mass shootings and open since 2020 when either occurs whether in the african-American, Latino or white communities.

Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Infrastructure and Security Committee:

I am writing to you as a mother of three and a lifelong Republican who is concerned about gun violence. It horrifies me that young children have to participate in traumatizing active shooter drills. It is insanity that guns have more value than the lives of children. I believe the following changes would be the most impactful in preventing gun violence:

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The vast majority of Florida voters support requiring background checks on all gun sales, including 89 percent of Republicans and 87 percent of gun owners. We still have not closed the unlicensed gun sale loophole which means that prohibited people can take advantage of this loophole and get armed illegally. The loophole diminishes the public safety impact of all our laws. Criminals, underage buyers and people subject to Extreme Risk Orders can simply circumvent the law and purchase a firearm from an unlicensed seller and skip a background check altogether. It is like going to TSA and asking to skip the line and being allowed to do that. Crazy!

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The bottom line is that too many Floridians are killed with guns. The loopholes in our background check laws are negatively impacting our small children and their parents. I ask that you focus on the above priorities to save lives.

Ofelia Chiavacci
9055 Banyan Drive
Coral Gables Florida 33156

1121 ½ Harbert St
Tallahassee FL 32303-6418

September 11, 2019

Senator Tom Lee, Chair
Infrastructure and Security
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 S Monroe St
Tallahassee FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee:

I am a 49-year Tallahassee, Florida resident (address above). I am also a non-hunting, pacifistic hunt club member since 1997. Club members are responsible gun owners and have never used assault rifles to shoot wildlife. Even with coyote and wild boar, they use appropriate weapons in rational ways. Strengthening gun control laws in Florida will not overly affect their safe hunting practices.

Today, with this background, I write to ask that Florida enact specific gun control measures and repeal others in an effort to stop the insanity of mass shootings in our state, and do so as quickly as possible: 2020 would be perfect. Namely, please enact:

- Comprehensive Background Checks
- Fixing our Red Flag laws to include family members
- Ban on assault weapons and high capacity magazines
- Repeal of arming teachers and "Stand Your Ground"

Any government entity with the ability to curb gun massacres that does not enact some sane safety measures such as those listed above has blood on it's hands. That includes each individual member of said entities. Please keep your and all of our Florida legislators' hands clean by passing these gun control measures at your earliest convenience.

Thank you. I look forward to at least these reasonable gun control measures being passed in our state this legislative session.

Sincerely

Ann T Macmillan

Ann T Macmillan MS

The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Infrastructure and Security Committee:

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Thank you for your time and attention,

Name Sandra Torres
Address 7548 SW 102 St Pinecrest Fl 33156

Sen. Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

September 11, 2019

Dear Senator Lee,

Thank you for your efforts, and the efforts of all the members of the Senate Committee on Infrastructure and Security, to work to reduce gun violence in the state of Florida. It is a complicated and multi-faceted problem with no one easy answer, but I believe there are a number of steps we can take that would have an immediate and measurable impact and I urge you to support these measures as we move forward toward the 2020 legislative session.

First and foremost, we must change the laws so that criminal background checks are performed on all gun sales in the state. Right now, it is much too easy for a prohibited gun buyer to exploit our laws and arrange to obtain a gun through a private sale. This is something that polls have consistently shown is supported by 93% of American voters, including 89% of Republicans and 87% of gun owners. In Florida most people live within 10 miles of a gun shop, meaning this would not be an overly burdensome requirement and as I believe most gun owners in the state are responsible people who don't want to see their guns in the hands of prohibited buyers, this shouldn't be a controversial item.

I'd also like to see an expansion of our current ERPO law to bring it in line with most of the other state laws throughout the country. As it now stands, family members cannot petition directly for intervention and that is a problem, given that they are almost always the ones who are first alerted to a problem when someone appears to be a danger to themselves or others.

Finally, I'd like to see the committee take a comprehensive look at a range of issue surrounding safe gun storage: requiring guns to be locked when stored in vehicles, increasing the requirements and penalties associated with keeping guns out of the hands of minors, reporting stolen guns, etc. We don't want to take guns away from the responsible gun owners, but it is vitally important that we find ways to keep them out of the hands of those who should not have them.

Thank you for your consideration,

Elizabeth DuMond
6316 Mallard Trace Dr
Tallahassee, FL. 32312

September 10, 2019

Senator Aaron Bean
The Florida Senate
405 Senate Building
405 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Senator Bean,

I hope that you will take a strong stance at the Senate Infrastructure Committee meeting and be a leader of the gun violence prevention movement in our state. I look forward to seeing progress and meaningful action to reduce gun violence in our state and country.

Our federal background checks law is severely outdated, written 25 years ago, well before a massive unregulated online marketplace was established. On one website alone in 2018 (Armslist.com), there were nearly 100,000 posts for firearms where no background check was required in our state. In Duval County, there were 9,218 posts on Armslist.com. One in seven prospective Florida buyers on that one website would have failed a background check. Requiring background checks on ALL gun sales in our state needs to be a top priority this session.

I am grateful that a Red Flag law was established in the Margorie Stoneman Douglas Act. It is being used daily to protect people in our state. Loved ones and family members are more than often the first ones to see that someone poses a threat to themselves or others. I hope that the ERPO process will be extended to include family members in addition to law enforcement. The US gun suicide rate is 10 times that of other high-income countries, and access to guns increases the risk of death by suicide by three times.

In an average month, 52 women are shot and killed by an intimate partner in our country. Access to a gun in a domestic violence situation makes it five times more likely that a woman will be killed. I believe that those convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence should be required to surrender their firearms.

As a parent of two elementary school children and the daughter of a retired public school teacher, I 100% oppose teachers serving as guardians, and I adamantly oppose arming school staff members. Teachers are hired as educators and staff members are hired to foster the education experience of our youth…not to serve as armed service personnel. I hope that the guardian program will be severely reconsidered.

I look forward to hearing from you soon! One-hundred Americans are shot and killed every day, and we must take common sense steps to address gun violence in our country. Now is the time to get on the right side of history and take action to end the gun violence epidemic in our country and address it as a health crisis.

Sincerely,

Katie Hathaway
225 Myra Street
Neptune Beach, FL 32266
704.579.0249

Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Infrastructure and Security Committee:

I am writing to thank you for your work on gun violence and to ask you to support the commonsense gun reform so **desperately** needed in our state. Based on the experiences here in Miami Dade County, I believe the following changes would be the most impactful in preventing gun violence:

1. Background checks on all gun sales

Most Florida voters support requiring background checks on all gun sales, including 89 percent of Republicans and 87 percent of gun owners. We still have not closed the unlicensed gun sale loophole which means that prohibited buyers can take advantage of this loophole and get armed illegally in person and via internet. This loophole guts the public safety impact of **all** our laws. Criminals, underage buyers and people subject to Extreme Risk Orders can simply circumvent the law and purchase a firearm from an unlicensed seller and skip a background check altogether. It is like going to TSA, skipping the line and being allowed through a side door. Crazy!

2. Ban on high capacity magazines

The August 2019 Dayton, Ohio shooter used a rifle equipped with a high-capacity drum magazine capable of holding 100 rounds. Though law enforcement stopped the shooting in about 30 seconds, the shooter was able to fire dozens of shots—and kill 9 people—largely because of the magazine capacity. Over the past decade, **the four deadliest mass shootings in America involved the use of high-capacity magazines. In fact, 58 percent of mass shootings between 2009 and 2017 were committed with firearms equipped with high-capacity magazines.** Limiting magazine capacity would make ALL guns less lethal.

3. Require firearms dealers to notify law enforcement when a customer fails a background check

Failed attempts to purchase guns can foreshadow future criminal activity. People who fail background checks are 28 percent more likely to be arrested in the five years following the denial than in the five years before it. Law enforcement wants to know and should know when prohibited individuals are attempting to purchase guns.

4. Expansion of red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders

When a person is in crisis, loved ones are often the first to see signs that they pose a threat to themselves or others. An Extreme Risk law allows them to petition a court for an order to temporarily remove guns from dangerous situations and prohibit the purchase or possession of firearms while the order is in effect.

5. Require gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement and make responsible storage laws stricter so stolen guns are kept off the streets.

From 2007 to 2017, at least 82,000 guns were reported stolen and never found in Florida. Law enforcement has said over and over that they want to know if a stolen gun is on the street. Here in Miami Dade we need solutions for our urban violence NOW – please raise the bar to make it more difficult for guns to be stolen and for law enforcement to be informed.

The bottom line is that **too** many Floridians are killed with guns. The impact of this violence is heartbreaking and impacts our residents, tourist industry, hospitals and economy through gun trafficking, suicide, domestic violence, injury and death. I ask that you focus on the above priorities to save lives and that you don't wait.

Thank you for your time and attention,

Name DALIA Pallares
Address 9313 NW 48th Doral Terr
Doral, FL 33178
Phone 305-388-7206

Dear Mr. Lee and Committee,

I am a Florida citizen since my birth in my Miami to my current residence in Tallahassee. In my 67 years I have been a student of the Florida public schools, elementary through college, a public school teacher and the mother of public school students. Like most Floridians I am horrified by the growing amount of gun violence in our communities, particularly in our schools and applaud all efforts in stemming this epidemic. Thank you so much for seeking input from citizens of our state.

I urge the committee to ban assault weapons as well as high capacity magazines. These weapons of war should never be in the hands of private citizens. I also urge universal background checks on all gun sales. The gun purchased online or at a gun show is just as deadly as the gun purchased from a dealer and should be subject to the same safeguards. Additionally expanding Red Flag laws to include family members would save many women's lives and give our law informant officers a tool that would have enormous reach in protecting citizens.

My family includes many hunters and I am not gun averse, I see these suggestions as Common sense actions. Humans are problem solvers, let's solve this problem. Our lives depend on our ability to problem solve. We must do something more.

Sincerely,
Beverly Tomberlin Wells
3128 Ortega Drive Tallahassee FL
32312

3212 Del Rio Terrace
Tallahassee, FL 32312

Sept. 11, 2019

Dear Senator Lee,

As a long-time resident of Tallahassee, I'm terribly concerned about the increase in gun violence in our community, our state and nation. As a mother and grandmother, I'm especially worried about what our younger generations will face if nothing is done soon to curb the violence that's happening every single day.

I've become a more involved citizen since Moms Demand Action formed after the mass shooting at Sandy Hook. I've attended legislative committee hearings hoping and praying that our state leaders will have the courage to pass sensible gun laws for the safety of people of this state. Just a few of the issues I would urge lawmakers to support are: Comprehensive Background Checks, fixing our Red Flag laws to include family members, a ban on assault weapons and high capacity magazines, and repeal of arming teachers and "Stand Your Ground."

It's hard to imagine that we live in a time when can't feel safe anywhere we go anymore—to yoga class, to the movies, to WalMart or even to church. The status quo is totally unacceptable. Please remind your committee members that they represent US—parents, grandparents, and children. We are counting on our state leaders to do everything in their power to make Florida a safe and peaceful place to live and work.

Thank you.
Bonnie Snyder

3315 Whirlaway Trail
Tallahassee, FL 32309
September 11, 2019

Sen. Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Re: Guns

Dear Mr. Lee,

I was born in Vero Beach, FL, in 1953. I moved away for a while, but I have been back in Florida since 1983. I think this qualifies me as a Floridian.

I've seen a lot in my 66 years on this planet, and one of those things I've seen is a big change in the NRA and the way this country views/treats guns. I've also seen a lot of mass shootings… mostly in recent years. I am a retired mental health professional, so I know a little bit about mental illness.

This is what I want:

- BACKGROUND CHECKS FOR GUN SALES
- "ASSAULT" WEAPON BANS AND BAN HIGH CAPACITY MAGAZINES
- EXPANSION OF RED FLAG LAWS
- NO GUNS IN CLASSROOMS BY TEACHERS OR OTHER SCHOOL PERSONNEL
- REFORM CONCEALED CARRY
- ALL PERSONS CONVICTED OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SURRENDER FIREARMS
- FIREARMS DEALERS SHOULD NOTIFY LAW ENFORCEMENT OF BACKGROUND CHECK FAILURES
- EXPAND DEFINITION OF "SENSITIVE PLACES" WHERE CONCEALED CARRY IS PROHIBITED
- REQUIRE SAFE STORAGE OF GUNS AND REQUIRE REPORTING OF LOST/STOLEN GUNS
- REQUIRE TIMELY REPORTING OF CRIMINAL AND MENTAL HEALTH RECORDS TO NICS
- REPEAL PREEMPTION
- STAND YOUR GROUND SHOULD REQUIRE BURDEN OF PROOF
- NO 3D PRINTED GUNS

I am very concerned about mass shootings. The fetishization of guns has become a problem. I'm not saying all guns are bad but some people have a near reverence for them that borders on the sick. It is wrong to suggest that the issue has nothing to do with guns and is only about mental health or video games or some other ridiculous thing. It does have something to do with guns, pure and simple.

I feel endangered by so many guns. Not safer, but endangered. No other first world country has the same number of mass shootings. No, we don't have more mentally ill. No, we don't watch more video games. It's the guns and the type of guns and the access to guns.

Please do more to keep us safe.

Sincerely

Christine A. Reilly

Christine Reilly

TO: Sen. Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security
The Florida Senate

I am a RN who relocated to Florida from Massachusetts in the 1970's. I have voted in all elections since I turned 18. I implore you to demonstrate leadership in the area of sensible gun legislation here in Florida. I have seen first hand the personal, societal and financial burdens that result from the lax gun laws.

Two co-workers at the Memorial Healthcare System in Broward County, neither who had a gun in their home, lost children to gun violence. Result? Professional relocation to another, safer state. The Trauma Center crisis, when hospitals could not sustain this vital service, was impacted by lax legislation. Allowing motorcyclists to opt out of wearing helmets and not addressing gun violence placed an extreme burden on hospitals as many of these victims, often with poor or no insurance often used the most expensive hospital services: emergency rooms, operating rooms and intensive care units.

PLEASE CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING:

- Connecticut, which has recently tightened its gun laws, has seen a drop in both homicides & suicides.
- Missouri, which has loosened its gun laws, has seen an increase in both homicides & suicides.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

1. Require registration on all gun sales so we can keep firearms out of the hands of high risk people: those who have been convicted of domestic violence, those who have been recently Baker Acted, etc.
2. Ban the use of high capacity assault, military-type weapons to all except for military and special forces, i.e. SWAT team members.
3. Expansion Red Flag Laws to allow friends, families, employers to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders

Let's get real about the 2nd Amendment for those of us want our families and ourselves to live in a State where we can feel safe to: send our children to school, pray in our houses of worship, shop, attend community events without fear of being gunned down!

Respectfully yours,

Suzanne Luongo, RN, MS
501 NW 22nd Street
Wilton Manors, FL 33311

September, 11th 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee,

As the Infrastructure and Security Committee focuses on ways to address gun violence and hate crimes during its September meeting(s), my family and I are asking you to consider these priorities:

1.) **Require a background checks on every firearm purchase in the State of Florida** – Over 90% of Americans support requiring background checks on all gun sales. An investigation found that in 2018 alone, there were nearly 1.2 million firearm ads on an online gun marketplace called Armslist.com for gun sales where no background check was legally required. And research shows that prohibited people seek guns in those unlicensed gun sales at a disproportionate rate.

2.) **Require the timely reporting of criminal and mental health records to NICS** - Hundreds of thousands of prohibiting criminal and mental health records are missing from the NICS background check system, potentially enabling prohibited people to pass a background check. This is a critical fail that is required to be fixed in order to make background check legislation effective. Legislation to make this reporting mandatory will make us safer.

3.) **Require gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement** - From 2007 to 2017, at least 82,000 guns were reported stolen and never found in Florida. Not knowing a gun is stolen hinders criminal investigations and law enforcement's ability to track gun-trafficking networks. Stolen gun reports also serve as a deterrent to inter-state gun-trafficking. This is a simple measure of accountability that assists law enforcement do its job.

These three (3) proposals would have a positive effect in making Florida safer and would not diminish Florida residents' rights under the 2nd Amendment. It's a win-win for all of us. Please give them strong consideration.

Thank you for helping to keep us safe.

Sincerely,

Markel Valmana

10355 NW 46th Street

Doral, FL 33178

Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

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I am writing to thank you for your work on gun violence and to ask you to support the commonsense gun reform so **desperately** needed in our state. Based on the experiences here in Miami Dade County, I believe the following changes would be the most impactful in preventing gun violence:

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When a person is in crisis, loved ones are often the first to see signs that they pose a threat to themselves or others. An Extreme Risk law allows them to petition a court for an order to temporarily remove guns from dangerous situations and prohibit the purchase or possession of firearms while the order is in effect.

5. Require gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement and make responsible storage laws stricter so stolen guns are kept off the streets.

From 2007 to 2017, at least 82,000 guns were reported stolen and never found in Florida. Law enforcement has said over and over that they want to know if a stolen gun is on the street. Here in Miami Dade we need solutions for our urban violence NOW – please raise the bar to make it more difficult for guns to be stolen and for law enforcement to be informed.

The bottom line is that **too** many Floridians are killed with guns. The impact of this violence is heartbreaking and impacts our residents, tourist industry, hospitals and economy through gun trafficking, suicide, domestic violence, injury and death. I ask that you focus on the above priorities to save lives and that you don't wait.

Thank you for your time and attention,

Chris Thomas
1331 Brickell Bay Dr. #1508 Miami, FL 33131
440-258-7502

September, 11th 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

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These three (3) proposals would have a positive effect in making Florida safer and would not diminish Florida residents' rights under the 2nd Amendment. It's a win-win for all of us. Please give them strong consideration.

Thank you for helping to keep us safe.

Sincerely,

Mirta Plasencia
3240 SW 142 Ave.
Miami FL 33175

September, 11th 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

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Thank you for helping to keep us safe.

Sincerely,

Madelin Sonora

8611 SW 16 Street, Miami FL 33155

September, 11th 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

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Thank you for helping to keep us safe.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Milena Castañaza

1335 NE 129 St

North Miami FL 33161

September, 11th 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

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Thank you for helping to keep us safe.

Sincerely,

Daniel Castaño

10 SW South River Dr. unit 702

Miami 33130

September, 11th 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

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Thank you for helping to keep us safe.

Sincerely,

Emma Marc-Aureale

10 SW South River Dr. unit 702

Miami 33130

Sen. Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee,

Thank you, and the committee, for taking steps to address gun violence in Florida. As a parent of two young boys, 5 and 7 years old, I worry about the threat of gun violence in schools and the stress of undergoing active shooter drills in their classrooms. Along with mass shootings, many individuals are killed and injured with guns every day in their homes and communities.

I urge the committee to consider proposing legislation to enact following the commonsense measures to reduce gun violence:

- **Expanded background checks** to close the loophole on private gun sales
- **Expanded Red Flag laws** to temporarily remove firearms from those who show signs of posing a risk to themselves or others
- **Banning assault weapons and** high capacity magazines
- Restrictions on gun possession by **domestic abusers** as those convicted of misdemeanor **hate crimes**

The majority of Americans support reasonable, evidence-based policies such as these. I respectfully urge the committee to pass legislation that will make a real difference in terms of keeping guns out of the hands of dangerous individuals.

Please act now to save lives.

Sincerely,

Marie Kessler
Gainesville, FL

Honorable Tom Lee

Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee

The Florida Senate

418 Senate Building

404 South Monroe Street

Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee,

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Thank you for helping to keep us safe.

Sincerely,

Signed:

Amie Schneider

126 Adobe Circle

Jupiter, FL 33458

Sen. Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Senator Lee,

I'm glad you are taking the time to explore the ways in which gun violence can be addressed in Florida. I hope you and your colleagues will consider the proposals below, all of which are backed by hard evidence. These actions have saved lives all over the country and will do the same here in Florida. Among them:

1. **Require background checks on *all* gun sales (including gun shows and personal sales).** 93% of all Americans support this, including 87% of gun owners. Background checks are simple, effective and again and again they have prevented dangerous people from doing great harm.
2. **Repeal the portion of the Marjorie Stoneman Douglas act that allows teachers to be armed.** Arming teachers is overwhelmingly opposed by educators, parents and law enforcement and carries tremendous risk to students. The majority of Florida's school districts recognize this and have opted out for that reason. This is a misguided, dangerous measure that merits repealing.
3. **Ban assault weapons and high-capacity magazines.** This ban was in place once (and before that it was supported by President Reagan), and *it worked.* In the decade after the ban ended, there was a 347% increase in fatalities in gun massacres. The ban saved lives and should be back in place. A strong majority of Americans — up to 70% — favors such a ban.
4. **Expand red flag laws to allow family members to petition for extreme risk protection orders.** When a person is in crisis, loved ones and law enforcement are often the first to see a threat. An Extreme Risk Protection law allows them to petition a court to temporarily remove guns from dangerous situations and prevent the purchase of firearms while the order is in effect.

As a Florida mother of school-age children, I sincerely hope you'll enact these evidenced-based proposals to keep our communities safe and to prevent gun violence. Please ACT to help save the lives of those you are elected to represent. We cannot afford any more lives lost, and we know these measures work.

Thank you,
Tania Bigosinski
Fern Park, FL 32730

Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Members of the Infrastructure and Security Committee:

I am writing to you from Miami-Dade County in the hopes of letting you know what issues I would like the Florida legislature to focus on next year in terms of gun violence prevention. My priorities are as follows:

1. Background checks on all gun sales

93 percent of American voters support requiring background checks on all gun sales, including 89 percent of Republicans and 87 percent of gun owners. Florida has not closed the unlicensed sale loophole which means that felons, domestic abusers and other prohibited people cans skip a background check and get armed simply by seeking an unlicensed seller online or even at a gun show. It is like if you went to TSA to board a plane and just asked to skip the line and you were ALLOWED! It just makes no sense. An investigation found that in 2018 alone, there were nearly 1.2 million gun ads on an online gun marketplace called Armslist.com for gun sales. No background check was legally required. Research shows that prohibited people seek guns in those unlicensed gun sales at a disproportionate rate.

2. Expansion of red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders

When a person is in crisis, loved ones are usually the first to see signs that they pose a threat.

3. Require firearms dealers to notify law enforcement when a customer fails a background check

Failed attempts to purchase guns can foreshadow future criminal activity. People who fail background checks are 28 percent more likely to be arrested in the five years following the denial than in the five years before it. Law enforcement should know and WANTS to know when prohibited individuals are attempting to purchase guns.

4. Reform the concealed carry license process to give the Department of Agriculture greater discretion to deny licenses to those individuals who present a public safety threat

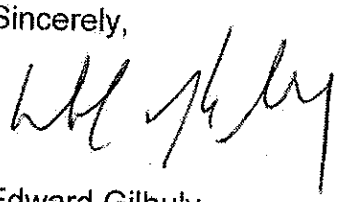
The legislature practically apologizes to gun owners for requiring a license to concealed carry: "The Legislature does not delegate to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services the authority to regulate or restrict the issuing of licenses provided for in this section, beyond those provisions contained in this section. Subjective or arbitrary actions or rules which encumber the issuing process by placing burdens on the applicant beyond those sworn statements and specified documents detailed in this section or which create restrictions beyond those specified in this section are in conflict with the intent of this section and are prohibited. This section shall be liberally construed to carry out the constitutional right to bear arms for self-defense. This section is supplemental and additional to existing rights to bear arms, and nothing in this section shall impair or diminish such rights." Fla. Stat. 790.06(15).

5. Require gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement

From 2007 to 2017, at least 82,000 guns were reported stolen and never found in Florida. Requiring safe storage in vehicles would go a long way to reducing these numbers.

On behalf of my family, I urge you as a leader and steward of Florida, to take action on this issue of gun reform. We cannot risk another young life because of our inaction. thank you for taking the time to read this letter.

Sincerely,



Edward Gilhuly
10021 SW 83 Court, Miami, FL 33156
305-807-6906

Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Members of the Infrastructure and Security Committee:

I am writing to you from Miami-Dade County in the hopes of letting you know what issues I would like the Florida legislature to focus on next year in terms of gun violence prevention. My priorities are as follows:

1. Background checks on all gun sales

93 percent of American voters support requiring background checks on all gun sales, including 89 percent of Republicans and 87 percent of gun owners. Florida has not closed the unlicensed sale loophole which means that felons, domestic abusers and other prohibited people cans skip a background check and get armed simply by seeking an unlicensed seller online or even at a gun show. It is like if you went to TSA to board a plane and just asked to skip the line and you were ALLOWED! It just makes no sense. An investigation found that in 2018 alone, there were nearly 1.2 million gun ads on an online gun marketplace called Armslist.com for gun sales. No background check was legally required. Research shows that prohibited people seek guns in those unlicensed gun sales at a disproportionate rate.

2. Expansion of red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders

When a person is in crisis, loved ones are usually the first to see signs that they pose a threat.

3. Require firearms dealers to notify law enforcement when a customer fails a background check

Failed attempts to purchase guns can foreshadow future criminal activity. People who fail background checks are 28 percent more likely to be arrested in the five years following the denial than in the five years before it. Law enforcement should know and WANTS to know when prohibited individuals are attempting to purchase guns.

4. Reform the concealed carry license process to give the Department of Agriculture greater discretion to deny licenses to those individuals who present a public safety threat

The legislature practically apologizes to gun owners for requiring a license to concealed carry: "The Legislature does not delegate to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services the authority to regulate or restrict the issuing of licenses provided for in this section, beyond those provisions contained in this section. Subjective or arbitrary actions or rules which encumber the issuing process by placing burdens on the applicant beyond those sworn statements and specified documents detailed in this section or which create restrictions beyond those specified in this section are in conflict with the intent of this section and are prohibited. This section shall be liberally construed to carry out the constitutional right to bear arms for self-defense. This section is supplemental and additional to existing rights to bear arms, and nothing in this section shall impair or diminish such rights." Fla. Stat. 790.06(15).

5. Require gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement

From 2007 to 2017, at least 82,000 guns were reported stolen and never found in Florida. Requiring safe storage in vehicles would go a long way to reducing these numbers.

On behalf of my family, I urge you as a leader and steward of Florida, to take action on this issue of gun reform. We cannot risk another young life because of our inaction. thank you for taking the time to read this letter.

Sincerely,

Maricel Cigales
10021 SW 83 Court, Miami, FL 33156
305-401-2955

Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Infrastructure and Security Committee:

I am writing to thank you for your work on gun violence and to ask you to support the commonsense gun reform so **desperately** needed in our state. Based on the experiences here in Miami Dade County, I believe the following changes would be the most impactful in preventing gun violence:

1. Background checks on all gun sales

Most Florida voters support requiring background checks on all gun sales, including 89 percent of Republicans and 87 percent of gun owners. We still have not closed the unlicensed gun sale loophole which means that prohibited buyers can take advantage of this loophole and get armed illegally in person and via internet. This loophole guts the public safety impact of **all** our laws. Criminals, underage buyers and people subject to Extreme Risk Orders can simply circumvent the law and purchase a firearm from an unlicensed seller and skip a background check altogether. It is like going to TSA, skipping the line and being allowed through a side door. Crazy!

2. Ban on high capacity magazines

The August 2019 Dayton, Ohio shooter used a rifle equipped with a high-capacity drum magazine capable of holding 100 rounds. Though law enforcement stopped the shooting in about 30 seconds, the shooter was able to fire dozens of shots—and kill 9 people—largely because of the magazine capacity. Over the past decade, **the four deadliest mass shootings in America involved the use of high-capacity magazines. In fact, 58 percent of mass shootings between 2009 and 2017 were committed with firearms equipped with high-capacity magazines.** Limiting magazine capacity would make **ALL** guns less lethal.

3. Require firearms dealers to notify law enforcement when a customer fails a background check

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4. Expansion of red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders

When a person is in crisis, loved ones are often the first to see signs that they pose a threat to themselves or others. An Extreme Risk law allows them to petition a court for an order to temporarily remove guns from dangerous situations and prohibit the purchase or possession of firearms while the order is in effect.

5. Require gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement and make responsible storage laws stricter so stolen guns are kept off the streets.

From 2007 to 2017, at least 82,000 guns were reported stolen and never found in Florida. Law enforcement has said over and over that they want to know if a stolen gun is on the street. Here in Miami Dade we need solutions for our urban violence NOW – please raise the bar to make it more difficult for guns to be stolen and for law enforcement to be informed.

The bottom line is that too many Floridians are killed with guns. The impact of this violence is heartbreaking and impacts our residents, tourist industry, hospitals and economy through gun trafficking, suicide, domestic violence, injury and death. I ask that you focus on the above priorities to save lives and that you don't wait.

Thank you for your time and attention,

Name Roseline Fernandez
Address 3200 Port Royale DR N 1710, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33308
Phone (954) 805-8912

Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

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Thank you for your time and attention,

Enrique Prieto
18091 NE 9th CT North Miami Beach Florida
786 201 5687

Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee:

I heard that Senator Galvano instructed you as Chair of The Infrastructure Committee to address hate crime and gun violence. I couldn't be more grateful about that. Gun violence is a dramatic epidemic in our country, especially in counties with urban neighborhoods like Miami Dade, where we endure shooting almost every single day.

I am writing to you from Miami-Dade County in the hopes of letting you know what issues I would like the Florida legislature to focus on next year in terms of gun violence prevention. My priorities are as follows:

1. Background checks on all gun sales

Most Florida voters support requiring background checks on all gun sales, including 89 percent of Republicans and 87 percent of gun owners. We still have not closed the unlicensed gun sale loophole which means that prohibited buyers can take advantage of this loophole and get armed illegally in person and via internet. This loophole guts the public safety impact of **all** our laws. Criminals, underage buyers and people subject to Extreme Risk Orders can simply circumvent the law and purchase a firearm from an unlicensed seller and skip a background check altogether. It is like going to TSA, skipping the line and being allowed through a side door. Crazy!

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From 2007 to 2017, at least 82,000 guns were reported stolen and never found in Florida. Law enforcement has said over and over that they want to know if a stolen gun is on the street. Here in Miami Dade we need solutions for our urban violence NOW – please raise the bar to make it more difficult for guns to be stolen and for law enforcement to be informed.

Thank you for your time and dedication to our state. I am grateful that you are working hard on saving Floridians lives.

Sincerely,

Suyapa Moncada

Name: Suyapa Moncada

Address: 9776 NW 127 Street, Hialeah Gardens, FL 33018

Senator Tom Lee, Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
Senator Annette Taddeo, Member, Infrastructure and Security Committee
Other members of Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Sirs,
Let me tell you a little bit about my son, Jerry. He was not a great speller, a sharp dresser, a genius in school or a great athlete. But if there is one thing my son was good at, if there is one thing he excelled at – was in loving. To his friends, his family, his siblings and grandmother, his dad and to me – Jerry showered love on us. He'd text me during the day to see how my day was going and he'd call at night to wish us a good night. The call would always end with "sleep well, love you and call you tomorrow".

But on June 12, 2016, Jerry never answered my morning text. He couldn't. By that time, his body was cold, riddled with bullets and still lying in his blood on the floor of a nightclub along with 48 other innocent people. Jerry is not calling me tomorrow – or the next day or ever. ***In my life, I will never hear my son's voice again.***

In the wee hours of that Sunday, just as the club was beginning to close, a man full of hate in his heart and armed to the teeth – sneaked in with the outgoing crowd and opened fire. By the time it was over, ***even though the shooter's assault rifle jammed*** - there were 49 dead, 53 were injured and 182 were forever traumatized. My family relives our nightmare every time there is a mass shooting –and there were three major ones this past month of August!!!!

Here in Florida we have the dubious distinction of having **the second worse mass shooting**, Pulse, and **the second worse school shooting** – Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School -where seventeen students were mowed down while attending school. But mass shootings are only a tiny fraction of our American epidemic of gun deaths. On average, over one hundred Americans die daily due to gun violence. And for every death there are two people injured -often with catastrophic health issues for the rest of their lives. We have 25 times the average gun murder rate of other industrialized nations, but suicide accounts for over 60% of our gun deaths. And here in Florida, a child is shot every 17 hours and black men who are only 9% of the state population make up 53% of murder victims. We have a serious gun violence problem.

Senators, I am begging you to please take some actions now to stem this epidemic. One of the most effective steps is **background checks for ALL gun sales** because it has been found to make a difference. In states where background checks are required for **ALL gun sales** there has been substantial reduction in gun homicide, gun suicide, women shot by intimate partners, police shootings and gun trafficking. **Background checks work and they do save lives**. But here in Florida it is **not required** for private sales leaving a gaping loophole through which criminals, domestic abusers and other dangerous people can easily get guns. The internet has made this loophole even more concerning.

Limit high capacity magazines-The August 2019 Dayton, Ohio shooter used a rifle equipped with a high-capacity drum magazine capable of holding 100 rounds. Though law enforcement stopped the shooting in about 30 seconds, the shooter was able to fire dozens of shots—and kill 9 people—largely because of the magazine capacity. Over the past decade, ***the four deadliest mass shootings in America involved the use of high-capacity magazines. INLCUDING THE ONE THAT KILLED JERRY!*** In fact, 58 percent of mass shootings between 2009 and 2017 were committed with firearms equipped with high-capacity magazines. Limiting magazine capacity would make **ALL** guns less lethal.

There are many other steps – something as simple as making sure guns are securely locked up can have a huge impact. This keeps guns away from children who could unintentionally shoot themselves or someone else, makes stealing a gun much harder which in turn reduces illegal guns on our streets and can keep an adolescent from making a tragic and final decision because they are having a bad day. **Strengthening responsible storage laws, both for individuals and businesses would save lives.**

Require gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement would also make a difference - From 2007 to 2017, at least 82,000 guns were reported stolen and never found in Florida. Not knowing a gun is stolen hinders criminal investigations and law enforcement's ability to track gun-trafficking networks. Stolen gun reports also serve as a deterrent to inter-state gun-trafficking. **This is a simple measure of accountability that assists law enforcement do its job.**

Extreme Risk Protection Orders, which allows police to temporarily remove guns from someone showing danger signs, has already saved hundreds of lives since it was passed in Florida after Parkland. **Why not include family – who often are the very first to see the warning signs – to be able to solicit the orders too?** Due process is maintained as a judge makes the ultimate decision whether to extend it.

Please Senators, gun violence is an **EPIDEMIC**! Lives are destroyed and families shattered. Every moment you wait, people are dying. **People tell me they can't imagine my pain, I wish for just a moment that you could. If you did, you would do all you could to make this horror stop.**

Trusting you will do the right thing,
Yours Truly,
Maria Jose Wright
6300 Chapman Field Drive
Miami, FL 33156
305-794-6663
Mwright1960@me.com

September 14, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee,

I understand that the Infrastructure and Security Committee will be focusing on ways to address gun violence and hate crimes during the September 16th meeting. As a Florida resident, I am concerned about the effects of assault weapons on our communities.

I live 10 minutes southeast of Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. 50% of the student population is from Coral Springs. I do not want to happen to any high school in Florida.

September 14, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee;

Thank you for your work and ongoing concern for the health and safety of all Floridians. As you and the Committee discuss legislation that will address hate crimes and gun violence, please consider the following.

Since retirement of the federal ban on assault weapons in 1994, we have seen a drastic increase in the number of deaths associated with mass shootings. While we cannot presume that the rise in incidents can be attributed to assault weapons, we know that more deaths occur per incident when assault weapons are involved. While a ban on assault weapons may not impact the frequency of mass shootings, it would certainly help to decrease the number of deaths.

As a parent and a responsible gun owner, I implore you to please improve the safety standards associated with the training that is required prior to the purchase of a firearm. From 2014 through today, across America, at least 1,296 children have been killed or injured by guns. Many of these incidents result from accidents associated with the failure of the owner to safely store a weapon.

I also urge you to require background checks on all gun sales – a measure that over 90% of Americans support.

Finally, please strongly consider crafting legislation that requires those convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence to surrender firearms temporarily. In an average month, at least 52 American women are shot and killed by an intimate partner, and many more are injured. Often, children are either harmed or also killed, and/or suffer the trauma of witnessing these events or losing both parents simultaneously. We must do more to prevent these tragedies.

As always, my thanks for your consideration dedication to safeguarding all Floridians.

Sincerely,

/s/ Amanda R. Jesteadt

Name: Amanda R. Jesteadt
Address: 14851 64th Way North, Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33418

09/14/2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee,

As the Infrastructure and Security Committee focuses on ways to address gun violence and hate crimes during its September meetings, my family and I are asking you to consider these priorities:

1. Require a background checks on every firearm purchase in the State of Florida;
2. Require the timely reporting of criminal and mental health records to NICS;
3. Require gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement.

These three basic, common sense proposals would have a positive effect in making Florida safer and would not diminish lawful Florida gun owner's rights under the Second Amendment. It's a win-win for all of us. Please give them strong consideration.

Thank you for helping to keep us safe.

Sincerely,

Brian Bartels
4360 Hickory Drive
Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33418

Sen. Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee,
As a staff member at Virginia Tech in 2007, I have experienced directly the impact of gun violence on individuals and communities, As you discuss and consider legislation to prevent gun violence, I implore you to do everything possible to ensure the safety of Floridians from the unchecked gun violence that is a regular occurrence across our country. You have the opportunity to protect us. Please take it.

Start with background checks on all gun sales. 93 percent of American voters support requiring background checks on all gun sales, including 89 percent of Republicans and 87 percent of gun owners. An investigation found that in 2018 alone, there were nearly 1.2 million gun ads on an online gun marketplace called Armslist.com for gun sales where no background check was legally required. And research shows that prohibited people seek guns in those unlicensed gun sales at a disproportionate rate. You can add one simple layer so that people cannot legally purchase guns without any screening process. (https://everytownresearch.org/background-checks-save-lives-protect-communities/)

Then, ban assault weapons and high capacity magazines. Magazine capacity and assault weapon capacity allows shooters to fire 100s of rounds before law enforcement can even respond. Over the past decade, the four deadliest mass shootings in America involved the use of high-capacity magazines. In fact, 58 percent of mass shootings between 2009 and 2017 were committed with firearms equipped with high-capacity magazines.[5] No private citizen needs an assault weapon or high capacity magazines in their possession. These are weapons of war and have no place in our homes and communities. (https://everytown.org/learn/h-r-1186-prohibiting-high-capacity-magazines-would-reduce-the-devastation-of-gun- violence/)

And ensure the safe use and storage of weapons by focusing on ensuring that individuals have safety training prior to purchasing a firearm and focus on safe storage. From 2007 to 2017, at least 82,000 guns were reported stolen and never found in Florida. These 'lost' guns make us less safe. Additionally, every year, almost 350 children shoot themselves or someone else unintentionally. Most of these can be attributed to the weapon not being properly secured.
(https://projects.tampabay.com/projects/2017/special-report/unlocked-loaded/stolen-guns/, https://everytownresearch.org/secure-storage/)

These actions are common sense. Please begin here. My children regularly ask why adults, especially politicians, aren't doing anything to protect them and their friends from being shot at school, at theatres, at stores, all around their community. Be someone who prevents events like the killing of 32 people at Virginia Tech. Help create a world where I don't have to explain to my children why so many adults fail to protect them.
Sincerely,

Rachel Christensen
Tallahassee, FL 32308

September 14, 2019

Senator Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee:

I am writing as a Florida resident with serious concerns for the safety of my loved ones in this state. The gun violence epidemic has gotten steadily worse, year after year, with nearly 100 Americans dying every single day due to homicides, unintentional shootings and suicide by gun. As an American and a mother, I am terrified of the direction this country is going in, but I know change is possible.

Thank you and the committee for taking the time to address gun violence in the state of Florida. I look forward to seeing progress and meaningful action taken after the Senate Infrastructure Committee meeting on September 16th.

There are many common sense solutions to address gun violence in our state. I ask you to consider taking action on the following:

1. **Background Checks on ALL gun sales.**

   Our current background checks system has many loopholes that allow people, who would not have otherwise been able to purchase a firearm to do so. These loopholes lead directly to guns ending up in the wrong hands – i.e. criminals, domestic abusers or those with mental illness. As you know, background checks are currently required for the purchase of firearms from licensed gun sellers, but anyone can purchase a firearm online or at a gun show where no background check is required. In a single year, there were nearly 100,000 online gun sale ads on Armlist.com in Florida that would not require a background check. One in seven prospective Florida buyers on that one website would have failed a background check. The overwhelming majority of Americans, including responsible gun owners, support the expansion of background check requirements.

2. **A ban on assault weapons and high capacity magazines.**

These are weapons of war. For no reason would any American require a weapon of this magnitude for hunting or personal protection. States with restrictions on magazine size experience mass shootings at less than half the rate of states without restrictions.

3. **Expansion of our existing Red Flag law to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders.**

   When a person is in crisis and poses a threat to themselves or others, it is often their loved ones or law enforcement who first see the signs of such a threat. I am thankful that our state has a Red Flag law in which law enforcement can petition to temporarily remove firearms from those who show signs of harm to themselves or others. I would like to see the appeal process for Extreme Risk Protection Orders be extended to family members in addition to law enforcement.

4. **Require those convicted of misdemeanor violence to surrender firearms.**

   In an average month, at least 52 American women are shot and killed by an intimate partner, and many more are injured. Access to a gun in a domestic violence situation makes it five times more likely that a woman will be killed. I believe that those convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence should be required to surrender their firearms.

5. **Repeal arming teachers from the Marjorie Stoneman Douglas School Safety Act.**

   Teachers are resoundingly against having guns in the classroom. We need to allow our teachers to do the honorable job they were trained for. Arming teachers and staff is strongly opposed by school safety experts like law enforcement. As of now, only seven out of the 67 districts in our state have considered adopting this portion of the guardian program. I believe that, administrators, students nor parents want guns in schools and absolutely do not want teachers serving as armed personnel.

I appreciate your consideration and look forward to new policy implemented in an effort to reduce gun violence in Florida.

Sincerely,

Rachel Steele

1709 Philips Manor Road

Fernandina Beach, FL 32034

September 14, 2019

Senator Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security
The Florida State Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee,

I understand your committee is meeting on the 16th to talk about gun violence legislation. I am a registered Florida voter and I am a gun sense voter. I think some steps in the right direction were taken after the Parkland tragedy but there is more that needs to be done to combat this epidemic of gun violence in our state and in our country.

I would encourage your committee to consider the epidemic of gun violence a public health crisis caused by the glamorization of weaponry by the NRA as well as fear mongering on behalf of the gun manufacturers. Sandy Hook parents have sued Remington in relation to that horrible event. The State of Connecticut has determined that the state has the right to sue even if federal suits are prohibited by an act of Congress. Why shouldn't the gun industry pay for the damage they have let loose in our state? The tobacco industry, the opioid industry, the gun industry: there's a lot in common.

For now, I'll settle for action that would require a background check for every gun sales, expanded authority that enables the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to regulate the issuing of gun licenses, and that would require safety training in a manner similar to drivers ed. At least.

I sincerely hope your time in committee and in session will be of benefit to the vast majority of people who want action taken to end gun violence in Florida and in the USA.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Muniz
34 Glades Blvd, #3
Naples, Florida 34112

Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee:

I heard that Senator Galvano instructed you as Chair of The Infrastructure Committee to address hate crime and gun violence. I couldn't be more grateful about that. Gun violence is a dramatic epidemic in our country, especially in counties with urban neighborhoods like Miami Dade, where we endure shooting almost every single day.

I am writing to you from Miami-Dade County in the hopes of letting you know what issues I would like the Florida legislature to focus on next year in terms of gun violence prevention. My priorities are as follows:

1. Background checks on all gun sales

Most Florida voters support requiring background checks on all gun sales, including 89 percent of Republicans and 87 percent of gun owners. We still have not closed the unlicensed gun sale loophole which means that prohibited buyers can take advantage of this loophole and get armed illegally in person and via internet. This loophole guts the public safety impact of **all** our laws. Criminals, underage buyers and people subject to Extreme Risk Orders can simply circumvent the law and purchase a firearm from an unlicensed seller and skip a background check altogether. It is like going to TSA, skipping the line and being allowed through a side door. Crazy!

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Failed attempts to purchase guns can foreshadow future criminal activity. People who fail background checks are 28 percent more likely to be arrested in the five years following the denial than in the five years before it. Law enforcement wants to know and should know when prohibited individuals are attempting to purchase guns.

4. Expansion of red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders

When a person is in crisis, loved ones are often the first to see signs that they pose a threat to themselves or others. An Extreme Risk law allows them to petition a court for an order to temporarily remove guns from dangerous situations and prohibit the purchase or possession of firearms while the order is in effect.

5. Require gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement and make responsible storage laws stricter so stolen guns are kept off the streets.

From 2007 to 2017, at least 82,000 guns were reported stolen and never found in Florida. Law enforcement has said over and over that they want to know if a stolen gun is on the street. Here in Miami Dade we need solutions for our urban violence NOW – please raise the bar to make it more difficult for guns to be stolen and for law enforcement to be informed.

Thank you for your time and dedication to our state. I am grateful that you are working hard on saving Floridians lives.

Sincerely,

Name: Estelle Pugh

Address: 5815 Marius Street 2630, Coral Gables FL 33146

September 14, 2019

The Hon. Tom Lee, Chair
Infrastructure & Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 S. Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee:

As the Infrastructure & Security Committee focuses on ways to address gun violence & its crimes during its September meeting(s), my family & I are asking you to consider these priorities:

1) Require background checks on every firearm purchase in the State of Florida. Background Checks (universal) reduce homicide & suicides.

2) Require gun owners to report stolen guns; Require gun dealers to lock up guns;

3) Strict safe storage laws that save lives.

Thank you,

Barbara Venkataraman
2416 Middle River Dr.
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33305

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee;

Thank you for your work and ongoing concern for the health and safety of all Floridians. As you and the Committee move forward with discussion and creation of legislation that will address hate crimes and gun violence, please consider the following.

Since retirement of the federal ban on assault weapons in 1994, we have seen a drastic increase in the number of deaths associated with mass shootings. While we cannot presume that the rise in incidents can be attributed to assault weapons, we can say with all certainty that more deaths occur per incident when assault weapons are involved. Most recently, the Dayton Ohio shooter used a high-capacity drum magazine holding 100 rounds. Although law enforcement quickly intervened to stop the shooting, within 30 seconds 9 people had been shot and killed, largely due to the magazine capacity. Thus, while a ban on assault weapons may not impact the frequency of mass shootings, it would certainly help to decrease the number of deaths.

In the area of gun safety, please improve the safety standards associated with the training that is required prior to the purchase of a firearm. From 2014 through today, across America, 1,296 children have been killed or injured by guns. Many of these incidents result from accidents associated with the failure of the owner to safely store a weapon. While today's reality may require that we as parents ask whether there is a gun in the house each time we organize a play date, it's imperative that we be assured that those guns are safely stored.

As always, my thanks for your consideration dedication to safeguarding all Floridians.

Sincerely,

Mary C. Lyon
5461 NE 22nd Ave
Ft Lauderdale, FL 33308

Sept 14, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Bldg
404 S. Monroe St
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee;

I believe it to be of paramount importance that the Florida Senate address hate crimes and gun violence. Please advance mandatory background checks, a ban on assault weapons and high capacity magazines and an expansion of Red flag laws to allow family members to petition for extreme risk protection orders.

Sincerely,

Kathleen S. Margolies
1371 NW 113 Terr
Coral Springs FL
33071

Kathleen S. Margolies

September 14, 2019

The Honarable Tom Lee
Chair Infrastructors and security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
464 S. Monroe street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee,

I understand that the Infrastructure and security Comm. Hee will be focusing on ways to address gun violence. Expansion of Red flag laws allow family Members to petition for extreme risk protection orders.

Something needs to be done Now!

Thank you.

Kelly WEERASURIYA
621 SW 17th St. Fort Lauderdale, FL 33315

(Date)

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee,

As the Infrastructure and Security Committee focuses on ways to address gun violence and hate crimes during its September meeting(s), my family and I are asking you to consider these priorities:

1.) **Require a background checks on every firearm purchase in the State of Florida** – Over 90% of Americans support requiring background checks on all gun sales. An investigation found that in 2018 alone, there were nearly 1.2 million firearm ads on an online gun marketplace called Armslist.com for gun sales where no background check was legally required. And research shows that prohibited people seek guns in those unlicensed gun sales at a disproportionate rate.

2.) **Require the timely reporting of criminal and mental health records to NICS** - Hundreds of thousands of prohibiting criminal and mental health records are missing from the NICS background check system, potentially enabling prohibited people to pass a background check. This is a critical fail that is required to be fixed in order to make background check legislation effective. Legislation to make this reporting mandatory will make us safer.

3.) **Require gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement** - From 2007 to 2017, at least 82,000 guns were reported stolen and never found in Florida. Not knowing a gun is stolen hinders criminal investigations and law enforcement's ability to track gun-trafficking networks. Stolen gun reports also serve as a deterrent to inter-state gun-trafficking. This is a simple measure of accountability that assists law enforcement do its job.

These three (3) proposals would have a positive effect in making Florida safer and would not diminish Florida residents' rights under the 2nd Amendment. It's a win-win for all of us. Please give them strong consideration.

Thank you for helping to keep us safe.

Sincerely,

Signed:

Name: (typed or printed) Kristi Morris

Full Address: 9601 NW 14th St
Plantation FL 33322

I would like the committee to look into background checks on all gun sales, ban the sales of assault weapons and high capacity magazines and expanding red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders. I hope you and the committee will do the right thing for the future of our children in our state.

Thank you,

Ian Dwane
8727 NW 7th Street
Coral Springs, FL 33071

Sept 17, 2018

Dear Senator Lee,

I understand that the Infastructure and Security Committee will be working on ways to address gun violence and hate crimes during the Sept. 18th meeting with the goal of drafting legislation to bring forward next session.

As an educator in the public schools, and a FL resident I am most concerned with expanding Red Flag Laws to Allow Family Members to Petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders. I am also asking for UNIVERSAL BACKGROUND checks! 93% of American support this, and you should too.

Please revisit the language of the Guardian Program. SB 7030 from last year. Teachers do not want to be armed. This puts our students at greater risk for danger. When I'm hiding in the bathroom with my 20 2nd graders, I will not be leaving them to address the "bad guy." While we are at it, the number of Code Red Drills mandated by the State are traumatizing our children. We need to reduce the rate/number per year, as this is not productive for young minds.

Thank you,

Tracy Merlin
9874 NW 2st
Plantation FL 33324

(Date) Sept. 4, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee;

Thank you for your work and ongoing concern for the health and safety of all Floridians. As you and the Committee move forward with discussion and creation of legislation that will address hate crimes and gun violence, please consider the following.

Since retirement of the federal ban on assault weapons in 1994, we have seen a drastic increase in the number of deaths associated with mass shootings. While we cannot presume that the rise in incidents can be attributed to assault weapons, we can say with all certainty that more deaths occur per incident when assault weapons are involved. Most recently, the Dayton Ohio shooter used a high-capacity drum magazine holding 100 rounds. Although law enforcement quickly intervened to stop the shooting, within 30 seconds 9 people had been shot and killed, largely due to the magazine capacity. Thus, while a ban on assault weapons may not impact the frequency of mass shootings, it would certainly help to decrease the number of deaths.

In the area of gun safety, please improve the safety standards associated with the training that is required prior to the purchase of a firearm. From 2014 through today, across America, 1,296 children have been killed or injured by guns. Many of these incidents result from accidents associated with the failure of the owner to safely store a weapon. While today's reality may require that we as parents ask whether there is a gun in the house each time we organize a play date, it's imperative that we be assured that those guns are safely stored.

As always, my thanks for your consideration dedication to safeguarding all Floridians.

Sincerely,
Signed
Name: (typed or printed) Nancy Fry
Address: 529 N. Pine Island Rd.
Plantation, FL 33324

We do not need civilians to have weapons of war on our streets.

Hon. Jam Lee
the Fl Senate

Sept 14, 2019

dear Senator Lee,

I understand that the Infastructure and Security Committee will be focusing on ways to address gun violence and hate crimes during its Sept 16th meeting with the goal of drafting legislation to bring forward next Session.

As the parent of a MSD Student and a Parkland resident living 100 yards from a mass shooting that changed our community forever I am most concerned with a Ban on Assault weapons, Background Checks on ALL Gun Sales, and and expansion of Red Flag Laws to allow family members to Petition for ERPO's.

Please consider the millions of Fl residents who want some measures of Gun Violence Prevention passed. This is a National Emergency, and Fl has lost too many lives to lax gun laws. Thank you,

Ann Newbern

6782 NW North Lake Parkland, FL 33076

(Date) Sept. 14, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee;

Thank you for your work and ongoing concern for the health and safety of all Floridians. As you and the Committee move forward with discussion and creation of legislation that will address hate crimes and gun violence, please consider the following.

Since retirement of the federal ban on assault weapons in 1994, we have seen a drastic increase in the number of deaths associated with mass shootings. While we cannot presume that the rise in incidents can be attributed to assault weapons, we can say with all certainty that more deaths occur per incident when assault weapons are involved. Most recently, the Dayton Ohio shooter used a high-capacity drum magazine holding 100 rounds. Although law enforcement quickly intervened to stop the shooting, within 30 seconds 9 people had been shot and killed, largely due to the magazine capacity. Thus, while a ban on assault weapons may not impact the frequency of mass shootings, it would certainly help to decrease the number of deaths.

In the area of gun safety, please improve the safety standards associated with the training that is required prior to the purchase of a firearm. From 2014 through today, across America, 1,296 children have been killed or injured by guns. Many of these incidents result from accidents associated with the failure of the owner to safely store a weapon. While today's reality may require that we as parents ask whether there is a gun in the house each time we organize a play date, it's imperative that we be assured that those guns are safely stored.

As always, my thanks for your consideration dedication to safeguarding all Floridians.

Sincerely,
Signed Tanya L. Keil
Name: (typed or printed)
Address: 9833 NW 5 7th Court
Plantation, FL 33324

I work in an elementary school as a media clerk and doing red code drills are not enough to protect our most vulnerable of Americans. I believe an assault weapons ban will protect all Americans

Linda Gonzalez
5100 North Ocean Blvd #607
LBTS, Fl. 33308

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chairman Appropriations Committee
Florida Senate
418 Senate Bldg.
404 South Monroe St.
Tallahassee, Fl. 32399

Dear Senator Lee

Please take action on or before September 16 meeting to bring legislation to address gun violence and hate crimes. We need Universal Background Checks on all sales - including gun shows - of guns, we need to limit ammunition purchases, we need red flag laws to protect people's need in domestic violence and for other purposes. NOW! as well as assault weapons ban. We are losing our children and grandchildren to stand up to guns because we lack the courage - long overdue - to stand up to the NRA.

Please respond to your constituents overwhelming desire to take these actions before more lives are lost due to cowardice of our legislators.

Linda Gonzalez 5100 N Ocean Blvd

September 14, 2019

- The Honorable Jon Lee.
- Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
- The Florida Senate.
- 418 Senate Building
- 404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, Fl. 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee.

We need you to take action now on:

1) Back Ground checks on all Gun Sales.
2) Ban on Assault Weapons and High Capacity Magazines
3) Extend Red Flag law to allow family members to petition for extreme Risk Protection Orders.

Our children are standing up to the Guns, we need you to stand up to the NRA.

- Mario E. Palazzi
3838 Coco Palm Circle
Coconut Creek, Fl. 33063

September 11, 2018

The Honorable Senator Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Senator Lee,

I understand that the Infrastructure and Security Committee will be meeting to focus on addressing gun violence and hate crimes. I ask that you:

- Reinstate language in SB 30.15 to prohibit teachers from being armed
- Require those convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence to surrender their firearms
- Require firearms dealers to notify Law Enforcement when a customer fails a background check
- Prohibit concealed carry licensees from carrying firearms in places like daycares, public playgrounds, and public demonstrations

Sincerely,

Sarah Leonardi
717 SW 2nd Dr.
Pompano Beach, FL
33060

September 19, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee,

As a resident of Florida for 27 years, as the sister of a gun violence survivor and as a mother of 3, I find myself worrying more and more frequently about the personal safety of myself and that of my family. I am glad to see security in places where there never was before, but I am sorry that it has to be that way. I am sad that my children are growing up during a time when Code Red Drills are necessary. Code Red Dri are routine for them, but they were absent from my childhoo Gun manufacturers should not receive more protection than individuals. Please consider comprehensive Background Checks requiring the timely reporting of criminal and mental health records to NICS and requiring gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement.

Thank you,

Jessica Kennedy
4060 Palmetto Trail
Weston, FL 33331

Sept 13, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee;
Thank you for your efforts to protect all Floridians. As you and the Committee move forward with discussion and creation of legislation that will address hate crimes and gun violence, please consider the following.
Twenty-five years ago, Washington passed a law to ban assault weapons. That ban passed because politicians did their job and put American lives ahead of the NRA. Unfortunately, it had a sunset provision and was allowed to expire. That's been a disaster. Since 2004, the number of mass shootings increased by 239%. And in the last 2 months, these weapons have brought unspeakable tragedy to the cities of El Paso, Dayton and Odessa. How many more of these tragedies will we tolerate?
The time to act is now. Help us by considering a ban on the sale of weapons of war in Florida. Hunters don't use them, you don't defend your home and families with them. They are merely the weapons of choice for mass shooters. You and your committee can stop this slaughter of Americans.
Please do the right thing, Senator.

Sincerely,

Maria Swanson

MARIA SWANSON
10720 N.W. 5th Street
Plantation, FL 33324

September 14, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee,
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee,

I understand that the Infrastructure & Security Committee will be discussing ways to reduce gun violence during the September 16th meeting. As a Florida resident, I am very concerned we do not currently require firearms dealers to notify law enforcement when a customer fails a background check. If we required this, it could give law enforcement an opportunity to enforce the law and further public safety. It could also serve as a deterrent. In Colorado when this requirement was introduced, ~~the~~ law enforcement found that some people with outstanding warrants were flagged this way, which enabled them to find and serve them.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,
Natasha Paz, Fort Lauderdale

we are counting on you, our elected representative, to be our voice and to vote according to our wishes.
In every election, my vote will be determined by whether a candidate supports an assault weapons ban and a call for background checks and Real gun reform. I urge you to vote to ban Assault weapons and to support more comprehensive checks. We, the People, are counting on you.

Sincerely,

Max Smith

Wellington, Florida

Sen. Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

September 14, 2019

Dear Senator Lee,

Our society is at a crossroads and we look to you, our elected leadership, to take decisive action in keeping our communities safe. We know that there are sensible legislative steps that will reduce gun violence while respecting the Second Amendment. And, we know that most Floridians favor these steps. It's time for you to act.

On behalf of my school-aged children, I ask that you introduce and pass measures this session that will:

- Require a background check on every gun sale
- Ban high-capacity magazines and weapons of war from civilian hands
- Require those convicted of any domestic violence charge surrender their firearms, and
- For Heaven's Sake, repeal the portion of last year's legislation that allows school teachers to be armed.

Statistics and studies prove that these are effective tools at keeping Florida families safe and we deserve these protections. I would be happy to provide you with these statistics and studies, if you'd like.

Please be on the right side of history. Take steps to keep our communities safe. Pass common sense gun legislation.

Thank you,

Daniel Hoffman
Gainesville FL 32605

Sen. Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

September 14, 2019

Dear Senator Lee,

Our society is at a crossroads and we look to you, our elected leadership, to take decisive action in keeping our communities safe. We know that there are sensible legislative steps that will reduce gun violence while respecting the Second Amendment. And, we know that most Floridians favor these steps. It's time for you to act.

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- Require those convicted of any domestic violence charge surrender their firearms, and
- For Heaven's Sake, repeal the portion of last year's legislation that allows school teachers to be armed.

Statistics and studies prove that these are effective tools at keeping Florida families safe and we deserve these protections. I would be happy to provide you with these statistics and studies, if you'd like.

Please be on the right side of history. Take steps to keep our communities safe. Pass common sense gun legislation.

Thank you,

Lindsay Hoffman

Lindsay Hoffman
lindshof@gmail.com
2617 NW 22nd Ave
Gainesville FL 32605

Sen. Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee,
I am writing you as a Florida state resident and mother of two. As you know, gun violence is a serious problem in our state and nation with nearly 100 Americans dying every day due to senseless acts of gun violence. I experienced this first hand as an act of gun violence occured in my upper-middle class, suburban and otherwise safe neighborhood due to a dispute that crossed over into our county. That night we heard gun shots in front of our window as I was rocking my baby to sleep. My 6 year was frightened and wanted to know why these unfamiliar sounds were heard.

The country continues to experience gun violence with nearly 100 Americans dying every single day due to homicides. As a mother and elementary school employee, I am frightened for the safety of my children. I am always hypervigilant in public and worry when my children are at school and daycare. It is gut wrenching that this is our reality. I am grateful that you are exploring solutions and ask that you consider the following common sense ideas.

•Background Checks on all Gun Sales – States that have implemented this simple measure have reduced gun homicides and suicides by gun. It's painfully simple to understand that not having this law enables a clear workaround for those who wouldn't be able to pass a background check to purchase in person or online from an unlicensed seller.

• Expand Red Flag Laws – This law, already used frequently in Florida, to allow firearms to be temporarily removed from those who pose a risk to themselves or others could be even stronger if we allowed family members to ability to use it.

• Ban Assault Weapons and High Capacity Magazines – With assault weapons being the weapon of choice for every mass shooting. They do not serve any real purpose for hunting or home protection.

• Repeal Arming Teachers – Since passing this bill, the vast majority of schools, teachers, parents, and school boards have opted out the program. There's no evidence that arming teachers discourages shootings or decreases gun violence in any form.

• Repeal Stand Your Ground – In the years since this law was enacted, homicide rates have increased dramatically in Florida since there is less fear of repercussions.

• Prohibit the Printing of 3D guns – These cruder guns can avoid detection and also provide a way around background checks.

• Require those Convicted of Misdemeanor Domestic Violence to Surrender Firearms.

• Require safe storage of firearms, require reporting lost or stolen firearms, and prohibited concealed carry in sensitive places such as daycares and public playgrounds.

I appreciate your consideration.

Thank you,
Jennifer D. Flood

September 13, 2019

Senator Tom Lee

Chair, Florida Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee

Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Senator Lee,

As a mother of a preschooler + teenager, I am writing to you to strongly urge you to please work towards making their childhood experience in Florida a safe and secure one to grow up in. Unfortunately, we both know that the world they are living in is certainly different than the one we did. However, I know that there are ways that we can adapt + DO BETTER! The first and most logical of steps being passing background check laws. It's unfathomable to me that we place the burden on the kids to learn how to hide in their own classrooms rather than remove the weapon that has consistantly been the cause for such horrific deaths to their peers. Please use your position + responsibility to move mountains for these children.

Sincerely,
Andrea Trainor

(Date) 9/14/19

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee,

As the Infrastructure and Security Committee focuses on ways to address gun violence and hate crimes during its September meeting(s), my family and I are asking you to consider these priorities:

1.) **Require a background checks on every firearm purchase in the State of Florida** – Over 90% of Americans support requiring background checks on all gun sales. An investigation found that in 2018 alone, there were nearly 1.2 million firearm ads on an online gun marketplace called Armslist.com for gun sales where no background check was legally required. And research shows that prohibited people seek guns in those unlicensed gun sales at a disproportionate rate.

2.) **Require the timely reporting of criminal and mental health records to NICS** - Hundreds of thousands of prohibiting criminal and mental health records are missing from the NICS background check system, potentially enabling prohibited people to pass a background check. This is a critical fail that is required to be fixed in order to make background check legislation effective. Legislation to make this reporting mandatory will make us safer.

3.) **Require gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement** - From 2007 to 2017, at least 82,000 guns were reported stolen and never found in Florida. Not knowing a gun is stolen hinders criminal investigations and law enforcement's ability to track gun-trafficking networks. Stolen gun reports also serve as a deterrent to inter-state gun-trafficking. This is a simple measure of accountability that assists law enforcement do its job.

These three (3) proposals would have a positive effect in making Florida safer and would not diminish Florida residents' rights under the 2nd Amendment. It's a win-win for all of us. Please give them strong consideration.

Thank you for helping to keep us safe.

Sincerely,

Signed: Mary C. Lyon

Name: (typed or printed) Mary C. Yon

Full Address: 5261 NE 22 Ave.
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33308

9/19/19

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The FL Senate
418 Senate Building
404 Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee,

As a Broward County resident, former teacher and mother, I feel it is imperative that your committee focus on ways to address gun violence and hate crimes during its September meetings. Please consider the following priorities:

1) Background Checks on all gun sales.
2) Ban on assault weapons and high capacity magazines.
3) Expansion of Red Flag laws to allow family members to petition for extreme risk protections orders.

Please do the right thing!

Deb Bard
16427 Sapphire Pl Weston, FL 33331

September 19, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
118 Senate Building
04 South Monroe Street
allahassee, FL 32399

Dear Senator Lee;

I'm a Florida resident who is very concerned about my own safety and that of my family and friends. I want to see background checks on all gun sales. I also want to see the expansion of red flag laws to allow family members to petition for extreme risk protection orders. I do not want myself or my family to live in fear of walking out of my home.

Sincerely,
Maria Nelson
Maria Nelson
3079 NW 1st Street, Coral Springs FL 33071

(Date) 9-14-2019

The Honorable Tom Lee

Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee

The Florida Senate

418 Senate Building

404 South Monroe Street

Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee;

I am a Florida resident who is very concerned about my own safety and that of my family and friends. It is my understanding that you and your Committee have been tasked with reviewing hate crimes and gun violence and introducing legislation in the next session to address your findings.

Please consider the expansion of red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders. When a person is in crisis, their loved ones, not law enforcement, are often the first to see signs that they pose a threat. An expanded Extreme Risk law would allow family members to petition a court for an extreme risk protection order to temporarily remove guns from dangerous situations and prohibit the purchase or possession of firearms while the order is in effect. The law passed last year that allows law enforcement to petition the court has helped but it is not enough. Allowing family members who are more familiar with threats and dangers to petition the court directly would make all of us safer, whether we are Florida residents or visitors to our state.

Also, please consider crafting legislation that requires those convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence to surrender firearms temporarily under the same requirements as under ERPOs. In an average month, at least 52 American women are shot and killed by an intimate partner, and many more are injured. And often, the children are either harmed or also killed, and/or suffer the trauma of witnessing these events or losing both parents simultaneously. We must do more to prevent these tragedies.

These simple expanded protections will surely save the lives of many Floridians. I ask you to consider these as we attempt to be safer in our homes and communities throughout the state.

My thanks in advance for your efforts on behalf of all Floridians.

Sincerely,

Signed: Maria Swanson

Name: (typed or printed) MARIA SWANSON

Full Address: 10720 N.W. 5th Street
Plantation FL. 33324

ERPOs in Florida in
2018 = 1169
2019 = 896 to date.
We need this law
expanded to allow
family members to petition
this law saves lives
Please keep up.

SAT, 9/14/19

DEAR SENATOR LEE,

I UNDERSTAND THAT YOU ARE THE CHAIR FOR THE INFRASTRUCTURE & SECURITY COMMITTEE FOR FLORIDA. I AM WRITING TO YOU TO REQUEST YOUR LEADERSHIP IN SUPPORTING SOUND GUN LAWS IN OUR STATE. THERE ARE 3 ACTIONS THAT I BELIEVE WILL IMPROVE SAFETY IN OUR STATE:

1. BACKGROUND CHECKS ON ALL GUN SALES
2. BAN ON ASSAULT & HIGH CAPACITY MAGAZINES
3. EXPANSION OF RED FLAG LAWS TO ALLOW FAMILY MEMBERS TO PETITION FOR EXTREME RISK PROTECTION ORDERS

RESPECTFULLY YOURS,

Marianne Frongo
501 NW 22ND ST.
WILTON MANORS, FL 33311

RESIDENT SINCE 1978 WHO HAS VOTED IN EVERY ELECTION & WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO.

(Date) Sept. 14, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee;

I understand that the Infrastructure and Security Committee will be focusing on ways to address gun violence and hate crimes during its September meeting. While the recent wave of mass shootings has served to focus our attention on this topic, in reality, one hundred Americans lose their lives to gun violence in their own neighborhoods daily. Obviously, this is a vitally important topic, and I thank you for spearheading this discussion.

As you move forward with the discussion, particularly as it relates to hate crimes, it is my hope that you will consider revisions to the existing Stand Your Ground Law. Under the current law, the burden of proof falls to the plaintiff and requires that the state disprove the defense which is difficult, if not impossible, for prosecutors to overcome. Additionally, the existing law is flawed and serves to exacerbate hate crimes in that it provides latitude to initiate a confrontation, then respond with deadly force. This can be corrected by placing the burden of proof for a stand your ground defense on the defendant.

Again, my thanks for spearheading the discussion and for your dedication to preserving the health, safety and welfare of us all.

Sincerely,
Signed
Name: (typed or printed)
Address:

Nancy Fry
529 N. Pine Island Rd.
Plantation, FL 33324

Thank you for your time considering this vitally important issue!
VK

9-14-2017

Dear Sen. Lee,

I understand that the Infrastructure & Security Committee will be meeting on September 16th to focus on ways to address gun violence and hate crimes with the goal of drafting legislation on the topic for the next legislative session.

As a gun-owning Florida resident, I am greatly concerned by recent changes in our laws that allow teachers to carry guns in schools. This is a tremendously bad idea that seems to only be supported by people who watch too many movies and believe that the good guy automatically wins every time.

Who is to say that the teacher with the gun won't become the school shooter? Who is to say that someone else won't get their hands on this gun and start shooting? If a real shooter comes, how do the police know who is the real shooter? The macho-types that want to arm everyone never seem to think about this.

Guns are made to be dangerous and lethal weapons; that is their purpose. It is foolish to think that they have a place in every situation in every location. We need to treat guns with great respect no matter how commonplace that they have become and handle them accordingly. We should not be expecting teachers to act as soldiers or police. We need to have common sense gun laws that keep people safe, such as keeping guns out of schools, banning assault rifles, and limiting the size of ammunition magazines.

Thanks for your time and consideration

William W. Taylor
10720 NW 5th Street
Plantation, Florida 33324-1517

September 14, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee,

Thank you for your work and ongoing concern for the health and safety of all Floridians. As you and the Committee move forward with discussion and creation of legislation that will address hate crimes and gun violence, please consider the following.

Since retirement of the federal ban on assault weapons in 1994, we have seen a drastic increase in the number of deaths associated with mass shootings. While we cannot presume that the rise in incidents can be attributed to assault weapons, we can say with all certainty that more deaths occur per incident when assault weapons are involved. Most recently, the Dayton Ohio shooter used a high-capacity drum magazine holding 100 rounds. Although law enforcement quickly intervened to stop the shooting, within 30 seconds 9 people had been shot and killed, largely due to the magazine capacity. Thus, while a ban on assault weapons may not impact the frequency of mass shootings, it would certainly help to decrease the number of deaths.

My late father, a staunch Republican as well as a patrol officer and detective for the Metropolitan Police of Washington, D.C., expressed concern to me before he died as to the allowance of these weapons of war to be among the general populace. His job was difficult enough when during his time on the police force he was faced with dealing with criminals carrying handguns and shotguns. His worry, as is mine, was not only for the citizenry in general, but especially the danger that assault weapons present to our dedicated law enforcement personnel when they carry out their sworn duty to run TO danger, not away from it. Sadly, and inevitably, his worst fears have come true: in the form of the now-routine bloodbaths that take the lives of citizens and law enforcement personnel and that occur with such ludicrous frequency only in our United States of America.

In the area of gun safety, please improve the safety standards associated with the training that is required prior to the purchase of a firearm. From 2014 through today, across America, 1,296 children have been killed or injured by guns. Many of these incidents result from accidents associated with the failure of the owner to safely store a weapon. While today's reality may require that we as parents ask whether there is a gun in the house each time we organize a play date, it is imperative that we be assured that those guns are safely stored.

As always, my thanks for your consideration and dedication to safeguarding all Floridians.

Sincerely,

William W. Taylor

(Date) Sept. 14, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee

Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee

The Florida Senate

418 Senate Building

404 South Monroe Street

Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee;

I am a Florida resident who is very concerned about my own safety and that of my family and friends. It is my understanding that you and your Committee have been tasked with reviewing hate crimes and gun violence and introducing legislation in the next session to address your findings.

Please consider the expansion of red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders. When a person is in crisis, their loved ones, not law enforcement, are often the first to see signs that they pose a threat. An expanded Extreme Risk law would allow family members to petition a court for an extreme risk protection order to temporarily remove guns from dangerous situations and prohibit the purchase or possession of firearms while the order is in effect. The law passed last year that allows law enforcement to petition the court has helped but it is not enough. Allowing family members who are more familiar with threats and dangers to petition the court directly would make all of us safer, whether we are Florida residents or visitors to our state.

Also, please consider crafting legislation that requires those convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence to surrender firearms temporarily under the same requirements as under ERPOs. In an average month, at least 52 American women are shot and killed by an intimate partner, and many more are injured. And often, the children are either harmed or also killed, and/or suffer the trauma of witnessing these events or losing both parents simultaneously. We must do more to prevent these tragedies.

These simple expanded protections will surely save the lives of many Floridians. I ask you to consider these as we attempt to be safer in our homes and communities throughout the state.

My thanks in advance for your efforts on behalf of all Floridians.

Sincerely,

Signed: [signature]

Name: (typed or printed) Nancy Fry

Full Address: 529 N. Pine Island Rd.
Plantation, FL 33324.

Please expand the ERPO laws
My neighbor was shot + killed
by her ex-husband after reporting
threats multiple times to law
enforcement. Filing an ERPO
directly may have saved her life.
-NF

September 13, 2019

Senator Tom Lee

Chair, Florida Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee

Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Senator Lee,

I am a teacher in Palm Beach County. I am asking you to tighten background checks on gun ownership. As you know, 100 people are killed every day by guns. It has to be addressed. My students live in fear in their community (Belle Glade) due to gun violence. Please support background checks on gun laws, and letting family members start the red flag process.

Thank you,
Concerned Voter,
Mary Risisky
Wellington FL
33414

September 13, 2019

Senator Tom Lee

Chair, Florida Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee

Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Senator Lee,

As a mother & director of a pre-school, I fear every day about the threat of gun violence for my self & my family.

Background checks & red-flag laws have been shown to allow those able & responsible enough to have guns while keeping guns from those wanting to harm others. I hope you & your committee will pass strong versions of both these laws.

Many thanks for your work on this issue. My daughters safety & future are in your hands.

Sincerely,

Ilysia Shattuck
Boynton Beach FL

September 13, 2019

Senator Tom Lee

Chair, Florida Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee

Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Senator Lee,

I believe that Florida should impose strict background laws on people using guns. A background check is something that each person buying a gun should have to go through. As an elementary school teacher, my own safety as well as that of ~~most~~ my students is of utmost importance to me. I believe that background checks are one important step in keeping Florida's teachers and children safe.

Alexis Valentin
Boynton Beach, FL

September 13, 2019

Senator Tom Lee

Chair, Florida Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee

Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Senator Lee,

I am writing to ask you to vote to support tighter background checks before purchasing guns and to ban the sale of assault weapons. As a mother of 4, grandmother of 5 and a former elementary school teacher, I feel we need to fight for safety of our children.

A concerned voter,
Mary Ann Rossi

September 13, 2019

Senator Tom Lee

Chair, Florida Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee

Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Senator Lee,

As a registered and active voter from Lake Worth, Florida I am pleading with you to be the voice of reason and sense in stricter gun regulation. Please make background checks on every single gun sale a requirement. Please broaden the "Red Flag" process to include the ability for family members to petition for "Extreme Risk Protection Orders. You can create positive change and save lives.

Sincerely,

Melissa Salerno from Lake Worth, FL.

September 13, 2019

Senator Tom Lee

Chair, Florida Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee

Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Senator Lee,

Please help support a Stronger background check and I strongly feel that assault rifles are deeply a problem with this country.

Family awareness to the red flag program is a must!

A concerned Voter —
Terry Silver

September 13, 2019

Senator Tom Lee

Chair, Florida Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee

Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Senator Lee,

While there is much debate about guns in our country, one thing is clear – the vast majority of American & Floridian support background checks. Please support this popular & logical step & move forward with legislation for background checks for gun purchases. This will save lives!

Sincerely,

Andrew Stine Rose

Boynton Beach

September 13, 2019

Senator Tom Lee

Chair, Florida Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee

Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Senator Lee,

My name is Roqueria Mills, in March of 2018, I was shot and paralyzed by someone very close to me. I feel background checks should be a lot more extensive. They should be thoroughly done. A persons mental and physical state should be severly analyzed before they are able to purchase and obtain a gun. I know many people who have been affected by gun violence due to the negligence of background checks.

Roqueria Mills
Lantana, FL, 3346

September 13, 2019

Senator Tom Lee

Chair, Florida Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee

Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Senator Lee,

Gun violence is my #1 issue. In Florida, we need to close loopholes on background checks. There should be a background check on EVERY gun sale! The constitution guaranteed the right to bear arms long before assault weapons. Please. As a mother, I am afraid for my children to grow up in a place like this. We need an assault weapons ban, and most Americans support it. Let's take some small steps towards ending gun violence today. We are counting on you.

Sincerely,
Jennie Couch
West Palm Beach

September 13, 2019

Senator Tom Lee

Chair, Florida Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee

Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Senator Lee,

I am writing to express my concern, worries, disbelief and anger that we don't have sensible gun laws in our State of Florida.

There are so many concerns about our gun laws but firstly I would like to address passing the bill of universal background checks on all gun sales. It has been recognized that there are so many loopholes such as: gun shows, online sales and private sales where no background checks are needed. This is unbelievable! Enough!

Every individual should have a background check. End of story!

Please, a very concerned parent, voter and American citizen.

Sincerely,

Mary Beth DeCapua
Boynton Beach, FL

Sept. 14, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee;

Thank you for your work and ongoing concern for the health and safety of all Floridians. As you and the Committee move forward with discussion and creation of legislation that will address hate crimes and gun violence, please consider the following.

Since retirement of the federal ban on assault weapons in 1994, we have seen a drastic increase in the number of deaths associated with mass shootings. While we cannot presume that the rise in incidents can be attributed to assault weapons, we can say with all certainty that more deaths occur per incident when assault weapons are involved. Most recently, the Dayton Ohio shooter used a high-capacity drum magazine holding 100 rounds. Although law enforcement quickly intervened to stop the shooting, within 30 seconds 9 people had been shot and killed, largely due to the magazine capacity. Thus, while a ban on assault weapons may not impact the frequency of mass shootings, it would certainly help to decrease the number of deaths. The availability of assault weapons frightens me to no end. As a mother of two school-ages daughters, I constantly worry about the very real possibility of yet another mass shooting, which is made more deadly with assault weapons.

In the area of gun safety, I implore you to please improve the safety standards associated with the training that is required prior to the purchase of a firearm. From 2014 through today, across America, 1,296 children have been killed or injured by guns. Many of these incidents result from accidents associated with the failure of the owner to safely store a weapon. While today's reality may require that we as parents ask whether there is a gun in the house each time we organize a play date, it's imperative that we be assured that those guns are safely stored.

As always, my thanks for your consideration dedication to safeguarding all Floridians.

Sincerely,

Eliana C. Mukherjee

Eliana Mukherjee

Address:
471 Pumpkin Dr.

Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410

Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Infrastructure and Security Committee:

I am writing to you as a mother of four who is concerned about gun violence. It horrifies me that young children have to participate in traumatizing active shooter drills. Why is it that guns have more value than the lives of children? It is my belief that the following changes would be the most impactful in preventing gun violence:

1. Background checks on all gun sales

The vast majority of Florida voters support requiring background checks on all gun sales, including 89 percent of Republicans and 87 percent of gun owners. We still have not closed the unlicensed gun sale loophole which means that prohibited people can take advantage of this loophole and get armed illegally. The loophole diminishes the public safety impact of all our laws. Criminals, underage buyers and people subject to Extreme Risk Orders can simply circumvent the law and purchase a firearm from an unlicensed seller and skip a background check altogether. It is like going to TSA and asking to skip the line and being allowed to do that. Crazy!

2. Ban on high capacity magazines

The August 2019 Dayton, Ohio shooter used a rifle equipped with a high-capacity drum magazine capable of holding 100 rounds. Though law enforcement stopped the shooting in about 30 seconds, the shooter was able to fire dozens of shots—and kill 9 people—largely because of the magazine capacity. Over the past decade, the four deadliest mass shootings in America involved the use of high-capacity magazines. In fact, 58 percent of mass shootings between 2009 and 2017 were committed with firearms equipped with high-capacity magazines.

3. Require firearms dealers to notify law enforcement when a customer fails a background check

Failed attempts to purchase guns can foreshadow future criminal activity. People who fail background checks are 28 percent more likely to be arrested in the five years following the denial than in the five years before it. Law enforcement wants to know and should know when prohibited individuals are attempting to purchase guns.

4. Expansion of red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders

When a person is in crisis, loved ones are often the first to see signs that they pose a threat to themselves or others. An Extreme Risk law allows them to petition a court for an extreme risk protection order to temporarily remove guns from dangerous situations and prohibit the purchase or possession of firearms while the order is in effect.

5. Require gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement

From 2007 to 2017, at least 82,000 guns were reported stolen and never found in Florida. Law enforcement has said over and over that they want to know if a stolen gun is on the street.

Please make it your priority to do something for our children.

Betsy Murphy
4409 Santa Maria Street
Coral Gables, Florida 33146

Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Infrastructure and Security Committee:

I am writing to you as a very concerned resident of Miami-Dade County.
After the horrific shootings in El Paso and Dayton, one of which found Hispanics being hunted down in Walmart; after news that the amount of mass shootings in our nation have exceeded the number of days of this year, and after a summer that has seen almost daily shootings all up and down Miami-Dade County – some days seeing several in a 24 hour period. Based on the experiences here in Miami Dade County, I believe the following changes would be the most impactful in preventing gun violence:

1. Background checks on all gun sales

The vast majority of Florida voters support requiring background checks on all gun sales, including 89 percent of Republicans and 87 percent of gun owners. We still have not closed the unlicensed gun sale loophole which means that prohibited people can take advantage of this loophole and get armed illegally. The loophole diminishes the public safety impact of all our laws. Criminals, underage buyers and people subject to Extreme Risk Orders can simply circumvent the law and purchase a firearm from an unlicensed seller and skip a background check altogether. It is like going to TSA and asking to skip the line and being allowed to do that. Crazy!

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5. Require gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement

From 2007 to 2017, at least 82,000 guns were reported stolen and never found in Florida. Law enforcement has said over and over that they want to know if a stolen gun is on the street.

The bottom line is that too many Floridians are killed with guns. The loopholes in our background check laws are negatively impacting our residents, tourist industry, hospitals and economy through gun trafficking, suicide, domestic violence, injury and death. I ask that you focus on the above priorities to save lives.

Thank you for your time and attention,

Michelle Shindell
2911 Natoma Street
Miami. Florida 33133

Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Infrastructure and Security Committee:

I am writing to you as a very concerned resident of Miami-Dade County.
After the horrific shootings in El Paso and Dayton, one of which found Hispanics being hunted down in Walmart; after news that the amount of mass shootings in our nation have exceeded the number of days of this year, and after a summer that has seen almost daily shootings all up and down Miami-Dade County – some days seeing several in a 24 hour period. Based on the experiences here in Miami Dade County, I believe the following changes would be the most impactful in preventing gun violence:

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2. Ban on high capacity magazines

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3. Require firearms dealers to notify law enforcement when a customer fails a background check

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5. Require gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement

From 2007 to 2017, at least 82,000 guns were reported stolen and never found in Florida. Law enforcement has said over and over that they want to know if a stolen gun is on the street.

The bottom line is that too many Floridians are killed with guns. The loopholes in our background check laws are negatively impacting our residents, tourist industry, hospitals and economy through gun trafficking, suicide, domestic violence, injury and death. I ask that you focus on the above priorities to save lives.

Thank you for your time and attention,

James W Shindell
1450 Brickell Avenue
Suite 2500
Miami, Florida 33131

Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Infrastructure and Security Committee:

I am writing to you as a young person living in Miami-Dade County.
This summer has seen almost daily shootings in Miami-Dade County – some days seeing several in a 24 hour period. Based on the experiences here in Miami Dade County, I believe the following changes would be the most impactful in preventing gun violence:

1. Background checks on all gun sales

The vast majority of Florida voters support requiring background checks on all gun sales, including 89 percent of Republicans and 87 percent of gun owners. We still have not closed the unlicensed gun sale loophole which means that prohibited people can take advantage of this loophole and get armed illegally. The loophole diminishes the public safety impact of all our laws. Criminals, underage buyers and people subject to Extreme Risk Orders can simply circumvent the law and purchase a firearm from an unlicensed seller and skip a background check altogether. It is like going to TSA and asking to skip the line and being allowed to do that. Crazy!

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The August 2019 Dayton, Ohio shooter used a rifle equipped with a high-capacity drum magazine capable of holding 100 rounds. Though law enforcement stopped the shooting in about 30 seconds, the shooter was able to fire dozens of shots—and kill 9 people—largely because of the magazine capacity. Over the past decade, the four deadliest mass shootings in America involved the use of high-capacity magazines. In fact, 58 percent of mass shootings between 2009 and 2017 were committed with firearms equipped with high-capacity magazines.

3. Require firearms dealers to notify law enforcement when a customer fails a background check

Failed attempts to purchase guns can foreshadow future criminal activity. People who fail background checks are 28 percent more likely to be arrested in the five years following the denial than in the five years before it. Law enforcement wants to know and should know when prohibited individuals are attempting to purchase guns.

4. Expansion of red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders

When a person is in crisis, loved ones are often the first to see signs that they pose a threat to themselves or others. An Extreme Risk law allows them to petition a court for an extreme risk protection order to temporarily remove guns from dangerous situations and prohibit the purchase or possession of firearms while the order is in effect.

5. Require gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement

From 2007 to 2017, at least 82,000 guns were reported stolen and never found in Florida. Law enforcement has said over and over that they want to know if a stolen gun is on the street.

The bottom line is that too many Floridians are killed with guns. The loopholes in our background check laws are negatively impacting our residents, tourist industry, hospitals and economy through gun trafficking, suicide, domestic violence, injury and death. I ask that you focus on the above priorities to save lives.

Ramsey Shindell
2911 Natoma Street
Miami, Florida 33133

Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Infrastructure and Security Committee:

I am writing to you as a retiree person living in Broward County who is concerned about the future of my grandchildren.it horrifies me that young children have to participate in traumatizing active shooter drills. This is insanity that guns have more value than the lives of children. I believe the following changes would be the most impactful in preventing gun violence:

1. Background checks on all gun sales

The vast majority of Florida voters support requiring background checks on all gun sales, including 89 percent of Republicans and 87 percent of gun owners. We still have not closed the unlicensed gun sale loophole which means that prohibited people can take advantage of this loophole and get armed illegally. The loophole diminishes the public safety impact of all our laws. Criminals, underage buyers and people subject to Extreme Risk Orders can simply circumvent the law and purchase a firearm from an unlicensed seller and skip a background check altogether. It is like going to TSA and asking to skip the line and being allowed to do that. Crazy!

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5. Require gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement

From 2007 to 2017, at least 82,000 guns were reported stolen and never found in Florida. Law enforcement has said over and over that they want to know if a stolen gun is on the street.

The bottom line is that too many Floridians are killed with guns. The loopholes in our background check laws are negatively impacting our small children and their parents. I ask that you focus on the above priorities to save lives.

Dixie Shindell
5700 NE 20th Terrace
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33308

Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Infrastructure and Security Committee:

I am writing to you as a retired nurse living in Hillsborough County who is concerned about the future of my grandchildren and great grandchildren. It horrifies me that young children have to participate in traumatizing active shooter drills. It is insanity that guns have more value than the lives of children. I believe the following changes would be the most impactful in preventing gun violence:

1. Background checks on all gun sales

The vast majority of Florida voters support requiring background checks on all gun sales, including 89 percent of Republicans and 87 percent of gun owners. We still have not closed the unlicensed gun sale loophole which means that prohibited people can take advantage of this loophole and get armed illegally. The loophole diminishes the public safety impact of all our laws. Criminals, underage buyers and people subject to Extreme Risk Orders can simply circumvent the law and purchase a firearm from an unlicensed seller and skip a background check altogether. It is like going to TSA and asking to skip the line and being allowed to do that. Crazy!

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The bottom line is that too many Floridians are killed with guns. The loopholes in our background check laws are negatively impacting our small children and their parents. I ask that you focus on the above priorities to save lives.

Betsye B Gorman
702 Oakgrove Drive
Brandon, Florida 33510

Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee:

I am writing to you from Miami-Dade County in the hopes of letting you know what issues I would like the Florida legislature to focus on next year in terms of gun violence prevention. My priorities are as follows:

1. Background checks on all gun sales

93 percent of American voters support requiring background checks on all gun sales, including 89 percent of Republicans and 87 percent of gun owners. Florida has not closed the unlicensed sale loophole which means that felons, domestic abusers and other prohibited people cans skip a background check and get armed simply by seeking an unlicensed seller online or even at a gun show. It is like if you went to TSA to board a plane and just asked to skip the line and you were ALLOWED! It just makes no sense. An investigation found that in 2018 alone, there were nearly 1.2 million gun ads on an online gun marketplace called Armslist.com for gun sales. No background check was legally required. Research shows that prohibited people seek guns in those unlicensed gun sales at a disproportionate rate.

2. Expansion of red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders

When a person is in crisis, loved ones are usually the first to see signs that they pose a threat.

3. Require firearms dealers to notify law enforcement when a customer fails a background check

Failed attempts to purchase guns can foreshadow future criminal activity. People who fail background checks are 28 percent more likely to be arrested in the five years following the denial than in the five years before it. Law enforcement should know and WANTS to know when prohibited individuals are attempting to purchase guns.

4. Reform the concealed carry license process to give the Department of Agriculture greater discretion to deny licenses to those individuals who present a public safety threat

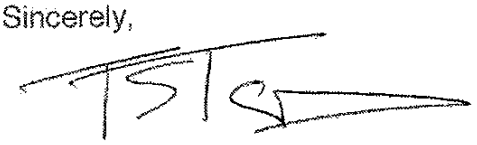
The legislature practically apologizes to gun owners for requiring a license to concealed carry: "The Legislature does not delegate to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services the authority to regulate or restrict the issuing of licenses provided for in this section, beyond those provisions contained in this section. Subjective or arbitrary actions or rules which encumber the issuing process by placing burdens on the applicant beyond those sworn statements and specified documents detailed in this section or which create restrictions beyond those specified in this section are in conflict with the intent of this section and are prohibited. This section shall be liberally construed to carry out the constitutional right to bear arms for self-defense. This section is supplemental and additional to existing rights to bear arms, and nothing in this section shall impair or diminish such rights." Fla. Stat. 790.06(15).

5. Require gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement

From 2007 to 2017, at least 82,000 guns were reported stolen and never found in Florida. Requiring safe storage in vehicles would go a long way to reducing these numbers.

On behalf of my family, I urge you as a leader and steward of Florida, to take action on this issue of gun reform. We cannot risk another young life because of our inaction. thank you for taking the time to read this letter.

Sincerely,



Name: Thierry Tamers

Address: 8370 SW 100 street, Miami FL 33156

Phone Number:

Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Members of the Infrastructure and Security Committee:

I am writing to you from Miami-Dade County in the hopes of letting you know what issues I would like the Florida legislature to focus on next year in terms of gun violence prevention. My priorities are as follows:

1. Background checks on all gun sales

93 percent of American voters support requiring background checks on all gun sales, including 89 percent of Republicans and 87 percent of gun owners. Florida has not closed the unlicensed sale loophole which means that felons, domestic abusers and other prohibited people cans skip a background check and get armed simply by seeking an unlicensed seller online or even at a gun show. It is like if you went to TSA to board a plane and just asked to skip the line and you were ALLOWED! It just makes no sense. An investigation found that in 2018 alone, there were nearly 1.2 million gun ads on an online gun marketplace called Armslist.com for gun sales. No background check was legally required. Research shows that prohibited people seek guns in those unlicensed gun sales at a disproportionate rate.

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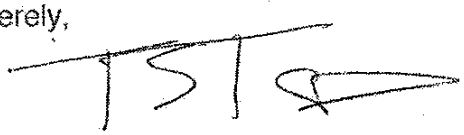
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5. Require gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement

From 2007 to 2017, at least 82,000 guns were reported stolen and never found in Florida. Requiring safe storage in vehicles would go a long way to reducing these numbers.

On behalf of my family, I urge you as a leader and steward of Florida, to take action on this issue of gun reform. We cannot risk another young life because of our inaction. thank you for taking the time to read this letter.

Sincerely,



Name: Thierry Tamers

Address: 8370 SW 100 street, Miami FL 33156

Phone Number:

Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee:

I am writing to you from Miami-Dade County in the hopes of letting you know what issues I would like the Florida legislature to focus on next year in terms of gun violence prevention. My priorities are as follows:

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When a person is in crisis, loved ones are usually the first to see signs that they pose a threat.

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Failed attempts to purchase guns can foreshadow future criminal activity. People who fail background checks are 28 percent more likely to be arrested in the five years following the denial than in the five years before it. Law enforcement should know and WANTS to know when prohibited individuals are attempting to purchase guns.

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On behalf of my family, I urge you as a leader and steward of Florida, to take action on this issue of gun reform. We cannot risk another young life because of our inaction. thank you for taking the time to read this letter.

Sincerely,

Eliot Tamers

Name: Eliot Tamers

Address: 8370 SW 100 Street, Miami 33156

Phone Number: 305-484-5508

Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Members of the Infrastructure and Security Committee:

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Sincerely,

Eliot Tamers

Name: Eliot Tamers

Address: 8370 SW 100 Street, Miami 33156

Phone Number: 305-484-5508

Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Infrastructure and Security Committee:

I am writing from Miami -Dade County to thank you for your work on gun violence and to ask you to support the common-sense gun reform so desperately needed in our state. Based on the experiences we have had in Miami Date County, I believe the following changes would be the most impactful in preventing gun violence:

1. Background checks on all gun sales

The vast majority of Florida voters support requiring background checks on all gun sales, including 89 percent of Republicans and 87 percent of gun owners. Although Florida passed some landmark gun laws in 2018 after Parkland, we still have not closed the unlicensed gun sale loophole meaning that prohibited people can take advantage and get armed illegally and the loophole diminishes the public safety impact of our laws. Underage buyers and people subject to Extreme Risk Orders can simply circumvent the law and purchase a firearm from an unlicensed seller and skip a background check altogether.

2. Ban on assault weapons and high capacity magazines

The August 2019 Dayton, Ohio shooter used a rifle equipped with a high-capacity drum magazine capable of holding 100 rounds. Though law enforcement stopped the shooting in about 30 seconds, the shooter was able to fire dozens of shots—and kill 9 people—largely because of the magazine capacity. Over the past decade, the four deadliest mass shootings in America involved the use of high-capacity magazines. In fact, 58 percent of mass shootings between 2009 and 2017 were committed with firearms equipped with high-capacity magazines.

3. Require firearms dealers to notify law enforcement when a customer fails a background check

Failed attempts to purchase guns can foreshadow future criminal activity. People who fail background checks are 28 percent more likely to be arrested in the five years following the denial than in the five years before it. Law enforcement wants to know and should know when prohibited individuals are attempting to purchase guns. To that end,

4. Reform the concealed carry license process to give the Department of Agriculture greater discretion to deny licenses to those individuals who present a public safety threat

The legislature practically apologizes to gun owners for requiring a license to concealed carry: "The Legislature does not delegate to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services the authority to regulate or restrict the issuing of licenses provided for in this section, beyond those provisions contained in this section. Subjective or arbitrary actions or rules which encumber the issuing process by placing burdens on the applicant beyond those sworn statements and specified documents detailed in this section or which create restrictions beyond those specified in this section are in conflict with the intent of this section and are prohibited. This section shall be liberally construed to carry out the constitutional right to bear arms for self-defense. This section is supplemental and additional to existing rights to bear arms, and nothing in this section shall impair or diminish such rights." Fla. Stat. 790.06(15).

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Sincerely,

MA Tamers

Name: Murry Tamers

Address: 1251 Campo Sano Ave, Coral Gables 33146

Phone Number:

Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

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MTamers

Name: Murry Tamers

Address: 1251 Campo Sano Ave, Coral Gables 33146

Phone Number:

Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

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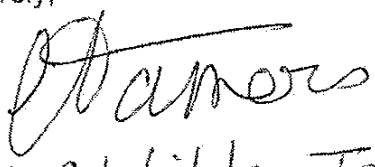
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On behalf of my family, I urge you as a leader and steward of Florida, to take action on this issue of gun reform. We cannot risk another young life because of our inaction. thank you for taking the time to read this letter.

Sincerely,



Name: Clotilde Tamers

Address: 8370 SW 100 Street, Miami 3315

Phone Number: 305 505 3475

Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee:

I heard that Senator Galvano instructed you as Chair of The Infrastructure Committee to address hate crime and gun violence. I couldn't be more grateful about that. Gun violence is a dramatic epidemic in our country, especially in counties with urban neighborhoods like Miami Dade, where we endure shooting almost every single day.

I am writing to you from Miami-Dade County in the hopes of letting you know what issues I would like the Florida legislature to focus on next year in terms of gun violence prevention. My priorities are as follows:

1. Background checks on all gun sales

Most Florida voters support requiring background checks on all gun sales, including 89 percent of Republicans and 87 percent of gun owners. We still have not closed the unlicensed gun sale loophole which means that prohibited buyers can take advantage of this loophole and get armed illegally in person and via internet. This loophole guts the public safety impact of **all** our laws. Criminals, underage buyers and people subject to Extreme Risk Orders can simply circumvent the law and purchase a firearm from an unlicensed seller and skip a background check altogether. It is like going to TSA, skipping the line and being allowed through a side door. Crazy!

2. Ban on high capacity magazines

The August 2019 Dayton, Ohio shooter used a rifle equipped with a high-capacity drum magazine capable of holding 100 rounds. Though law enforcement stopped the shooting in about 30 seconds, the shooter was able to fire dozens of shots—and kill 9 people—largely because of the magazine capacity. Over the past decade, **the four deadliest mass shootings in America involved the use of high-capacity magazines. In fact, 58 percent of mass shootings between 2009 and 2017 were committed with firearms equipped with high-capacity magazines**. Limiting magazine capacity would make **ALL** guns less lethal.

3. Require firearms dealers to notify law enforcement when a customer fails a background check

Failed attempts to purchase guns can foreshadow future criminal activity. People who fail background checks are 28 percent more likely to be arrested in the five years following the denial than in the five years before it. Law enforcement wants to know and should know when prohibited individuals are attempting to purchase guns.

4. Expansion of red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders

When a person is in crisis, loved ones are often the first to see signs that they pose a threat to themselves or others. An Extreme Risk law allows them to petition a court for an order to temporarily remove guns from dangerous situations and prohibit the purchase or possession of firearms while the order is in effect.

5. Require gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement and make responsible storage laws stricter so stolen guns are kept off the streets.

From 2007 to 2017, at least 82,000 guns were reported stolen and never found in Florida. Law enforcement has said over and over that they want to know if a stolen gun is on the street. Here in Miami Dade we need solutions for our urban violence NOW – please raise the bar to make it more difficult for guns to be stolen and for law enforcement to be informed.

Thank you for your time and dedication to our state. I am grateful that you are working hard on saving Floridians lives.

Sincerely,

Name: Clotilde Tamers

Address: 8370 SW 100 Street, Miami FL 33156

Phone number: 305-505-3475

Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

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On behalf of my family, I urge you as a leader and steward of Florida, to take action on this issue of gun reform. We cannot risk another young life because of our inaction. thank you for taking the time to read this letter.

Sincerely,



Name: Jim Aguiles

Address: 8385 SW 100 Street, Miami, FL 33156

Phone Number: 305-281-4620

Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

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Sincerely,

Name: Jorleen Aguiles

Address: 8385 SW 100 Street, Miami, FL 33156

Phone Number: 786-442-6779

September 11th, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee;

I understand that the Infrastructure and Security Committee will be focusing on ways to address gun violence and hate crimes during its September meeting. While the recent wave of mass shootings has served to focus our attention on this topic, in reality, one hundred Americans lose their lives to gun violence in their own neighborhoods daily. Obviously, this is a vitally important topic, and I thank you for spearheading this discussion.

As you move forward with the discussion, particularly as it relates to hate crimes, it is my hope that you will consider revisions to the existing Stand Your Ground Law. Under the current law, the burden of proof falls to the plaintiff and requires that the state disprove the defense which is difficult, if not impossible, for prosecutors to overcome. Additionally, the existing law is flawed and serves to exacerbate hate crimes in that it provides latitude to initiate a confrontation, then respond with deadly force. This can be corrected by placing the burden of proof for a stand your ground defense on the defendant.

Again, my thanks for spearheading the discussion and for your dedication to preserving the health, safety and welfare of us all.

Roberto Yamon

4730 NW 102nd Ave. apt. 102

Doral FL 33131

September 12th, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee;

Thank you for your work and ongoing concern for the health and safety of all Floridians. As you and the Committee move forward with discussion and creation of legislation that will address hate crimes and gun violence, please consider the following.

Since retirement of the federal ban on assault weapons in 1994, we have seen a drastic increase in the number of deaths associated with mass shootings. While we cannot presume that the rise in incidents can be attributed to assault weapons, we can say with all certainty that more deaths occur per incident when assault weapons are involved. Most recently, the Dayton Ohio shooter used a high-capacity drum magazine holding 100 rounds. Although law enforcement quickly intervened to stop the shooting, within 30 seconds 9 people had been shot and killed, largely due to the magazine capacity. Thus, while a ban on assault weapons may not impact the frequency of mass shootings, it would certainly help to decrease the number of deaths.

In the area of gun safety, please improve the safety standards associated with the training that is required prior to the purchase of a firearm. From 2014 through today, across America, 1,296 children have been killed or injured by guns. Many of these incidents result from accidents associated with the failure of the owner to safely store a weapon. While today's reality may require that we as parents ask whether there is a gun in the house each time we organize a play date, it's imperative that we be assured that those guns are safely stored.

As always, my thanks for your consideration dedication to safeguarding all Floridians.

Carlos Amaya

4760 NW 102 Avenue apt 202

Doral FL 33178

September 12th, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

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4760 NW 102 Avenue apt 202

Doral FL 33178

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Dear Senator Lee;

Thank you for your work and ongoing concern for the health and safety of all Floridians. As you and the Committee move forward with discussion and creation of legislation that will address hate crimes and gun violence, please consider the following.

Since retirement of the federal ban on assault weapons in 1994, we have seen a drastic increase in the number of deaths associated with mass shootings. While we cannot presume that the rise in incidents can be attributed to assault weapons, we can say with all certainty that more deaths occur per incident when assault weapons are involved. Most recently, the Dayton Ohio shooter used a high-capacity drum magazine holding 100 rounds. Although law enforcement quickly intervened to stop the shooting, within 30 seconds 9 people had been shot and killed, largely due to the magazine capacity. Thus, while a ban on assault weapons may not impact the frequency of mass shootings, it would certainly help to decrease the number of deaths.

In the area of gun safety, please improve the safety standards associated with the training that is required prior to the purchase of a firearm. From 2014 through today, across America, 1,296 children have been killed or injured by guns. Many of these incidents result from accidents associated with the failure of the owner to safely store a weapon. While today's reality may require that we as parents ask whether there is a gun in the house each time we organize a play date, it's imperative that we be assured that those guns are safely stored.

As always, my thanks for your consideration dedication to safeguarding all Floridians.

Gabriela Cavallo

5353 NW 111th Ct.

Doral FL 33178

September 12th, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee;

Thank you for your work and ongoing concern for the health and safety of all Floridians. As you and the Committee move forward with discussion and creation of legislation that will address hate crimes and gun violence, please consider the following.

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Hector Cavallo

5353 NW 111th Ct.

Doral FL 33178

September 12th, 2019

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Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

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As always, my thanks for your consideration dedication to safeguarding all Floridians.

Hector Cavallo

5353 NW 111th Ct.

Doral FL 33178

September, 11th 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee,

As the Infrastructure and Security Committee focuses on ways to address gun violence and hate crimes during its September meeting(s), my family and I are asking you to consider these priorities:

1.) **Require a background checks on every firearm purchase in the State of Florida** – Over 90% of Americans support requiring background checks on all gun sales. An investigation found that in 2018 alone, there were nearly 1.2 million firearm ads on an online gun marketplace called Armslist.com for gun sales where no background check was legally required. And research shows that prohibited people seek guns in those unlicensed gun sales at a disproportionate rate.

2.) **Require the timely reporting of criminal and mental health records to NICS** - Hundreds of thousands of prohibiting criminal and mental health records are missing from the NICS background check system, potentially enabling prohibited people to pass a background check. This is a critical fail that is required to be fixed in order to make background check legislation effective. Legislation to make this reporting mandatory will make us safer.

3.) **Require gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement** - From 2007 to 2017, at least 82,000 guns were reported stolen and never found in Florida. Not knowing a gun is stolen hinders criminal investigations and law enforcement's ability to track gun-trafficking networks. Stolen gun reports also serve as a deterrent to inter-state gun-trafficking. This is a simple measure of accountability that assists law enforcement do its job.

These three (3) proposals would have a positive effect in making Florida safer and would not diminish Florida residents' rights under the 2nd Amendment. It's a win-win for all of us. Please give them strong consideration.

Thank you for helping to keep us safe.

Sincerely,

Julene Valmana

10355 NW 46th Street

Doral, FL 33178

Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Infrastructure and Security Committee:

I am writing to thank you for your work on gun violence and to ask you to support the commonsense gun reform so **desperately** needed in our state. Based on the experiences here in Miami Dade County, I believe the following changes would be the most impactful in preventing gun violence:

1. Background checks on all gun sales

Most Florida voters support requiring background checks on all gun sales, including 89 percent of Republicans and 87 percent of gun owners. We still have not closed the unlicensed gun sale loophole which means that prohibited buyers can take advantage of this loophole and get armed illegally in person and via internet. This loophole guts the public safety impact of **all** our laws. Criminals, underage buyers and people subject to Extreme Risk Orders can simply circumvent the law and purchase a firearm from an unlicensed seller and skip a background check altogether. It is like going to TSA, skipping the line and being allowed through a side door. Crazy!

2. Ban on high capacity magazines

The August 2019 Dayton, Ohio shooter used a rifle equipped with a high-capacity drum magazine capable of holding 100 rounds. Though law enforcement stopped the shooting in about 30 seconds, the shooter was able to fire dozens of shots—and kill 9 people—largely because of the magazine capacity. Over the past decade, **the four deadliest mass shootings in America involved the use of high-capacity magazines. In fact, 58 percent of mass shootings between 2009 and 2017 were committed with firearms equipped with high-capacity magazines.** Limiting magazine capacity would make **ALL** guns less lethal.

3. Require firearms dealers to notify law enforcement when a customer fails a background check

Failed attempts to purchase guns can foreshadow future criminal activity. People who fail background checks are 28 percent more likely to be arrested in the five years following the denial than in the five years before it. Law enforcement wants to know and should know when prohibited individuals are attempting to purchase guns.

4. Expansion of red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders

When a person is in crisis, loved ones are often the first to see signs that they pose a threat to themselves or others. An Extreme Risk law allows them to petition a court for an order to temporarily remove guns from dangerous situations and prohibit the purchase or possession of firearms while the order is in effect.

5. Require gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement and make responsible storage laws stricter so stolen guns are kept off the streets.

From 2007 to 2017, at least 82,000 guns were reported stolen and never found in Florida. Law enforcement has said over and over that they want to know if a stolen gun is on the street. Here in Miami Dade we need solutions for our urban violence NOW -- please raise the bar to make it more difficult for guns to be stolen and for law enforcement to be informed.

The bottom line is that too many Floridians are killed with guns. The impact of this violence is heartbreaking and impacts our residents, tourist industry, hospitals and economy through gun trafficking, suicide, domestic violence, injury and death. I ask that you focus on the above priorities to save lives and that you don't wait.

Thank you for your time and attention,

Name Pamela Haynes
Address 9801 SW 105 Terr Miami, Fl 33157
Phone 786.547.1794

Pass gun safety laws

Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Infrastructure and Security Committee:

I am writing to thank you for your work on gun violence and to ask you to support the commonsense gun reform so **desperately** needed in our state. Based on the experiences here in Miami Dade County, I believe the following changes would be the most impactful in preventing gun violence:

1. Background checks on all gun sales

Most Florida voters support requiring background checks on all gun sales, including 89 percent of Republicans and 87 percent of gun owners. We still have not closed the unlicensed gun sale loophole which means that prohibited buyers can take advantage of this loophole and get armed illegally in person and via internet. This loophole guts the public safety impact of **all** our laws. Criminals, underage buyers and people subject to Extreme Risk Orders can simply circumvent the law and purchase a firearm from an unlicensed seller and skip a background check altogether. It is like going to TSA, skipping the line and being allowed through a side door. Crazy!

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Thank you for your time and attention,

Name Jamisha Bethel
Address 9801 SW 115 terr Miami, Fl 33157
Phone 786-942-2205

Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Background checks are essential!

Dear Infrastructure and Security Committee:

I am writing to thank you for your work on gun violence and to ask you to support the commonsense gun reform so **desperately** needed in our state. Based on the experiences here in Miami Dade County, I believe the following changes would be the most impactful in preventing gun violence:

1. Background checks on all gun sales

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From 2007 to 2017, at least 82,000 guns were reported stolen and never found in Florida. Law enforcement has said over and over that they want to know if a stolen gun is on the street. Here in Miami Dade we need solutions for our urban violence NOW – please raise the bar to make it more difficult for guns to be stolen and for law enforcement to be informed.

The bottom line is that too many Floridians are killed with guns. The impact of this violence is heartbreaking and impacts our residents, tourist industry, hospitals and economy through gun trafficking, suicide, domestic violence, injury and death. I ask that you focus on the above priorities to save lives and that you don't wait.

Thank you for your time and attention,

Name Jaylin Butler
Address 15921 SW 97 Ave
Phone (786) 712-2301

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee;

I am a Florida resident who is very concerned about my own safety and that of my family and friends. It is my understanding that you and your Committee have been tasked with reviewing hate crimes and gun violence and introducing legislation in the next session to address your findings.

Please consider the expansion of red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders. When a person is in crisis, their loved ones, not law enforcement, are often the first to see signs that they pose a threat. An expanded Extreme Risk law would allow family members to petition a court for an extreme risk protection order to temporarily remove guns from dangerous situations and prohibit the purchase or possession of firearms while the order is in effect. The law passed last year that allows law enforcement to petition the court has helped but it is not enough. Allowing family members who are more familiar with threats and dangers to petition the court directly would make all of us safer, whether we are Florida residents or visitors to our state.

Also, please consider crafting legislation that requires those convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence to surrender firearms temporarily under the same requirements as under ERPOs. In an average month, at least 52 American women are shot and killed by an intimate partner, and many more are injured. And often, the children are either harmed or also killed, and/or suffer the trauma of witnessing these events or losing both parents simultaneously. We must do more to prevent these tragedies.

These simple expanded protections will surely save the lives of many Floridians. I ask you to consider these as we attempt to be safer in our homes and communities throughout the state.

My thanks in advance for your efforts on behalf of all Floridians.

Sincerely,

Pamela Comiter

Pamela Comiter
754 Bocce Court
Palm Beach Gardens, Florida 33410

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair
Florida Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee
418 Senate Building
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Senator Lee:

As you lead the effort to consider legislation this session to prevent gun violence, including mass shootings, I write to express my support for passing a state law to require criminal background checks on all gun sales. Florida state law currently does not require background checks on unlicensed gun sales, leaving a massive loophole in place that makes it far too easy for criminals, people prohibited from having guns because of mental illness, and others with dangerous histories to get their hands on guns through private, online or gun show sales.

Fifteen states have passed laws to require background checks on all gun sales. This issue has broad bipartisan support and is a popular issue among both conservative and democratic voters. Background check laws —by point-of-sale check and/or permit— are associated with lower rates of firearm homicide, suicide and firearm trafficking. The Florida Legislature should build upon the important gun violence legislation passed following the Parkland mass shooting and pass a comprehensive background check law.

Sincerely,

Natalia Santana-Pollard
561-729-8594

September 12, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Florida Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee
418 Senate Building
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Senator Lee:

As you lead the effort to consider legislation this session to prevent gun violence, including mass shootings, I write to express my support for passing a state law to require criminal background checks on all gun sales. Florida state law currently does not require background checks on unlicensed gun sales, leaving a massive loophole in place that makes it far too easy for criminals, people prohibited from having guns because of mental illness, and others with dangerous histories to get their hands on guns through private, online or gun show sales. Fifteen states have passed laws to require background checks on all gun sales. Background check laws —by point-of-sale check and/or permit— are associated with lower rates of firearm homicide, suicide and firearm trafficking. The Florida Legislature should build upon the important gun violence legislation passed following the Parkland mass shooting and pass a comprehensive background check law.

Sincerely,

Lourdes Blanchard
4204 Wharton Way
Land O Lakes, FL 34639

Senator Tom Lee, Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
Senator Annette Taddeo, Member, Infrastructure and Security Committee
Other members of Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Sirs,
Let me tell you a little bit about my son, Jerry. He was not a great speller, a sharp dresser, a genius in school or a great athlete. But if there is one thing my son was good at, if there is one thing he excelled at – was in loving. To his friends, his family, his siblings and grandmother, his dad and to me – Jerry showered love on us. He'd text me during the day to see how my day was going and he'd call at night to wish us a good night. The call would always end with "sleep well, love you and call you tomorrow".

But on June 12, 2016, Jerry never answered my morning text. He couldn't. By that time, his body was cold, riddled with bullets and still lying in his blood on the floor of a nightclub along with 48 other innocent people. Jerry is not calling me tomorrow – or the next day or ever. ***In my life, I will never hear my son's voice again.***

In the wee hours of that Sunday, just as the club was beginning to close, a man full of hate in his heart and armed to the teeth – sneaked in with the outgoing crowd and opened fire. By the time it was over, ***even though the shooter's assault rifle jammed*** - there were 49 dead, 53 were injured and 182 were forever traumatized. My family relives our nightmare every time there is a mass shooting –and there were three major ones this past month of August!!!!

Here in Florida we have the dubious distinction of having **the second worse mass shooting**, Pulse, and **the second worse school shooting** – Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School -where seventeen students were mowed down while attending school. But mass shootings are only a tiny fraction of our American epidemic of gun deaths. On average, over one hundred Americans die daily due to gun violence. And for every death there are two people injured -often with catastrophic health issues for the rest of their lives. We have 25 times the average gun murder rate of other industrialized nations, but suicide accounts for over 60% of our gun deaths. And here in Florida, a child is shot every 17 hours and black men who are only 9% of the state population make up 53% of murder victims. We have a serious gun violence problem.

Senators, I am begging you to please take some actions now to stem this epidemic. One of the most effective steps is **background checks for ALL gun sales** because it has been found to make a difference. In states where background checks are required for **ALL gun sales** there has been substantial reduction in gun homicide, gun suicide, women shot by intimate partners, police shootings and gun trafficking. **Background checks work and they do save lives**. But here in Florida it is **not required** for private sales leaving a gaping loophole through which criminals, domestic abusers and other dangerous people can easily get guns. The internet has made this loophole even more concerning.

Limit high capacity magazines-The August 2019 Dayton, Ohio shooter used a rifle equipped with a high-capacity drum magazine capable of holding 100 rounds. Though law enforcement stopped the shooting in about 30 seconds, the shooter was able to fire dozens of shots—and kill 9 people—largely because of the magazine capacity. Over the past decade, ***the four deadliest mass shootings in America involved the use of high-capacity magazines. INLCUDING THE ONE THAT KILLED JERRY!*** In fact, 58 percent of mass shootings between 2009 and 2017 were committed with firearms equipped with high-capacity magazines. Limiting magazine capacity would make **ALL** guns less lethal.

There are many other steps – something as simple as making sure guns are securely locked up can have a huge impact. This keeps guns away from children who could unintentionally shoot themselves or someone else, makes stealing a gun much harder which in turn reduces illegal guns on our streets and can keep an adolescent from making a tragic and final decision because they are having a bad day. **Strengthening responsible storage laws, both for individuals and businesses would save lives.**

Require gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement would also make a difference - From 2007 to 2017, at least 82,000 guns were reported stolen and never found in Florida. Not knowing a gun is stolen hinders criminal investigations and law enforcement's ability to track gun-trafficking networks. Stolen gun reports also serve as a deterrent to inter-state gun-trafficking. **This is a simple measure of accountability that assists law enforcement do its job.**

Extreme Risk Protection Orders, which allows police to temporarily remove guns from someone showing danger signs, has already saved hundreds of lives since it was passed in Florida after Parkland. **Why not include family – who often are the very first to see the warning signs – to be able to solicit the orders too?** Due process is maintained as a judge makes the ultimate decision whether to extend it.

Please Senators, gun violence is an **EPIDEMIC**! Lives are destroyed and families shattered. Every moment you wait, people are dying. **People tell me they can't imagine my pain, I wish for just a moment that you could. If you did, you would do all you could to make this horror stop**.

Trusting you will do the right thing,
Yours Truly,
Maria Jose Wright
6300 Chapman Field Drive
Miami, FL 33156
305-794-6663
Mwright1960@me.com

Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee:

I am writing to you from Miami-Dade County in the hopes of letting you know what issues I would like the Florida legislature to focus on next year in terms of gun violence prevention. My priorities are as follows:

1. Background checks on all gun sales

93 percent of American voters support requiring background checks on all gun sales, including 89 percent of Republicans and 87 percent of gun owners. Florida has not closed the unlicensed sale loophole which means that felons, domestic abusers and other prohibited people cans skip a background check and get armed simply by seeking an unlicensed seller online or even at a gun show. It is like if you went to TSA to board a plane and just asked to skip the line and you were ALLOWED! It just makes no sense. An investigation found that in 2018 alone, there were nearly 1.2 million gun ads on an online gun marketplace called Armslist.com for gun sales. No background check was legally required. Research shows that prohibited people seek guns in those unlicensed gun sales at a disproportionate rate.

2. Expansion of red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders

When a person is in crisis, loved ones are usually the first to see signs that they pose a threat.

3. Require firearms dealers to notify law enforcement when a customer fails a background check

Failed attempts to purchase guns can foreshadow future criminal activity. People who fail background checks are 28 percent more likely to be arrested in the five years following the denial than in the five years before it. Law enforcement should know and WANTS to know when prohibited individuals are attempting to purchase guns.

4. Reform the concealed carry license process to give the Department of Agriculture greater discretion to deny licenses to those individuals who present a public safety threat

The legislature practically apologizes to gun owners for requiring a license to concealed carry: "The Legislature does not delegate to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services the authority to regulate or restrict the issuing of licenses provided for in this section, beyond those provisions contained in this section. Subjective or arbitrary actions or rules which encumber the issuing process by placing burdens on the applicant beyond those sworn statements and specified documents detailed in this section or which create restrictions beyond those specified in this section are in conflict with the intent of this section and are prohibited. This section shall be liberally construed to carry out the constitutional right to bear arms for self-defense. This section is supplemental and additional to existing rights to bear arms, and nothing in this section shall impair or diminish such rights." Fla. Stat. 790.06(15).

5. Require gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement

From 2007 to 2017, at least 82,000 guns were reported stolen and never found in Florida. Requiring safe storage in vehicles would go a long way to reducing these numbers.

6. Ban on assault weapons and high capacity magazines

The August 2019 Dayton, Ohio shooter used a rifle equipped with a high-capacity drum magazine capable of holding 100 rounds. Though law enforcement stopped the shooting in about 30 seconds, the shooter was able to fire dozens of shots—and kill 9 people—largely because of the magazine capacity. Over the past decade, the four deadliest mass shootings in America involved the use of high-capacity magazines. In fact, 58 percent of mass shootings between 2009 and 2017 were committed with firearms equipped with high-capacity magazines.

On behalf of my family, I urge you as a leader and steward of Florida, to take action on this issue of gun reform. We cannot risk another young life because of our inaction. thank you for taking the time to read this letter.

Sincerely,

Mike Maude
2309 SW 58th Court, Miami, FL 33155
(847) 687 - 9951

Sen. Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee,

My name is Jessica Hawk-Tillman, and I am a resident of Land O Lakes in Pasco County. As a mother of a high school sophomore, I have watched my son grow up in a country increasingly hobbled and numbed by gun violence. He was only eight when the Sandy Hook tragedy occurred. Lockdown drills are a routine part of his school year. After Parkland last year, he and I marched together in downtown Tampa, and I vowed to him that I would do everything I could to help affect change for him, and for the generations behind him. As the Chair of the Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee, you can do so much to be a part of the change that is needed. It starts with listening to your constituents, as we demand better gun laws that will ensure the safety of all Americans.

Background checks on all gun sales

93 percent of American voters support requiring background checks on all gun sales, including 89 percent of Republicans and 87 percent of gun owners. An investigation found that in 2018 alone, there were nearly 1.2 million gun ads on an online gun marketplace called Armslist.com for gun sales where no background check was legally required. And research shows that prohibited people seek guns in those unlicensed gun sales at a disproportionate rate.

Ban on assault weapons and high capacity magazines

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Expansion of red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders

When a person is in crisis, loved ones and law enforcement are often the first to see signs that they pose a threat. An Extreme Risk law allows them to petition a court for an extreme risk protection order to temporarily remove guns from dangerous situations and prohibit the purchase or possession of firearms while the order is in effect.

Reinstate the language in §30.15 that prohibited classroom teachers from serving as school guardians

A March 2018 survey of almost 500 U.S. teachers found that **73 percent** oppose proposals to arm school staff. Another survey found that **63 percent** of parents of elementary, middle, and high school students oppose arming teachers.

Require those convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence to surrender firearms
In an average month, at least 52 American women are shot and killed by an intimate partner, and many more are injured.

Require firearms dealers to notify law enforcement when a customer fails a background check
Failed attempts to purchase guns can foreshadow future criminal activity. People who fail background checks are 28 percent more likely to be arrested in the five years following the denial than in the five years before it. Law enforcement should know when prohibited individuals are attempting to purchase guns.

Require safe storage of guns in vehicles and Require gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement
From 2007 to 2017, at least 82,000 guns were reported stolen and never found in Florida.

Require safety training prior to purchasing a firearm
Gun buyers should be educated on firearm safety, including safe storage. Every year almost 350 children shoot themselves or someone else unintentionally. Most of these shootings take place inside a home where a gun was not properly secured.

Return the burden of proof for stand your ground defense to the defendant
Florida's Stand Your Ground defense, which requires the state to disprove the defense before trial, is very difficult for prosecutors to overcome.

Prohibit the printing of 3D guns
3D printed guns provide another way for individuals prohibited by law from purchasing a gun to obtain one without a background check.

Thank you for listening, and for considering these important changes in your committee.

Sincerely,

Jessica Hawk-Tillman

Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

people are dying and you are not doing your job to stop gun violence

Dear Infrastructure and Security Committee:

I am writing to thank you for your work on gun violence and to ask you to support the commonsense gun reform so **desperately** needed in our state. Based on the experiences here in Miami Dade County, I believe the following changes would be the most impactful in preventing gun violence:

1. Background checks on all gun sales

Most Florida voters support requiring background checks on all gun sales, including 89 percent of Republicans and 87 percent of gun owners. We still have not closed the unlicensed gun sale loophole which means that prohibited buyers can take advantage of this loophole and get armed illegally in person and via internet. This loophole guts the public safety impact of **all** our laws. Criminals, underage buyers and people subject to Extreme Risk Orders can simply circumvent the law and purchase a firearm from an unlicensed seller and skip a background check altogether. It is like going to TSA, skipping the line and being allowed through a side door. Crazy!

2. Ban on high capacity magazines

The August 2019 Dayton, Ohio shooter used a rifle equipped with a high-capacity drum magazine capable of holding 100 rounds. Though law enforcement stopped the shooting in about 30 seconds, the shooter was able to fire dozens of shots—and kill 9 people—largely because of the magazine capacity. Over the past decade, **the four deadliest mass shootings in America involved the use of high-capacity magazines. In fact, 58 percent of mass shootings between 2009 and 2017 were committed with firearms equipped with high-capacity magazines.** Limiting magazine capacity would make **ALL** guns less lethal.

3. Require firearms dealers to notify law enforcement when a customer fails a background check

Failed attempts to purchase guns can foreshadow future criminal activity. People who fail background checks are 28 percent more likely to be arrested in the five years following the denial than in the five years before it. Law enforcement wants to know and should know when prohibited individuals are attempting to purchase guns.

4. Expansion of red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders

When a person is in crisis, loved ones are often the first to see signs that they pose a threat to themselves or others. An Extreme Risk law allows them to petition a court for an order to temporarily remove guns from dangerous situations and prohibit the purchase or possession of firearms while the order is in effect.

5. Require gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement and make responsible storage laws stricter so stolen guns are kept off the streets.

From 2007 to 2017, at least 82,000 guns were reported stolen and never found in Florida. Law enforcement has said over and over that they want to know if a stolen gun is on the street. Here in Miami Dade we need solutions for our urban violence NOW – please raise the bar to make it more difficult for guns to be stolen and for law enforcement to be informed.

The bottom line is that too many Floridians are killed with guns. The impact of this violence is heartbreaking and impacts our residents, tourist industry, hospitals and economy through gun trafficking, suicide, domestic violence, injury and death. I ask that you focus on the above priorities to save lives and that you don't wait.

Thank you for your time and attention,

Name Mattie R. Trent
Address 11006 Pinkston Dr. #207 #10 Miami FL 331
Phone 786-317 1309

Do your job and vote!

Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Infrastructure and Security Committee:

I am writing to thank you for your work on gun violence and to ask you to support the commonsense gun reform so **desperately** needed in our state. Based on the experiences here in Miami Dade County, I believe the following changes would be the most impactful in preventing gun violence:

1. **Background checks on all gun sales**
   Most Florida voters support requiring background checks on all gun sales, including 89 percent of Republicans and 87 percent of gun owners. We still have not closed the unlicensed gun sale loophole which means that prohibited buyers can take advantage of this loophole and get armed illegally in person and via internet. This loophole guts the public safety impact of <u>all</u> our laws. Criminals, underage buyers and people subject to Extreme Risk Orders can simply circumvent the law and purchase a firearm from an unlicensed seller and skip a background check altogether. It is like going to TSA, skipping the line and being allowed through a side door. Crazy!

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Thank you for your time and attention,

Name Gail Firth
Address 11991 S.W. 209th St Mi. FL 33177
Phone 786-512-1082

Vote Now!

Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

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Thank you for your time and attention,

Name Mary E. Jones
Address 11914 S.W. 213 St. Miami, Fl. 33177
Phone 305-253-2783

September 12, 2019
The Honorable Tom Lee, Chair
Florida Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Senator Lee:

I have learned that you will be heading a committee meeting to discuss reducing gun violence in Florida. I want to urge you to support state laws that will help reduce gun violence in our state.

1. Require criminal background checks on ALL gun sales in Florida. Our state currently has large loopholes that mean dangerous criminals and people with a history of crime can purchase guns through legal methods: private, online, and/or gun show sales. Other states have already passed laws to eliminate these loopholes.
2. Repeal the current law that allows teachers to be armed. Arming teachers is overwhelmingly opposed by educators, parents and law enforcement and carries tremendous risk to students. The majority of Florida's school districts recognize this and have opted out for that reason.
3. Ban high-capacity magazines. This ban was already in place in the United States (under the Brady Bill) and it was effective. This ban reduces the magnitude of deaths in a mass shooting.
4. Expand red flag laws to allow family members to petition for extreme risk protection orders. When a person is in crisis, loved ones and law enforcement are often the first to see a threat. An Extreme Risk Protection law allows families, and not just law enforcement, to petition a court to temporarily remove guns from dangerous situations and prevent the purchase of firearms while the order is in effect

After the Parkland tragedy, the Florida Legislature passed some important laws in the effort to reduce gun violence. I encourage you to continue this important work and enact these proposals.

Sincerely,

Sara Sullivan
Oviedo, FL 32765

September 12, 2019

Senator Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee,

In advance of the Committee's upcoming hearing, I appreciate the opportunity to offer some "food for thought", and respectfully submit that there are common sense gun violence prevention laws, which the Senate can and should consider.

Mass shootings in our public places, houses of worship, schools, and workplaces, are the tragic and routine stuff of our headlines – and our nightmares. Beyond those atrocities, however, there is the body count of suicides by gun; murders by intimate partners; city gun violence; and unintentional shootings by children – so many lives cut short by guns. Those who are "merely" wounded in these incidents carry their physical and psychological scars all their lives; and the many family members and friends of victims are deeply affected also.

How do we reduce gun violence, as much as practically and legally possible? The main answer is: requiring background checks on all gun sales in Florida is likely to have the greatest effect. This idea is actually supported by an overwhelming majority of American voters, including Republicans and gun owners. The prospect of preventing the sale - without background checks - of millions of guns online, at gun shows, and by private sellers, is enormously compelling.

I also strongly support expansion of the "red flag laws", to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders ("ERPO"). This is a real time, hands-on approach to widespread problems in our society. "Mental illness" often is named as the cause, in so many shooting incidents we hear about. It follows logically, then, that a person who is demonstrating a danger to himself or others should be divested of his guns, while the ERPO is in effect .

Thank you again for your interest in receiving this input. As an educated and motivated Florida resident and an attorney, I intend to closely follow the actions of the legislature and Governor in moving towards additional common sense gun violence prevention legislation. You can do this!

Sincerely,

Maxine Derkatch, Esq.
7167 Chesapeake Circle
Boynton Beach, Palm Beach County, Florida 33436

Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee:

I am writing to you from Miami-Dade County in the hopes of letting you know what issues I would like the Florida legislature to focus on next year in terms of gun violence prevention. My priorities are as follows:

1. Background checks on all gun sales

93 percent of American voters support requiring background checks on all gun sales, including 89 percent of Republicans and 87 percent of gun owners. Florida has not closed the unlicensed sale loophole which means that felons, domestic abusers and other prohibited people cans skip a background check and get armed simply by seeking an unlicensed seller online or even at a gun show. It is like if you went to TSA to board a plane and just asked to skip the line and you were ALLOWED! It just makes no sense. An investigation found that in 2018 alone, there were nearly 1.2 million gun ads on an online gun marketplace called Armslist.com for gun sales. No background check was legally required. Research shows that prohibited people seek guns in those unlicensed gun sales at a disproportionate rate.

2. Expansion of red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders

When a person is in crisis, loved ones are usually the first to see signs that they pose a threat.

3. Require firearms dealers to notify law enforcement when a customer fails a background check

Failed attempts to purchase guns can foreshadow future criminal activity. People who fail background checks are 28 percent more likely to be arrested in the five years following the denial than in the five years before it. Law enforcement should know and WANTS to know when prohibited individuals are attempting to purchase guns.

4. Reform the concealed carry license process to give the Department of Agriculture greater discretion to deny licenses to those individuals who present a public safety threat

The legislature practically apologizes to gun owners for requiring a license to concealed carry: "The Legislature does not delegate to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services the authority to regulate or restrict the issuing of licenses provided for in this section, beyond those provisions contained in this section. Subjective or arbitrary actions or rules which encumber the issuing process by placing burdens on the applicant beyond those sworn statements and specified documents detailed in this section or which create restrictions beyond those specified in this section are in conflict with the intent of this section and are prohibited. This section shall be liberally construed to carry out the constitutional right to bear arms for self-defense. This section is supplemental and additional to existing rights to bear arms, and nothing in this section shall impair or diminish such rights." Fla. Stat. 790.06(15).

5. Require gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement

From 2007 to 2017, at least 82,000 guns were reported stolen and never found in Florida. Requiring safe storage in vehicles would go a long way to reducing these numbers.

And last, but certainly not least;

6. Ban assault weapons and high capacity magazines

The reasons for this are obvious. There is no conceivable use for such equipment other than to kill as many people as possible as quickly as possible and they should be eliminated from all but military situations.

Sincerely,

Dr. G Mackenzie
2418 country Club Prado
Coral Gables, Fl 33134
3054214812 (work)

September 12, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Florida Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee
418 Senate Building
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Senator Lee:

As you lead the effort to consider legislation this session to prevent gun violence, including mass shootings, I write to express my support for passing a state law to require criminal background checks on all gun sales. Florida state law currently does not require background checks on unlicensed gun sales, leaving a massive loophole in place that makes it far too easy for criminals, people prohibited from having guns because of mental illness, and others with dangerous histories to get their hands on guns through private, online or gun show sales. Fifteen states have passed laws to require background checks on all gun sales. Background check laws —by point-of-sale check and/or permit— are associated with lower rates of firearm homicide, suicide and firearm trafficking. The Florida Legislature should build upon the important gun violence legislation passed following the Parkland mass shooting and pass a comprehensive background check law.

Sincerely,



Anthony J. Arestia
3609 Dickens Dr, Holiday, FL 34691

September 12, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Florida Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee
418 Senate Building
Tallahassee, FL 32399

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Sincerely,

2311 Madaca Lane
Apt 203
Land O Lakes FL
34639

September 12, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Florida Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee
418 Senate Building
Tallahassee, FL 32399

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Sincerely,

Robert Blanchard

Robert Blanchard
4204 Wharton Way
Land O' Lakes, FL 34639

Sen. Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee,

I am a nursing professor living in Gainesville, Florida. I decided to take action against gun violence when, after the Parkland shooting, I googled "how to talk to your child about a school shooting". I am heartened that Florida Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee is holding meetings to discuss legislation to address this crisis.

The most effective way to reduce gun violence in Florida is to pass a law requiring background checks for all gun sales. Current law allows too many gun purchases to slip through the cracks -- it is too easy to buy a gun no questions asked, through private sales at gun shows or on an online gun marketplace. Research shows that prohibited people seek guns in those unlicensed gun sales at a disproportionate rate. The majority of gun owners agree that there should be background checks on all gun sales. They agree that this process does nothing to infringe on law abiding Americans' 2nd Amendment rights, but it does a great deal to keep guns out of the hands of dangerous people.

Thank you for the important work you are doing in this area.

Sincerely,
Patricia Clarke
Resident of Alachua County

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair
Florida Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee
418 Senate Building
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Senator Lee:

I am writing to you as a Mom, teacher and voting citizen of Florida. The gun violence in our beautiful country has now exceeded the point of crisis. We are looking to you as an elected official to help make our home safe for our children.

I have held the hand of my sweet friend as she grieved for her niece struck down in the hallway of her school. I have watched helpless, as friends mourned their loved ones who did not return from an innocent night of dancing and camaraderie. I have cried and prayed for the masses of strangers murdered with guns.

I understand those who feel concerned about the second amendment; but the key to remember is that it was put in place to protect us, not facilitate unchecked lawlessness.

I encourage you, as a leader, to promote common sense gun legislation such as:

*Background Checks on all Gun Sales
*Expand Red Flag Laws
*Ban Assault Weapons and High Capacity Magazines
*Repeal Arming Teachers Repeal Stand Your Ground
*Prohibit the Printing of 3D guns
*Require those Convicted of Misdemeanor Domestic Violence to Surrender Firearms.

I am choosing my legacy to be one of advocacy; so I can look my daughter in the eye each day knowing I'm doing all I can to protect her.

What will you choose for your legacy?

Thank you!

Peaceful Regards,

Tanya C. Stellpflug

September 12, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Florida Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee
418 Senate Building
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Senator Lee:

As you lead the effort to consider legislation this session to prevent gun violence, including mass shootings, I write to express my support for passing a state law to require criminal background checks on all gun sales. Florida state law currently does not require background checks on unlicensed gun sales, leaving a massive loophole in place that makes it far too easy for criminals, people prohibited from having guns because of mental illness, and others with dangerous histories to get their hands on guns through private, online or gun show sales. Fifteen states have passed laws to require background checks on all gun sales. Background check laws —by point-of-sale check and/or permit— are associated with lower rates of firearm homicide, suicide and firearm trafficking. The Florida Legislature should build upon the important gun violence legislation passed following the Parkland mass shooting and pass a comprehensive background check law.

Sincerely,

Walker Cook
16606 Ashwood Dr.
Tampa, FL 33624

September 12, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Florida Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee
418 Senate Building
Tallahassee, FL 32399

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As you lead the effort to consider legislation this session to prevent gun violence, including mass shootings, I write to express my support for passing a state law to require criminal background checks on all gun sales. Florida state law currently does not require background checks on unlicensed gun sales, leaving a massive loophole in place that makes it far too easy for criminals, people prohibited from having guns because of mental illness, and others with dangerous histories to get their hands on guns through private, online or gun show sales. Fifteen states have passed laws to require background checks on all gun sales. Background check laws —by point-of-sale check and/or permit— are associated with lower rates of firearm homicide, suicide and firearm trafficking. The Florida Legislature should build upon the important gun violence legislation passed following the Parkland mass shooting and pass a comprehensive background check law.

Sincerely,

Shawn A. Mills
23033 Beefeowe Pl
Land O Lake, FL 34639

680 Bear Creek Court
Winter Springs, Florida 32708
dawnbelue@me.com

September 14, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Florida Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee
418 Senate Building
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Senator Lee:

As you lead the effort to consider gun safety legislation this session, I write to express the urgency and necessity of effective gun laws to protect public safety in Florida.

We need a state law to require criminal background checks on all gun sales. Unlicensed gun sales leave a massive loophole in place that makes it far too easy for criminals, people prohibited from having guns because of mental illness, and others with dangerous histories to get their hands on guns through private, online or gun show sales. Fifteen states have passed laws to require background checks on all gun sales. Background check laws –by point-of-sale check and/or permit– are associated with lower rates of firearm homicide, suicide and firearm trafficking. This should be the centerpiece of the work.

We also need a ban on assault weapons and high capacity magazines. These weapons and tools of war have no place in civilian society. As we've seen multiple mass shootings like the one here in central Florida at Pulse, casualties skyrocket when these weapons are used. Lives are more important than hobbies. It's past time we put lives first.

Another related need is to disarm hate. Individuals convicted of hate crimes and domestic violence must be prohibited from owning firearms and required to surrender them. A violent history is the most accurate predictor of future gun violence. Let's use this knowledge to make our communities safer.

Florida constituents need effective guns to fulfill the promise of our wonderful state. These common sense measures would save countless lives. We are counting on you.

Best regards,

Dawn Belue
Seminole County Local Group Lead
Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense

September 12, 2019

Senator Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee:

As a resident of Florida, a mother, and a clinical psychologist, I am writing to you to request your support and leadership in promoting and passing common sense gun laws that will help make us safer. There are many different ways to develop smarter gun laws; at a minimum, I ask that you please discuss enacting legislation that would require background checks on all gun sales. Several times during my career as a psychologist, I have had patients explain to me that, even though they cannot pass a background check, they have easily and legally obtained guns through either a gun show or online. This is something that truly has to stop.

I also ask that you expand the red flag law that was passed last year. This law has been very helpful to me in my work as a psychologist; I have not had to actually use the law just yet, but even having the option there as a discussion point has helped me to help patients agree that it would not be safe for them to have access to a weapon. It would help if this law could be expanded to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders. When a person is in crisis, loved ones and law enforcement are often the first to see signs that they pose a threat. An Extreme Risk law allows them to petition a court for an extreme risk protection order to temporarily remove guns from dangerous situations and prohibit the purchase or possession of firearms while the order is in effect.

Thirdly, I ask that you please work to ban assault weapons and high capacity magazines. The August 2019 Dayton, Ohio shooter used a rifle equipped with a high-capacity drum magazine capable of holding 100 rounds. Though law enforcement stopped the shooting in about 30 seconds, the shooter was able to fire dozens of shots—and kill 9 people—largely because of the magazine capacity. Over the past decade, the four deadliest mass shootings in America involved the use of high-capacity magazines. In fact, 58 percent of mass shootings between 2009 and 2017 were committed with firearms equipped with high-capacity magazines.

Over 100 Americans die from gun violence every day. These deaths are tragic and preventable. No other country has rates of gun violence or deaths that even come close to what we have accepted in this country. We owe it to our loved ones and our communities to implement common sense gun laws like universal background checks and red flag laws. We owe it to them to ban military style assault weapons and high capacity magazines. We owe it to them to establish a nationwide gun licensing system; it shouldn't be easier to buy and use a gun than to drive and own a car.

Thank you for your service and I can be reached at ksmahon@gmail.com or (516)857-2429 if you have any questions or would like to discuss.

Sincerely,

Katie Mahon, PhD
19 Hope St.
Saint Augustine, Florida 32084

Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Infrastructure and Security Committee:

I am writing to thank you for your work on gun violence and to ask you to support the commonsense gun reform so **desperately** needed in our state. Based on the experiences here in Miami Dade County, I believe the following changes would be the most impactful in preventing gun violence:

1. Background checks on all gun sales

Most Florida voters support requiring background checks on all gun sales, including 89 percent of Republicans and 87 percent of gun owners. We still have not closed the unlicensed gun sale loophole which means that prohibited buyers can take advantage of this loophole and get armed illegally in person and via internet. This loophole guts the public safety impact of **all** our laws. Criminals, underage buyers and people subject to Extreme Risk Orders can simply circumvent the law and purchase a firearm from an unlicensed seller and skip a background check altogether. It is like going to TSA, skipping the line and being allowed through a side door. Crazy!

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3. Require firearms dealers to notify law enforcement when a customer fails a background check

Failed attempts to purchase guns can foreshadow future criminal activity. People who fail background checks are 28 percent more likely to be arrested in the five years following the denial than in the five years before it. Law enforcement wants to know and should know when prohibited individuals are attempting to purchase guns.

4. Expansion of red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders

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5. Require gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement and make responsible storage laws stricter so stolen guns are kept off the streets.

From 2007 to 2017, at least 82,000 guns were reported stolen and never found in Florida. Law enforcement has said over and over that they want to know if a stolen gun is on the street. Here in Miami Dade we need solutions for our urban violence NOW – please raise the bar to make it more difficult for guns to be stolen and for law enforcement to be informed.

The bottom line is that **too** many Floridians are killed with guns. The impact of this violence is heartbreaking and impacts our residents, tourist industry, hospitals and economy through gun trafficking, suicide, domestic violence, injury and death. I ask that you focus on the above priorities to save lives and that you don't wait.

Thank you for your time and attention,

Name AMALIA KLINCK-SHEARMAN
Address 7605 SW 136 ST, MIAMI, FL 33156
Phone (305)975-0444

Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

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From 2007 to 2017, at least 82,000 guns were reported stolen and never found in Florida. Law enforcement has said over and over that they want to know if a stolen gun is on the street. Here in Miami Dade we need solutions for our urban violence NOW – please raise the bar to make it more difficult for guns to be stolen and for law enforcement to be informed.

The bottom line is that **too** many Floridians are killed with guns. The impact of this violence is heartbreaking and impacts our residents, tourist industry, hospitals and economy through gun trafficking, suicide, domestic violence, injury and death. I ask that you focus on the above priorities to save lives and that you don't wait.

Thank you for your time and attention,

Name WILLIAM KLINCK-SHEARMAN
Address 7605 SW 136 ST, MIAMI, FL 33156
Phone (305)975-0444

n. Tom Lee
air, Infrastructure and Security
e Florida Senate
3 Senate Building
4 South Monroe Street
la ssee, FL 32399-1100

ar Senator Lee,

n writing this letter to you as a mom of two boys and as an American voter and citizen. I live in Tampa rida.

o not wish to rehash gun violence statistics. You already know the numbers and even if we did want to ıse this sin from our collective public memory, we cannot ....as there is a new act every few days.

place is safe.

ease read the above sentence again and let this be a chilling reminder of what we face in our day to da es. A second amendment right which talks about the "right to bear arms" actually strips away the right op, play, watch a movie, a concert and be a student.

o(t have the words to formulate instructions to give my sons on how to protect themselves from an ive shooter, do you? Or get them into the habit of watching over their shoulders or always know wher nearest exit is or hear an anecdote from yet another routine active shooter drill.

ıe federal government is playing partisan politics and playing with our lives, Florida should lead the w should we wait for another Parkland?

ease consider the following gun reforms:

1. Background checks on all gun sales.
2. Ban on assault weapons and high capacity magazines.
3. Expansion of red flag laws.
4. Reinstate the language in §30.15 that prohibited classroom teachers from serving as s guardians.
5. Require those convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence to surrender firearms.
6. Prohibit concealed carry licensees from carrying firearms in additional sensitive places, su daycares, public playgrounds, and at public demonstrations.
7. Return the burden of proof for stand your ground defense to the defendant.

(

ıcerely,

Renu Khode

September 12, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee;

Thank you for your work and ongoing concern for the health and safety of all Floridians. I am a Florida resident who is very concerned about my own safety and that of my family and friends. It is my understanding that you and your Committee have been tasked with reviewing hate crimes and gun violence and introducing legislation in the next session to address your findings. Following, please find 3 areas that I ask you to consider.

First, please consider the expansion of red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders. When a person is in crisis, their loved ones, not law enforcement, are often the first to see signs that they pose a threat. An expanded Extreme Risk law would allow family members to petition a court for an extreme risk protection order to temporarily remove guns from dangerous situations and prohibit the purchase or possession of firearms while the order is in effect. The law passed last year that allows law enforcement to petition the court has helped but it is not enough. Allowing family members who are more familiar with threats and dangers to petition the court directly would make all of us safer, whether we are Florida residents or visitors to our state.

Also, please consider crafting legislation that requires those convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence to surrender firearms temporarily under the same requirements as under ERPOs. In an average month, at least 52 American women are shot and killed by an intimate partner, and many more are injured. And often, the children are either harmed or also killed, and/or suffer the trauma of witnessing these events or losing both parents simultaneously. We must do more to prevent these tragedies.

Third, please consider requiring background checks on every firearm purchase in the State of Florida – Over 90% of Americans support requiring background checks on all gun sales. An investigation found that in 2018 alone, there were nearly 1.2 million firearm ads on an online gun marketplace called Armslist.com for gun sales where no background check was legally required. And research shows that prohibited people seek guns in those unlicensed gun sales at a disproportionate rate. We must address these so called loopholes. In order for this to work properly, background checks need to be required on every gun sale.

I worked as a teacher for many years before retiring. Active shooter drills break my heart. I am devastated that this is what my grandchildren are faced with. We need to do more. The majority of Floridians want more. It is time for our Florida State Legislators to step up and listen to the voting public. We should not dread sending our children to school, or the movies, the Mall or even grocery shopping. Enough. More guns is not the answer. Thank you in advance for helping to keep us safe.

Sincerely,

Signed: Elizabeth R Romfh

Name: Elizabeth R Romfh

Full Address: 167 Waterford Dr, Jupiter, FL. 33458

Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Members of the Infrastructure and Security Committee:

I am writing to you from Miami-Dade County in the hopes of letting you know what issues I would like the Florida legislature to focus on next year in terms of gun violence prevention. My priorities are as follows:

1. Background checks on all gun sales! No more loop-holes please.

93 percent of American voters support requiring background checks on all gun sales, including 89 percent of Republicans and 87 percent of gun owners. Florida has not closed the unlicensed sale loophole which means that felons, domestic abusers and other prohibited people cans skip a background check and get armed simply by seeking an unlicensed seller online or even at a gun show. It is like if you went to TSA to board a plane and just asked to skip the line and you were ALLOWED! It just makes no sense. An investigation found that in 2018 alone, there were nearly 1.2 million gun ads on an online gun marketplace called Armslist.com for gun sales. No background check was legally required. Research shows that prohibited people seek guns in those unlicensed gun sales at a disproportionate rate.

2. Expansion of red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders

When a person is in crisis, loved ones are usually the first to see signs that they pose a threat.

3. Require firearms dealers to notify law enforcement when a customer fails a background check

Failed attempts to purchase guns can foreshadow future criminal activity. People who fail background checks are 28 percent more likely to be arrested in the five years following the denial than in the five years before it. Law enforcement should know and WANTS to know when prohibited individuals are attempting to purchase guns.

4. Reform the concealed carry license process to give the Department of Agriculture greater discretion to deny licenses to those individuals who present a public safety threat

The legislature practically apologizes to gun owners for requiring a license to concealed carry: "The Legislature does not delegate to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services the authority to regulate or restrict the issuing of licenses provided for in this

section, beyond those provisions contained in this section. Subjective or arbitrary actions or rules which encumber the issuing process by placing burdens on the applicant beyond those sworn statements and specified documents detailed in this section or which create restrictions beyond those specified in this section are in conflict with the intent of this section and are prohibited. This section shall be liberally construed to carry out the constitutional right to bear arms for self-defense. This section is supplemental and additional to existing rights to bear arms, and nothing in this section shall impair or diminish such rights." Fla. Stat. 790.06(15).

5. Require gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement

From 2007 to 2017, at least 82,000 guns were reported stolen and never found in Florida. Requiring safe storage in vehicles would go a long way to reducing these numbers.

On behalf of my South Florida family, I urge you as a leader and steward of Florida, to take action on this issue of gun reform. We cannot risk another life because of our inaction. Thank you for taking the time to read this letter.

Sincerely,

Estrella Malca

Estrella Malca
218 SE 14 ST, Miami, FL 33131
305-546-9526

Douglas A. Hahn

2076 West Forest Drive

Tallahassee, Florida 32302-5113

Senator Tom Lee

Chair, Infrastructure and Security

The Florida Senate

418 Senate Building

404 South Monroe Street

Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100

13 September 2019

Dear Senator Lee

I will be attending Monday's hearing by the Infrastructure Committee concerning "Mass Attacks and Targeted Violence". I will bring my neighbor with me to listen to all the proposals. This is a critical concern for us, as we live in the Glendale neighborhood of Tallahassee.

Last November, our neighbor on Forest Drive, Dr. Nancy Van Vessem, and Maura Binkley, a FSU student, were randomly targeted as women and brutally shot to death.

Also, here in Florida, we had the indiscriminate murder seventeen students and teachers at the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, and forty-nine at the Pulse nightclub.

As of August 31, 2019, 297 mass shootings have occurred in 2019. This averages out to 1.2 shootings per day. In these shootings, 1,219 people were injured and 335 died, for a total of 1,554 victims

These mass killings must end now.

We must first start by expanding background check requirements for all gun sales and implementing Extreme Risk Protection Order legislation to protect the vulnerable and innocent, especially women and children.

We must eliminate the casual possession of assault weapons, both in Florida and in our nation. Data from the 15 years following the federal assault weapon ban (1994 – 2004) now provide stronger evidence that permitting the gun industry to flood the market with increasingly powerful weapons that allow for faster killing has facilitated exactly that

outcome. In the decade after the ban, there was a 347 percent increase in fatalities in gun massacres, even as overall violent crime continued downward. With increasingly potent and readily available weaponry, the average number of people who die in a gun massacre has increased by 81 percent in just five years. Assault weapons were used in at least 11 of the 15 gun massacres since 2014; at least 234 of the 271 people who died in gun massacres since 2014 were killed by weapons prohibited under the federal assault weapons ban. *(Source: NY Times, Sept. 4, 2019)*

We must take a hard look at the tragic outcomes from Florida's concealed carry and "stand your ground" laws, and the misguided legislative approval to arm teachers and administrators with firearms in the classroom.

Thank you or considering my concerns. Let us work together to end the gun violence so prevalent in our state and nation.

Douglas A. Hahn

September 13, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee;

Thank you for your work and ongoing concern for the health and safety of all Floridians. As you and the Committee move forward with discussion and creation of legislation that will address hate crimes and gun violence, please consider the following.

Since retirement of the federal ban on assault weapons in 1994, we have seen a drastic increase in the number of deaths associated with mass shootings. While we cannot presume that the rise in incidents can be attributed to assault weapons, we can say with all certainty that more deaths occur per incident when assault weapons are involved. Most recently, the Dayton Ohio shooter used a high-capacity drum magazine holding 100 rounds. Although law enforcement quickly intervened to stop the shooting, within 30 seconds 9 people had been shot and killed, largely due to the magazine capacity. Thus, while a ban on assault weapons may not impact the frequency of mass shootings, it would certainly help to decrease the number of deaths.

In the area of gun safety, please improve the safety standards associated with the training that is required prior to the purchase of a firearm. From 2014 through today, across America, 1,296 children have been killed or injured by guns. Many of these incidents result from accidents associated with the failure of the owner to safely store a weapon. While today's reality may require that we as parents ask whether there is a gun in the house each time we organize a play date, it's imperative that we be assured that those guns are safely stored.

As always, my thanks for your consideration dedication to safeguarding all Floridians.

Sincerely,
Jane Torres
600 Grapetree Drive
Key Biscayne, Fl. 33149

Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Infrastructure and Security Committee:

I am writing to thank you for your work on gun violence and to ask you to support the commonsense gun reform so **desperately** needed in our state. Based on the experiences here in Miami Dade County, I believe the following changes would be the most impactful in preventing gun violence:

1. Background checks on all gun sales

Most Florida voters support requiring background checks on all gun sales, including 89 percent of Republicans and 87 percent of gun owners. We still have not closed the unlicensed gun sale loophole which means that prohibited buyers can take advantage of this loophole and get armed illegally in person and via internet. This loophole guts the public safety impact of **all** our laws. Criminals, underage buyers and people subject to Extreme Risk Orders can simply circumvent the law and purchase a firearm from an unlicensed seller and skip a background check altogether. It is like going to TSA, skipping the line and being allowed through a side door. Crazy!

2. Ban on high capacity magazines

The August 2019 Dayton, Ohio shooter used a rifle equipped with a high-capacity drum magazine capable of holding 100 rounds. Though law enforcement stopped the shooting in about 30 seconds, the shooter was able to fire dozens of shots—and kill 9 people—largely because of the magazine capacity. Over the past decade, **the four deadliest mass shootings in America involved the use of high-capacity magazines. In fact, 58 percent of mass shootings between 2009 and 2017 were committed with firearms equipped with high-capacity magazines.** Limiting magazine capacity would make **ALL** guns less lethal.

3. Require firearms dealers to notify law enforcement when a customer fails a background check

Failed attempts to purchase guns can foreshadow future criminal activity. People who fail background checks are 28 percent more likely to be arrested in the five years following the denial than in the five years before it. Law enforcement wants to know and should know when prohibited individuals are attempting to purchase guns.

4. Expansion of red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders

When a person is in crisis, loved ones are often the first to see signs that they pose a threat to themselves or others. An Extreme Risk law allows them to petition a court for an order to temporarily remove guns from dangerous situations and prohibit the purchase or possession of firearms while the order is in effect.

5. Require gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement and make responsible storage laws stricter so stolen guns are kept off the streets.

From 2007 to 2017, at least 82,000 guns were reported stolen and never found in Florida. Law enforcement has said over and over that they want to know if a stolen gun is on the street. Here in Miami Dade we need solutions for our urban violence NOW – please raise the bar to make it more difficult for guns to be stolen and for law enforcement to be informed.

The bottom line is that **too** many Floridians are killed with guns. The impact of this violence is heartbreaking and impacts our residents, tourist industry, hospitals and economy through gun trafficking, suicide, domestic violence, injury and death. I ask that you focus on the above priorities to save lives and that you don't wait.

Thank you for your time and attention,

Alexandra Bado
3301 NE 1st Ave #2815
Miami, FL 33137

(305) 607 -3310

Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Infrastructure and Security Committee:

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Thank you for your time and attention,

Name Lourdes del Ugo
Address 11160 SW 93 ave, miami, FL 33176
Phone 786-251-9489

Lourdes del Ugo

9/12/19

The Honorable Tom Lee

Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee

The Florida Senate

418 Senate Building

404 South Monroe Street

Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee;

I am a Florida resident who is very concerned about my own safety and that of my family and friends. It is my understanding that you and your Committee have been tasked with reviewing hate crimes and gun violence and introducing legislation in the next session to address your findings.

Please consider the expansion of red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders. When a person is in crisis, their loved ones, not law enforcement, are often the first to see signs that they pose a threat. An expanded Extreme Risk law would allow family members to petition a court for an extreme risk protection order to temporarily remove guns from dangerous situations and prohibit the purchase or possession of firearms while the order is in effect. The law passed last year that allows law enforcement to petition the court has helped but it is not enough. Allowing family members who are more familiar with threats and dangers to petition the court directly would make all of us safer, whether we are Florida residents or visitors to our state.

Also, please consider crafting legislation that requires those convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence to surrender firearms temporarily under the same requirements as under ERPOs. In an average month, at least 52 American women are shot and killed by an intimate partner, and many more are injured. And often, the children are either harmed or also killed, and/or suffer the trauma of witnessing these events or losing both parents simultaneously. We must do more to prevent these tragedies.

These simple expanded protections will surely save the lives of many Floridians. I ask you to consider these as we attempt to be safer in our homes and communities throughout the state.

My thanks in advance for your efforts on behalf of all Floridians.

Sincerely,

Signed:

Name: (typed or printed) Cipriano G. Acosta

Full Address: 8899 NW 107th Ct Unit 214 Doral, FL, 33178

Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Infrastructure and Security Committee:

I am writing to thank you for your work on gun violence and to ask you to support the commonsense gun reform so **desperately** needed in our state. Based on the experiences here in Miami Dade County, I believe the following changes would be the most impactful in preventing gun violence:

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2. Ban on high capacity magazines

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Thank you for your time and attention,

Name Carlos A. Saavedra
Address 559 NE 34 ST #1408
Phone 786-282-0560



Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Infrastructure and Security Committee:

I am writing to thank you for your work on gun violence and to ask you to support the commonsense gun reform so **desperately** needed in our state. Based on the experiences here in Miami Dade County, I believe the following changes would be the most impactful in preventing gun violence:

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Thank you for your time and attention,

Name Sarah Ward
Address 18215 SW 102 Ave
Phone 786-556-5329

Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

End gun violence now!

Dear Infrastructure and Security Committee:

I am writing to thank you for your work on gun violence and to ask you to support the commonsense gun reform so **desperately** needed in our state. Based on the experiences here in Miami Dade County, I believe the following changes would be the most impactful in preventing gun violence:

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Thank you for your time and attention,

Name Cynthia Tillman
Address 27925 SW 132 ave Homestead, FL 33032
Phone 786-601-7422

Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Infrastructure and Security Committee:

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Thank you for your time and attention,

Name Mary Porter
Address 15921 S.W 97th Ave
Phone 305 200-6792

Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Vote Now

Dear Infrastructure and Security Committee:

I am writing to thank you for your work on gun violence and to ask you to support the commonsense gun reform so **desperately** needed in our state. Based on the experiences here in Miami Dade County, I believe the following changes would be the most impactful in preventing gun violence:

1. Background checks on all gun sales

Most Florida voters support requiring background checks on all gun sales, including 89 percent of Republicans and 87 percent of gun owners. We still have not closed the unlicensed gun sale loophole which means that prohibited buyers can take advantage of this loophole and get armed illegally in person and via internet. This loophole guts the public safety impact of **all** our laws. Criminals, underage buyers and people subject to Extreme Risk Orders can simply circumvent the law and purchase a firearm from an unlicensed seller and skip a background check altogether. It is like going to TSA, skipping the line and being allowed through a side door. Crazy!

2. Ban on high capacity magazines

The August 2019 Dayton, Ohio shooter used a rifle equipped with a high-capacity drum magazine capable of holding 100 rounds. Though law enforcement stopped the shooting in about 30 seconds, the shooter was able to fire dozens of shots—and kill 9 people—largely because of the magazine capacity. Over the past decade, **the four deadliest mass shootings in America involved the use of high-capacity magazines. In fact, 58 percent of mass shootings between 2009 and 2017 were committed with firearms equipped with high-capacity magazines.** Limiting magazine capacity would make **ALL** guns less lethal.

3. Require firearms dealers to notify law enforcement when a customer fails a background check

Failed attempts to purchase guns can foreshadow future criminal activity. People who fail background checks are 28 percent more likely to be arrested in the five years following the denial than in the five years before it. Law enforcement wants to know and should know when prohibited individuals are attempting to purchase guns.

4. Expansion of red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders

When a person is in crisis, loved ones are often the first to see signs that they pose a threat to themselves or others. An Extreme Risk law allows them to petition a court for an order to temporarily remove guns from dangerous situations and prohibit the purchase or possession of firearms while the order is in effect.

5. Require gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement and make responsible storage laws stricter so stolen guns are kept off the streets.

From 2007 to 2017, at least 82,000 guns were reported stolen and never found in Florida. Law enforcement has said over and over that they want to know if a stolen gun is on the street. Here in Miami Dade we need solutions for our urban violence NOW – please raise the bar to make it more difficult for guns to be stolen and for law enforcement to be informed.

The bottom line is that **too** many Floridians are killed with guns. The impact of this violence is heartbreaking and impacts our residents, tourist industry, hospitals and economy through gun trafficking, suicide, domestic violence, injury and death. I ask that you focus on the above priorities to save lives and that you don't wait.

Thank you for your time and attention,

Name Theron, Edwards
Address 9801 SW 165th Terr
Phone

Enough is Enough

Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
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Thank you for your time and attention,

Name Larose Brown
Address 10235 sw 152nd st
Phone 786-290-9147

Stop Oil : Water

Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

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Thank you for your time and attention,

Name Lareat Brown
Address 14831 sw 103rd place
Phone 305-219-6825

September 12, 2019

Senator Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee,

In advance of the Committee's hearing to consider gun violence prevention legislation, I primarily am writing to request a ban on assault weapons and high capacity magazines.

The horrific death toll from mass shootings has shaken our country to its core. The plain truth is that none of us feels safe – or, IS safe – in any public place. In the wake of the recent mass shootings at a garlic festival; a Walmart; and an Ohio downtown nightspot, a survey of 2000 people by the American Psychological Association and the Harris Poll, found that 1/3 of them have such great fear of mass shootings, that they avoid going to certain places and events. Mass shootings have become a frequent and nightmarish feature of life in this country. Wielding these weapons of war, shooters are changing the way we live, for the worse. That is sad, tragic, and WRONG, and you have the ability to change that reality, in our state.

In addition, the deadliest mass shootings involve the use of high capacity magazines. In August 2019, the shooter used a rifle equipped with a high-capacity drum magazine capable of holding 100 rounds. How horrifying, that although law enforcement courageously stopped the shooter within 30 seconds – 30 seconds! – the shooter was able to fire dozens of shots and kill 9 people, due to the capacity of the magazine of his weapon.

Civilians who are not in law enforcement DO NOT NEED these weapons of war – not the assault weapon, and not the high capacity magazines. They are designed and engineered to kill the most people, in the fastest possible time. They should be banned. Please do something!

Respectfully,

Martin Milgrim
7167 Chesapeake Circle
Boynton Beach, Palm Beach County, Florida 33436

Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

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Thank you for your time and attention,

Name Ana Mercedes Torres
Address 25168 SW 113 Pl. Miami FL 33032
Phone 786 443 3120

Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
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Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

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Thank you for your time and attention,

Name M Cecilia Cornuel
Address 4712 NW 84 CT Doral FL 33178
Phone 786-316-5185

Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

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Thank you for your time and attention,

Name Elizabeth Morales Moreira Elizabeth Morales
Address 11219 NW 57th LN.
Phone 786 267 5338

9/12/19

The Honorable Tom Lee

Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee

The Florida Senate

418 Senate Building

404 South Monroe Street

Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee;

I am a Florida resident who is very concerned about my own safety and that of my family and friends. It is my understanding that you and your Committee have been tasked with reviewing hate crimes and gun violence and introducing legislation in the next session to address your findings.

Please consider the expansion of red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders. When a person is in crisis, their loved ones, not law enforcement, are often the first to see signs that they pose a threat. An expanded Extreme Risk law would allow family members to petition a court for an extreme risk protection order to temporarily remove guns from dangerous situations and prohibit the purchase or possession of firearms while the order is in effect. The law passed last year that allows law enforcement to petition the court has helped but it is not enough. Allowing family members who are more familiar with threats and dangers to petition the court directly would make all of us safer, whether we are Florida residents or visitors to our state.

Also, please consider crafting legislation that requires those convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence to surrender firearms temporarily under the same requirements as under ERPOs. In an average month, at least 52 American women are shot and killed by an intimate partner, and many more are injured. And often, the children are either harmed or also killed, and/or suffer the trauma of witnessing these events or losing both parents simultaneously. We must do more to prevent these tragedies.

These simple expanded protections will surely save the lives of many Floridians. I ask you to consider these as we attempt to be safer in our homes and communities throughout the state.

My thanks in advance for your efforts on behalf of all Floridians.

Sincerely,

Signed: Ariam Fernandez

Name: (typed or printed) Ariam Fernandez

Full Address: 25168 SW 113 PL 33032

(Date)

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee,

As the Infrastructure and Security Committee focuses on ways to address gun violence and hate crimes during its September meeting(s), my family and I are asking you to consider these priorities:

1) **Require a background checks on every firearm purchase in the State of Florida** - Over 90% of Americans support requiring background checks on all gun sales. An investigation found that in 2018 alone, there were nearly 1.2 million firearm ads on an online gun marketplace called Armslist.com for gun sales where no background check was legally required. And research shows that prohibited people seek guns in those unlicensed gun sales at a disproportionate rate.

2) **Require the timely reporting of criminal and mental health records to NICS** - Hundreds of thousands of prohibiting criminal and mental health records are missing from the NICS background check system, potentially enabling prohibited people to pass a background check. This is a critical fail that is required to be fixed in order to make background check legislation effective. Legislation to make this reporting mandatory will make us safer.

3) **Require gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement** - From 2007 to 2017, at least 82,000 guns were reported stolen and never found in Florida. Not knowing a gun is stolen hinders criminal investigations and law enforcement's ability to track gun-trafficking networks. Stolen gun reports also serve as a deterrent to inter-state gun-trafficking. This is a simple measure of accountability that assists law enforcement do its job.

These three (3) proposals would have a positive effect in making Florida safer and would not diminish Florida residents' rights under the 2nd Amendment. It's a win-win for all of us. Please give them strong consideration.

Thank you for helping to keep us safe.

Sincerely,

Signed: Pablo Yushiz

Name: (typed or printed) Pablo Yushiz

Full Address: 8400 NW 115 PL
Doral, FL 33178

9/12/19

The Honorable Tom Lee

Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee

The Florida Senate

418 Senate Building

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Sincerely,

Signed:

Name: (typed or printed) Erika Schell

Full Address: 3991 Adva Ave
Doral FL 33178

Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
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Thank you for your time and attention,

Name Alex Altuve
Address 6131 NW 107 Ct Doral FL 33178
Phone 786 781 4634

September 13, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

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These three (3) proposals would have a positive effect in making Florida safer and would not diminish Florida residents' rights under the 2nd Amendment. My two daughters were at MSD on 2/14/2019. My younger daughter, 14 at the time, experienced trauma far beyond what our service men and women experience in the most intense battles, including losing several friends who died around her. She currently struggles with PTSD and major depression. Part of her struggle includes an inability to comprehend how our lawmakers do not pass laws that reflect the will of the people, as the overwhelming majority of American support the above initiatives.

Please help to restore democracy, teach our children that American cares for them, and keep us all a little bit safer from gun violence.

Sincerely,

Nicole Cook
7037 Suffolk Lane
Parkland, Fl 33067

Associate Professor,
Public Health.
Nova Southeastern
University.
Fort Lauderdale, Fl

(Date)

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Thank you for helping to keep us safe.

Sincerely, Sonia Ferrufino Ramirez.

Signed: [signature].

Name: (typed or printed) Sonia Ferrufino Ramirez

Full Address: 3750 Estepona Ave
Doral Florida 33178

(Date)

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee,

As the Infrastructure and Security Committee focuses on ways to address gun violence and hate crimes during its September meeting(s), my family and I are asking you to consider these priorities:

1) **Require a background checks on every firearm purchase in the State of Florida** - Over 90% of Americans support requiring background checks on all gun sales. An investigation found that in 2018 alone, there were nearly 1.2 million firearm ads on an online gun marketplace called Armslist.com for gun sales where no background check was legally required. And research shows that prohibited people seek guns in those unlicensed gun sales at a disproportionate rate.

2) **Require the timely reporting of criminal and mental health records to NICS** - Hundreds of thousands of prohibiting criminal and mental health records are missing from the NICS background check system, potentially enabling prohibited people to pass a background check. This is a critical fail that is required to be fixed in order to make background check legislation effective. Legislation to make this reporting mandatory will make us safer.

3) **Require gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement** - From 2007 to 2017, at least 82,000 guns were reported stolen and never found in Florida. Not knowing a gun is stolen hinders criminal investigations and law enforcement's ability to track gun-trafficking networks. Stolen gun reports also serve as a deterrent to inter-state gun-trafficking. This is a simple measure of accountability that assists law enforcement do its job.

These three (3) proposals would have a positive effect in making Florida safer and would not diminish Florida residents' rights under the 2nd Amendment. It's a win-win for all of us. Please give them strong consideration.

Thank you for helping to keep us safe.

Sincerely,

Signed: Lorena Ubarneta

Name: (typed or printed) Lorena Ubarneta

Full Address: 3124 NW 101 St Doral FL 33172

Sen. Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee:
My name is Stephanie Lane, and I am a member of Moms Demand Action, an organization dedicated to promoting responsible gun ownership laws. As the mother of two school-age daughters, not a day goes by that I do not think about their safety. The ever-increasing number of mass shootings prompted me to find ways that I could help make sure my daughters do not become victims of these tragic, senseless shootings. Moms Demand Action members share my concerns, along my desire for common-sense solutions to gun violence. Our legislative priorities are listed below for your reference.

Background checks on all gun sales[1]

93 percent of American voters support requiring background checks on all gun sales, including 89 percent of Republicans and 87 percent of gun owners. An investigation found that in 2018 alone, there were nearly 1.2 million gun ads on an online gun marketplace called Armslist.com for gun sales where no background check was legally required. And research shows that prohibited people seek guns in those unlicensed gun sales at a disproportionate rate.

Ban on assault weapons and high capacity magazines[2]

The August 2019 Dayton, Ohio shooter used a rifle equipped with a high-capacity drum magazine capable of holding 100 rounds. Though law enforcement stopped the shooting in about 30 seconds, the shooter was able to fire dozens of shots—and kill 9 people—largely because of the magazine capacity. Over the past decade, the four deadliest mass shootings in America involved the use of high-capacity magazines. In fact, 58 percent of mass shootings between 2009 and 2017 were committed with firearms equipped with high-capacity magazines.[5]

Expansion of red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders[3]

When a person is in crisis, loved ones and law enforcement are often the first to see signs that they pose a threat. An Extreme Risk law allows them to petition a court for an extreme risk protection order to temporarily remove guns from dangerous situations and prohibit the purchase or possession of firearms while the order is in effect.

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[1] https://everytownresearch.org/background-checks-save-lives-protect-communities/
[2] https://everytown.org/learn/h-r-1186-prohibiting-high-capacity-magazines-would-reduce-the-devastation-of-gun-violence/
[3] https://everytownresearch.org/extreme-risk-laws/

Reinstate the language in §30.15 that prohibited classroom teachers from serving as school guardians[4]

A March 2018 survey of almost 500 U.S. teachers found that 73 percent oppose proposals to arm school staff. Another survey found that 63 percent of parents of elementary, middle, and high school students oppose arming teachers.

Reform the concealed carry license process to give the Department of Agriculture greater discretion to deny licenses to those individuals who present a public safety threat[5]

The legislature practically apologizes to gun owners for requiring a license to concealed carry: "The Legislature does not delegate to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services the authority to regulate or restrict the issuing of licenses provided for in this section, beyond those provisions contained in this section. Subjective or arbitrary actions or rules which encumber the issuing process by placing burdens on the applicant beyond those sworn statements and specified documents detailed in this section or which create restrictions beyond those specified in this section are in conflict with the intent of this section and are prohibited. This section shall be liberally construed to carry out the constitutional right to bear arms for self-defense. This section is supplemental and additional to existing rights to bear arms, and nothing in this section shall impair or diminish such rights." Fla. Stat. 790.06(15).

Require those convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence to surrender firearms[6]

In an average month, at least 52 American women are shot and killed by an intimate partner, and many more are injured.

Require firearms dealers to notify law enforcement when a customer fails a background check[7]

Failed attempts to purchase guns can foreshadow future criminal activity. People who fail background checks are 28 percent more likely to be arrested in the five years following the denial than in the five years before it. Law enforcement should know when prohibited individuals are attempting to purchase guns.

Prohibit concealed carry licensees from carrying firearms in additional sensitive places, such as daycares, public playgrounds, and at public demonstrations[8]

Florida's list of "sensitive" places is fairly small, and despite the NRA talking point, data from 2009-2016 shows that only 10 percent of the 156 mass shootings during that period happened in a "gun free zone."

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[4] https://everytownresearch.org/arming-teachers-introduces-new-risks-into-schools/
[5] https://www.freshfromflorida.com/Consumer-Resources/Concealed-Weapon-License/Applying-for-a-Concealed-Weapon-License/Eligibility-Requirements
[6] https://everytownresearch.org/reports/guns-violence-women-americas-uniquely-lethal-domestic-violence-problem/
[7] https://www.thetrace.org/2018/03/florida-lie-and-try-loophole-background-check-denials/
[8] https://www.freshfromflorida.com/Consumer-Resources/Concealed-Weapon-License/Possession-Restrictions

Require safe storage of guns in vehicles and Require gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement[9]

From 2007 to 2017, at least 82,000 guns were reported stolen and never found in Florida.

Require safety training prior to purchasing a firearm[10]

Gun buyers should be educated on firearm safety, including safe storage. Every year almost 350 children shoot themselves or someone else unintentionally. Most of these shootings take place inside a home where a gun was not properly secured.

Require the timely reporting of criminal and mental health records to NICS[11]

Hundreds of thousands of prohibiting mental health records are missing from the NICS background check system, potentially enabling prohibited people to pass a background check.

Repeal preemption[12]

Efforts by municipalities to regulate where guns can be carried and fired have been struck down on the basis of Florida's preemption statute.

Return the burden of proof for stand your ground defense to the defendant[13]

Florida's Stand Your Ground defense, which requires the state to disprove the defense before trial, is very difficult for prosecutors to overcome.

Prohibit the printing of 3D guns[14]

3d Printed guns provide another way for individuals prohibited by law from purchasing a gun to obtain one without a background check.

Thank you for your consideration regarding our concerns. Our organization looks forward to working with you in the upcoming legislative session.

Regards,
Stephanie Lane

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[9] https://projects.tampabay.com/projects/2017/special-report/unlocked-loaded/stolen-guns/
[10] https://everytownresearch.org/secure-storage/
[11] https://everytownresearch.org/reports/fatal-gaps-mental-health-records/
[12] https://everytownresearch.org/fact-sheet-preemption-laws/
[13] https://slate.com/news-and-politics/2019/01/florida-stand-your-ground-law-just-got-way-worse.html
[14] https://www.npr.org/2019/02/14/694641578/texas-man-with-3d-printed-gun-and-hit-list-of-lawmakers-sentenced-to-8-years

Senator Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, TL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee,

First, I'd like to thank you and your committee for working to improve Florida by addressing the intersection of hate and gun violence here in our beautiful state.

I'm a retired public school teacher with almost 30 years of service to our children, this community, and our state. I am also the mother of a public school literacy coach here in Brevard County, and the grandmother of 4. I'd like to address some of the issues that affect all children that you will cover in your meetings.

First are background checks. We need to require background checks on ***all*** gun sales and there are many, many people who agree with me. In fact, 93 % of American voters support requiring these checks on all gun sales, and this includes 89% of Republicans and 87% of gun owners. Thank you in advance for getting background checks for person to person sales and gun show sales, and any other loopholes taken care of.

I'm also very concerned about assault weapons and high capacity magazines. The only people who need these guns are our military and our police and sheriff departments. These weapons do tremendous damage in such a very short period of time.

And my last plea to you is that you will work to repeal the portion of the Marjorie Stoneman Douglas act that allows classroom teachers to be armed. There is evidence that the more guns you have in an area the more likelihood of a gun accident. Many teachers do not want this in their schools. I have talked to many and none have been in support of this. We need more trained SRO's who have had much more experience than that that the teachers would be given.

Please consider my thoughts. I am happy to discuss them further with you.

Louise H. Malpass
4350 Crooked Mile Road
Merritt Island, FL 32952
lhmalpass@gmail.com

Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Infrastructure and Security Committee:

I am writing to thank you for your work on gun violence and to ask you to support the commonsense gun reform so **desperately** needed in our state. Based on the experiences here in Miami Dade County, I believe the following changes would be the most impactful in preventing gun violence:

1. Background checks on all gun sales

Most Florida voters support requiring background checks on all gun sales, including 89 percent of Republicans and 87 percent of gun owners. We still have not closed the unlicensed gun sale loophole which means that prohibited buyers can take advantage of this loophole and get armed illegally in person and via internet. This loophole guts the public safety impact of **all** our laws. Criminals, underage buyers and people subject to Extreme Risk Orders can simply circumvent the law and purchase a firearm from an unlicensed seller and skip a background check altogether. It is like going to TSA, skipping the line and being allowed through a side door. Crazy!

2. Ban on high capacity magazines

The August 2019 Dayton, Ohio shooter used a rifle equipped with a high-capacity drum magazine capable of holding 100 rounds. Though law enforcement stopped the shooting in about 30 seconds, the shooter was able to fire dozens of shots—and kill 9 people—largely because of the magazine capacity. Over the past decade, **the four deadliest mass shootings in America involved the use of high-capacity magazines. In fact, 58 percent of mass shootings between 2009 and 2017 were committed with firearms equipped with high-capacity magazines.** Limiting magazine capacity would make **ALL** guns less lethal.

3. Require firearms dealers to notify law enforcement when a customer fails a background check

Failed attempts to purchase guns can foreshadow future criminal activity. People who fail background checks are 28 percent more likely to be arrested in the five years following the denial than in the five years before it. Law enforcement wants to know and should know when prohibited individuals are attempting to purchase guns.

4. Expansion of red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders

When a person is in crisis, loved ones are often the first to see signs that they pose a threat to themselves or others. An Extreme Risk law allows them to petition a court for an order to temporarily remove guns from dangerous situations and prohibit the purchase or possession of firearms while the order is in effect.

5. Require gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement and make responsible storage laws stricter so stolen guns are kept off the streets.

From 2007 to 2017, at least 82,000 guns were reported stolen and never found in Florida. Law enforcement has said over and over that they want to know if a stolen gun is on the street. Here in Miami Dade we need solutions for our urban violence NOW – please raise the bar to make it more difficult for guns to be stolen and for law enforcement to be informed.

The bottom line is that **too** many Floridians are killed with guns. The impact of this violence is heartbreaking and impacts our residents, tourist industry, hospitals and economy through gun trafficking, suicide, domestic violence, injury and death. I ask that you focus on the above priorities to save lives and that you don't wait.

Thank you for your time and attention,

Name JOSE R. MARTINEZ Jose R. Martinez
Address 11219 NW 57th LN.
Phone 786 234 8111

Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

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Thank you for your time and attention,

Name Ernie Palacios
Address 11233 NW 78 ST, Doral 33178
Phone 305-394-9107

9/11/19

The Honorable Tom Lee

Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee

The Florida Senate

418 Senate Building

404 South Monroe Street

Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee;

I am a Florida resident who is very concerned about my own safety and that of my family and friends. It is my understanding that you and your Committee have been tasked with reviewing hate crimes and gun violence and introducing legislation in the next session to address your findings.

Please consider the expansion of red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders. When a person is in crisis, their loved ones, not law enforcement, are often the first to see signs that they pose a threat. An expanded Extreme Risk law would allow family members to petition a court for an extreme risk protection order to temporarily remove guns from dangerous situations and prohibit the purchase or possession of firearms while the order is in effect. The law passed last year that allows law enforcement to petition the court has helped but it is not enough. Allowing family members who are more familiar with threats and dangers to petition the court directly would make all of us safer, whether we are Florida residents or visitors to our state.

Also, please consider crafting legislation that requires those convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence to surrender firearms temporarily under the same requirements as under ERPOs. In an average month, at least 52 American women are shot and killed by an intimate partner, and many more are injured. And often, the children are either harmed or also killed, and/or suffer the trauma of witnessing these events or losing both parents simultaneously. We must do more to prevent these tragedies.

These simple expanded protections will surely save the lives of many Floridians. I ask you to consider these as we attempt to be safer in our homes and communities throughout the state.

My thanks in advance for your efforts on behalf of all Floridians.

Sincerely,

Signed: [signature]

Name: Libia Tejada

Full Address: 9740 NW 29 St, Doral, FL 33

Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Infrastructure and Security Committee:

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Thank you for your time and attention,

Name Martha Betancourt
Address 9752 NW 48 Terrace Doral, FL 33178
Phone 305-712-8081

9/11/19

The Honorable Tom Lee

Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee

The Florida Senate

418 Senate Building

404 South Monroe Street

Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee;

I am a Florida resident who is very concerned about my own safety and that of my family and friends. It is my understanding that you and your Committee have been tasked with reviewing hate crimes and gun violence and introducing legislation in the next session to address your findings.

Please consider the expansion of red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders. When a person is in crisis, their loved ones, not law enforcement, are often the first to see signs that they pose a threat. An expanded Extreme Risk law would allow family members to petition a court for an extreme risk protection order to temporarily remove guns from dangerous situations and prohibit the purchase or possession of firearms while the order is in effect. The law passed last year that allows law enforcement to petition the court has helped but it is not enough. Allowing family members who are more familiar with threats and dangers to petition the court directly would make all of us safer, whether we are Florida residents or visitors to our state.

Also, please consider crafting legislation that requires those convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence to surrender firearms temporarily under the same requirements as under ERPOs. In an average month, at least 52 American women are shot and killed by an intimate partner, and many more are injured. And often, the children are either harmed or also killed, and/or suffer the trauma of witnessing these events or losing both parents simultaneously. We must do more to prevent these tragedies.

These simple expanded protections will surely save the lives of many Floridians. I ask you to consider these as we attempt to be safer in our homes and communities throughout the state.

My thanks in advance for your efforts on behalf of all Floridians.

Sincerely,

Signed: Marcela Franco

Name: Marcela Franco

Full Address: 13612 SW 6th ST Miami FL 33184

9/11/19

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee;

Thank you for your work and ongoing concern for the health and safety of all Floridians. As you and the Committee move forward with discussion and creation of legislation that will address hate crimes and gun violence, please consider the following.

Since retirement of the federal ban on assault weapons in 1994, we have seen a drastic increase in the number of deaths associated with mass shootings. While we cannot presume that the rise in incidents can be attributed to assault weapons, we can say with all certainty that more deaths occur per incident when assault weapons are involved. Most recently, the Dayton Ohio shooter used a high-capacity drum magazine holding 100 rounds. Although law enforcement quickly intervened to stop the shooting, within 30 seconds 9 people had been shot and killed, largely due to the magazine capacity. Thus, while a ban on assault weapons may not impact the frequency of mass shootings, it would certainly help to decrease the number of deaths.

In the area of gun safety, please improve the safety standards associated with the training that is required prior to the purchase of a firearm. From 2014 through today, across America, 1,296 children have been killed or injured by guns. Many of these incidents result from accidents associated with the failure of the owner to safely store a weapon. While today's reality may require that we as parents ask whether there is a gun in the house each time we organize a play date, it's imperative that we be assured that those guns are safely stored.

As always, my thanks for your consideration dedication to safeguarding all Floridians.

Sincerely,
Signed [signature]
Name: TOSA BAPTISTA
Address: 8305 NW 108 AVE #6
DORAL FL. 33178

9/11/19

The Honorable Tom Lee

Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee

The Florida Senate

418 Senate Building

404 South Monroe Street

Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee;

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My thanks in advance for your efforts on behalf of all Floridians.

Sincerely,

Signed:

Name: Andrea Pinones

Full Address: 10035 NW 44 ter Unit 109
Doral FL 33178

Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Infrastructure and Security Committee:

I am writing to thank you for your work on gun violence and to ask you to support the commonsense gun reform so **desperately** needed in our state. Based on the experiences here in Miami Dade County, I believe the following changes would be the most impactful in preventing gun violence:

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3. Require firearms dealers to notify law enforcement when a customer fails a background check

Failed attempts to purchase guns can foreshadow future criminal activity. People who fail background checks are 28 percent more likely to be arrested in the five years following the denial than in the five years before it. Law enforcement wants to know and should know when prohibited individuals are attempting to purchase guns.

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The bottom line is that **too** many Floridians are killed with guns. The impact of this violence is heartbreaking and impacts our residents, tourist industry, hospitals and economy through gun trafficking, suicide, domestic violence, injury and death. I ask that you focus on the above priorities to save lives and that you don't wait.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Name Ana P. de Paula
Address 8400 NW 115 PL
Doral, FL 33178
Phone (305) 495-6268

September, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair
Florida Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee
418 Senate Building
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Senator Lee:

Thank you for leading the effort to consider legislation this session to prevent gun violence, including mass shootings. I write to express my support for passing a state law to require criminal background checks on **all** gun sales. Florida state law currently does not require background checks on unlicensed gun sales, leaving a massive loophole in place that makes it far too easy for criminals, people prohibited from having guns because of mental illness, and others with dangerous histories to get their hands on guns through private, online, or gun show sales. Fifteen states have passed laws to require background checks on all gun sales, and those states have seen credible decreases in gun violence. Let's make Florida safer this way also. Background check laws —by point-of-sale check and/or permit— are associated with lower rates of firearm homicide, suicide and firearm trafficking. The Florida Legislature should build upon the important gun violence legislation passed following the Parkland mass shooting and pass a comprehensive background check law.

Sincerely,

Catherine Cake
Gainesville, Florida

Sen. Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Good Morning,

I am a constituent, a voter, a mother, a Moms Demand Action Group lead and a concerned citizen. As Floridians, we made significant progress after Parkland in addressing the undeniable gun safety issues we have in this state. Now, let's be the role model for change for the rest of the country. I would like to see my representatives, who I know care about the people of this state, take the following actions:

1. I want background checks on EVERY gun sale.
   93% of Americans support background checks on all gun sales; we in Florida allow gun sales to potentially dangerous people through gun show loopholes and private, internet sales.

2. Ban on high capacity magazines.
   The August 2019 Dayton, Ohio shooter used a rifle equipped with a high-capacity drum magazine capable of holding 100 rounds. Though law enforcement stopped the shooting in about 30 seconds, the shooter was able to fire dozens of shots—and kill 9 people—largely because of the magazine capacity. No hunter or those gun owners who use firearms for protection need this kid of magazine. It is only used for slaughter.

3. Expansion of red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders
   When a person is in crisis, loved ones and law enforcement are often the first to see signs that they
   pose a threat. An Extreme Risk law allows them to petition a court for an extreme risk protection order to temporarily remove guns from dangerous situations and prohibit the purchase or possession of firearms while the order is in effect. We have already seen multiple instances of ERPO used effectively by our Police Departments. Let's make everyone safer.

We have the momentum and the political courage; let us help you get this done.

Warmest Regards,

Candice Carsillo

Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee:

I am writing to you from Miami-Dade County in the hopes of letting you know what issues I would like the Florida legislature to focus on next year in terms of gun violence prevention. My priorities are as follows:

1. Background checks on all gun sales

93 percent of American voters support requiring background checks on all gun sales, including 89 percent of Republicans and 87 percent of gun owners. Florida has not closed the unlicensed sale loophole which means that felons, domestic abusers and other prohibited people cans skip a background check and get armed simply by seeking an unlicensed seller online or even at a gun show. It is like if you went to TSA to board a plane and just asked to skip the line and you were ALLOWED! It just makes no sense. An investigation found that in 2018 alone, there were nearly 1.2 million gun ads on an online gun marketplace called Armslist.com for gun sales. No background check was legally required. Research shows that prohibited people seek guns in those unlicensed gun sales at a disproportionate rate.

2. Expansion of red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders

When a person is in crisis, loved ones are usually the first to see signs that they pose a threat.

3. Require firearms dealers to notify law enforcement when a customer fails a background check

Failed attempts to purchase guns can foreshadow future criminal activity. People who fail background checks are 28 percent more likely to be arrested in the five years following the denial than in the five years before it. Law enforcement should know and WANTS to know when prohibited individuals are attempting to purchase guns.

4. Reform the concealed carry license process to give the Department of Agriculture greater discretion to deny licenses to those individuals who present a public safety threat

The legislature practically apologizes to gun owners for requiring a license to concealed carry: "The Legislature does not delegate to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services the authority to regulate or restrict the issuing of licenses provided for in this section, beyond those provisions contained in this section. Subjective or arbitrary actions or rules which encumber the issuing process by placing burdens on the applicant beyond those sworn statements and specified documents detailed in this section or which create restrictions beyond those specified in this section are in conflict with the intent of this section and are prohibited. This section shall be liberally construed to carry out the constitutional right to bear arms for self-defense. This section is supplemental and additional to existing rights to bear arms, and nothing in this section shall impair or diminish such rights." Fla. Stat. 790.06(15).

5. Require gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement

From 2007 to 2017, at least 82,000 guns were reported stolen and never found in Florida. Requiring safe storage in vehicles would go a long way to reducing these numbers.

On behalf of my family, I urge you as a leader and steward of Florida, to take action on this issue of gun reform. We cannot risk another young life because of our inaction. thank you for taking the time to read this letter.

Sincerely,

Name: Anne BACALL

Address: 11775 SW 133 Ct. Miami, FL 33186

Phone Number: 305-382-3926

Dear Senator Lee,

My name is Andrea Shah and I live in Boca Raton, a few miles from Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School.

I was in eighth grade when Columbine happened, and while I was disturbed by it, I still thought like a child: I was confident that the adults in charge would fix the problem and that would be the end of mass shootings.

But it wasn't. One shooting after another has ticked by without a solution in sight: Virginia Tech, Sandy Hook, Fort Hood, Charleston, San Bernardino, Orlando, Las Vegas, Parkland. The list keeps growing every day—three more occurred in August 2019.

Now I'm the mother of a bright, funny, playful four-year-old girl. And I've had to teach her that if she hears gunshots in a public place, to get down, stay quiet, and listen to Mommy or Daddy. Because it could happen anywhere—in her cozy little preschool, in Target, at the park.

I urge you to consider implementing laws that will help protect our children—and the rest of us—from individuals bent on killing people. In particular, please continue to expand red flag laws to allow for family members to petition for firearms to be removed, and please continue to require background checks for all firearm sales, which are supported by 93% of Americans—including 87% of gun owners.

Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,
Andrea Shah

Infrastructure and Security Committee

The Florida Senate

418 Senate Building

404 South Monroe Street

Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Infrastructure and Security Committee:

I am writing to thank you for your work on gun violence and to ask you to support the commonsense gun reform so desperately needed in our state. Based on the experiences here in Miami Dade County, I believe the following changes would be the most impactful in preventing gun violence:

1. Background checks on all gun sales

Most Florida voters support requiring background checks on all gun sales, including 89 percent of Republicans and 87 percent of gun owners. We still have not closed the unlicensed gun sale loophole which means that prohibited buyers can take advantage of this loophole and get armed illegally in person and via internet. This loophole guts the public safety impact of all our laws. Criminals, underage buyers and people subject to Extreme Risk Orders can simply circumvent the law and purchase a firearm from an unlicensed seller and skip a background check altogether. It is like going to TSA, skipping the line and being allowed through a side door. Crazy!

2. Ban on high capacity magazines

The August 2019 Dayton, Ohio shooter used a rifle equipped with a high-capacity drum magazine capable of holding 100 rounds. Though law enforcement stopped the shooting in about 30 seconds, the shooter was able to fire dozens of shots—and kill 9 people—largely because of the magazine capacity. Over the past decade, the four deadliest mass shootings in America involved the use of high-capacity magazines. In fact, 58 percent of mass shootings between 2009 and 2017 were committed with firearms equipped with high-capacity magazines. Limiting magazine capacity would make ALL guns less lethal.

3. Require firearms dealers to notify law enforcement when a customer fails a background check

Failed attempts to purchase guns can foreshadow future criminal activity. People who fail background checks are 28 percent more likely to be arrested in the five years following the denial than in the five years before it. Law enforcement wants to know and should know when prohibited individuals are attempting to purchase guns.

4. Expansion of red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders

When a person is in crisis, loved ones are often the first to see signs that they pose a threat to themselves or others. An Extreme Risk law allows them to petition a court for an order to temporarily remove guns from dangerous situations and prohibit the purchase or possession of firearms while the order is in effect.

5. Require gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement and make responsible storage laws stricter so stolen guns are kept off the streets.

From 2007 to 2017, at least 82,000 guns were reported stolen and never found in Florida. Law enforcement has said over and over that they want to know if a stolen gun is on the street. Here in Miami Dade we need solutions for our urban violence NOW – please raise the bar to make it more difficult for guns to be stolen and for law enforcement to be informed.

The bottom line is that too many Floridians are killed with guns. The impact of this violence is heartbreaking and impacts our residents, tourist industry, hospitals and economy through gun trafficking, suicide, domestic violence, injury and death. I ask that you focus on the above priorities to save lives and that you don't wait.

Thank you for your time and attention,

Phone- +61480162974

(Date) 9/9/19

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee,

As the Infrastructure and Security Committee focuses on ways to address gun violence and hate crimes during its September meeting(s), my family and I are asking you to consider these priorities:

1.) **Require a background checks on every firearm purchase in the State of Florida** – Over 90% of Americans support requiring background checks on all gun sales. An investigation found that in 2018 alone, there were nearly 1.2 million firearm ads on an online gun marketplace called Armslist.com for gun sales where no background check was legally required. And research shows that prohibited people seek guns in those unlicensed gun sales at a disproportionate rate.

2.) **Require the timely reporting of criminal and mental health records to NICS** - Hundreds of thousands of prohibiting criminal and mental health records are missing from the NICS background check system, potentially enabling prohibited people to pass a background check. This is a critical fail that is required to be fixed in order to make background check legislation effective. Legislation to make this reporting mandatory will make us safer.

3.) **Require gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement** - From 2007 to 2017, at least 82,000 guns were reported stolen and never found in Florida. Not knowing a gun is stolen hinders criminal investigations and law enforcement's ability to track gun-trafficking networks. Stolen gun reports also serve as a deterrent to inter-state gun-trafficking. This is a simple measure of accountability that assists law enforcement do its job.

These three (3) proposals would have a positive effect in making Florida safer and would not diminish Florida residents' rights under the 2nd Amendment. It's a win-win for all of us. Please give them strong consideration.

Thank you for helping to keep us safe.

Sincerely,

Signed: Ivy Schanis

Name: (typed or printed) Ivy Schanis

Full Address: 2955 NW 126 ave
apt. 211
Sunrise FL 33323

Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Infrastructure and Security Committee:

I am writing to thank you for your work on gun violence and to ask you to support the commonsense gun reform so **desperately** needed in our state. Based on the experiences here in Miami Dade County, I believe the following changes would be the most impactful in preventing gun violence:

1. Background checks on all gun sales

Most Florida voters support requiring background checks on all gun sales, including 89 percent of Republicans and 87 percent of gun owners. We still have not closed the unlicensed gun sale loophole which means that prohibited buyers can take advantage of this loophole and get armed illegally in person and via internet. This loophole guts the public safety impact of **all** our laws. Criminals, underage buyers and people subject to Extreme Risk Orders can simply circumvent the law and purchase a firearm from an unlicensed seller and skip a background check altogether. It is like going to TSA, skipping the line and being allowed through a side door. Crazy!

2. Ban on high capacity magazines

The August 2019 Dayton, Ohio shooter used a rifle equipped with a high-capacity drum magazine capable of holding 100 rounds. Though law enforcement stopped the shooting in about 30 seconds, the shooter was able to fire dozens of shots—and kill 9 people—largely because of the magazine capacity. Over the past decade, **the four deadliest mass shootings in America involved the use of high-capacity magazines. In fact, 58 percent of mass shootings between 2009 and 2017 were committed with firearms equipped with high-capacity magazines.** Limiting magazine capacity would make **ALL** guns less lethal.

3. Require firearms dealers to notify law enforcement when a customer fails a background check

Failed attempts to purchase guns can foreshadow future criminal activity. People who fail background checks are 28 percent more likely to be arrested in the five years following the denial than in the five years before it. Law enforcement wants to know and should know when prohibited individuals are attempting to purchase guns.

4. Expansion of red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders

When a person is in crisis, loved ones are often the first to see signs that they pose a threat to themselves or others. An Extreme Risk law allows them to petition a court for an order to temporarily remove guns from dangerous situations and prohibit the purchase or possession of firearms while the order is in effect.

5. Require gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement and make responsible storage laws stricter so stolen guns are kept off the streets.

From 2007 to 2017, at least 82,000 guns were reported stolen and never found in Florida. Law enforcement has said over and over that they want to know if a stolen gun is on the street. Here in Miami Dade we need solutions for our urban violence NOW – please raise the bar to make it more difficult for guns to be stolen and for law enforcement to be informed.

The bottom line is that **too** many Floridians are killed with guns. The impact of this violence is heartbreaking and impacts our residents, tourist industry, hospitals and economy through gun trafficking, suicide, domestic violence, injury and death. I ask that you focus on the above priorities to save lives and that you don't wait.

Thank you for your time and attention,

Name FERNANDO C. TORAL
Address 16871 CRESTVIEW LANE - WESTON, FL 33326
Phone (954) 389-2540

September 16, 2019

Senator Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe St.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee,

I am a grandmother, retired teacher, volunteer, and thirteen-year resident of Tallahassee. The rise in gun violence concerns me greatly but I believe it can be reduced.

We need to make sure only responsible, mature people have access to firearms by requiring:

*Background checks for all gun sales.

*Notification to law enforcement when someone fails a background check.

*Safety training prior to purchasing a firearm.

*Surrender of firearms by persons convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence.

*Timely reporting of criminal and mental health records to NICS.

*Notification of lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement.

Mass shootings account for a small percentage of gun deaths. However, they have a great impact on feelings of safety. People know these shootings can happen unexpectedly in any common setting. Most of the fatalities in mass shootings are the result of the use of high capacity magazines and assault weapons. We saw this in Florida at Marjorie Stoneman Douglas High School and at Pulse in Orlando. The Federal Assault Weapons Ban was in effect from 1994 until 2004. This was challenged with lawsuits, but the courts decided it did not violate the second amendment. A 2018 study showed mass shooting fatalities were 70% less likely from 1994-2004 than in the twelve years before or after. The Heller decision in 2008 determined the second amendment is consistent with laws banning "dangerous and unusual weapons". Most Floridians support a ban on assault weapons and high capacity magazines. We need to do this.

Sincerely,

Judy Kirkpatrick

September, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair
Florida Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee
418 Senate Building
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Senator Lee:

As you lead the effort to consider legislation this session to prevent gun violence, including mass shootings, I write to express my support for passing a state law to require criminal background checks on all gun sales. Florida state law currently does not require background checks on unlicensed gun sales, leaving a massive loophole in place that makes it far too easy for criminals, people prohibited from having guns because of mental illness, and others with dangerous histories to get their hands on guns through private, online or gun show sales. Fifteen states have passed laws to require background checks on all gun sales. Background check laws —by point-of-sale check and/or permit— are associated with lower rates of firearm homicide, suicide and firearm trafficking. The Florida Legislature should build upon the important gun violence legislation passed following the Parkland mass shooting and pass a comprehensive background check law.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Lauren Beatty
17815 Ayrshire Boulevard
Land O Lakes, Florida 34638

laurendecabia@gmail.com

Carol F. Waterman
13101 Hamilton Harbour Drive
Naples, FL 34110

September 10, 2019

Dear Senator Lee;

This letter is in regard to our Florida state legislature taking some action to insure the safety of all Florida residents. I refer, specifically, to considering the following measures that will make us all safer:

1. Background checks on ALL gun sales, including online and at gun shows. If this measure will save even one life it will be worth it.
2. A ban on assault rifles and high capacity magazines, both of which are designed to kill conveniently.
3. Expansion of the Red Flag laws. When family members, friends or law enforcement see a person's behavior or mental state escalating to a level that can be harmful to her/himself and/or others, having a law that provides the means to intervene will save lives.

On a further note, it is sad that our country equates personal freedom with personal free reign. Personal freedom only works if each individual has the ability within her/himself to exercise self-control. Unfortunately, thousands of people do not possess that ability. Putting sensible laws in place that will safeguard the public at large from these people is the responsibility of our lawmakers. I hope you will take this responsibility seriously and vote in favor of the common sense measures I have listed above.

Thank-you for your efforts on behalf of all of us.

Sincerely,
Carol F. Waterman

September 12, 2020

Honorable Tom Lee
Chair Infrastructure and Security Committee
Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, Florida
32399

Dear Senator Lee,

I am writing, as a Florida resident, to ask that your committee consider these two items as important to further the safety of all of us.
1. Expansion of Red Flag Laws
2. Crafting of legislation to have those convicted of domestic abuse to surrender their firearms - even temporarily.
I believe that this will help ensure the safety of all Florida residents.
Thank you.

Sandra Birch
12668 NW 56 Street
Coral Springs, Florida
33076

September, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair
Florida Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee
418 Senate Building
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Senator Lee:

As you lead the effort to consider legislation this session to prevent gun violence, including mass shootings, I write to express my support for passing a state law to require criminal background checks on all gun sales. Florida state law currently does not require background checks on unlicensed gun sales, leaving a massive loophole in place that makes it far too easy for criminals, people prohibited from having guns because of mental illness, and others with dangerous histories to get their hands on guns through private, online or gun show sales. Fifteen states have passed laws to require background checks on all gun sales. Background check laws —by point-of-sale check and/or permit— are associated with lower rates of firearm homicide, suicide and firearm trafficking. The Florida Legislature should build upon the important gun violence legislation passed following the Parkland mass shooting and pass a comprehensive background check law. No one in our state should be able to buy a gun anywhere without first passing a background check!

Sincerely,

Wendy Vogeley
Moms Demand Action
Martin and St. Lucie County
305-302-1071
wmeyerson@att.net

Dear Senator Lee,
My name is Lynn Hautamaki, I live in Sarasota Florida.
I am a survivor of Domestic Gun Violence.
I am writing to you as you are the Chair of the Infrastructure Committee.
It is my understanding you will be holding a workshop to talk about gun violence legislation.
This past year I was able to access Florida's Red Flag Law along with the help of Law Enforcement to have an assault rifle and ammunition removed from an individual's home.
This individual was arrested for making viable death threats.
I personally know the lifesaving power of this Law.
But I believe that it is most effective when used with Comprehensive Background checks on all gun sales.
With out Background checks on all gun sales individuals who by law cannot purchase a weapon can easily slip through the loopholes via Gun Show sales or online at site like Armslist.com
I am a volunteer with Moms Demand Action in Florida, I work tirelessly with others involved in the movement to end gun violence in America.
I believe we can pass Gun Sense legislation across this country while retaining our 2nd amendment rights.
I ask you to work with us to pass background checks on all gun sales, to ban high capacity magazines, to expand Red Flag Laws...
We must do better; we owe it to our children and to ourselves.

September 9, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee;

Thank you for your work and ongoing concern for the health and safety of all Floridians. As you and the Committee move forward with discussion and creation of legislation that will address hate crimes and gun violence, please consider the following.

Since retirement of the federal ban on assault weapons in 1994, we have seen a drastic increase in the number of deaths associated with mass shootings. While we cannot presume that the rise in incidents can be attributed to assault weapons, we can say with all certainty that more deaths occur per incident when assault weapons are involved. Most recently, the Dayton Ohio shooter used a high-capacity drum magazine holding 100 rounds. Although law enforcement quickly intervened to stop the shooting, within 30 seconds 9 people had been shot and killed, largely due to the magazine capacity. Thus, while a ban on assault weapons may not impact the frequency of mass shootings, it would certainly help to decrease the number of deaths.

In the area of gun safety, please improve the safety standards associated with the training that is required prior to the purchase of a firearm. From 2014 through today, across America, 1,296 children have been killed or injured by guns. Many of these incidents result from accidents associated with the failure of the owner to safely store a weapon.

In fact, most recently, a close friend of mine lost his nephew who, while visiting a friend, accessed an unlocked gun. Kids are curious. While today's reality may require that we as parents ask whether there is a gun in the house each time we organize a play date, it's imperative that we be assured that those guns are safely stored.

As always, my thanks for your consideration and dedication to safeguarding all Floridians.

Sincerely,

Name: Diane Phillips

Address: 2841 NE 8 St, Pompano Beach, FL. 33062

September 9, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee;

I understand that the Infrastructure and Security Committee will be focusing on ways to address gun violence and hate crimes during its September meeting. While the recent wave of mass shootings has served to focus our attention on this topic, in reality, one hundred Americans loose their lives to gun violence in their own neighborhoods daily. Obviously, this is a vitally important topic, and I thank you for spearheading this discussion.

As you move forward with the discussion, particularly as it realities to hate crimes, it is my hope that you will consider revisions to the existing Stand Your Ground Law. Under the current law, the burden of proof falls to the plaintiff and requires that the state disprove the defense which is difficult, if not impossible, for prosecutors to overcome. Additionally, the existing law is flawed and serves to exacerbate hate crimes in that it provides latitude to initiate a confrontation, then respond with deadly force. This can be corrected by placing the burden of proof for a stand your ground defense on the defendant.

Again, my thanks for spearheading the discussion and for your dedication to preserving the health, safety and welfare of us all.

Sincerely,

Name: Diane Phillips
Address: 2841 NE 8 St.
Pompano Beach, Fl, 33062

Dear Senator Lee & Committee,

I am writing to you as a Floridian of 31 years, a Tampa resident, a Republican, & gun owner to encourage you to support & pass commonsense, gun violence prevention legislation to make our state safer. Requiring comprehensive background checks on all gun sales and expanding Florida's red flag law to include allowing family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders not only makes sense but also does not infringe on our second amendment rights.

As a responsible gun owner, it's hard to believe we have not closed the loopholes in this state that currently allow very dangerous people to purchase a gun with absolutely no background check. The fact that over 3.5 million illegal gun sales have been stopped nationwide since the Brady Bill was implemented, shows that background checks work, and with overwhelming public support across party lines, this piece of legislation should be passed quickly at the state level. We can't afford to wait for national legislation when we know we could make Florida safer now. Let's close the private sale/internet/gun show loopholes by requiring a background check on every gun sale.

Also, allowing family members to petition for an extreme risk protection order just makes common sense. More than half of all mass shooters exhibited early warning signs they were a threat, and no one is closer to see them than a family member. By expanding Florida's red flag law, family members can be our first line of defense. In addition, many gun suicides could be prevented by a family member recognizing their loved one is in crisis and acting to have their guns temporarily removed.

Thank you for the work you are doing to prevent further gun violence in our state. I truly believe we can make Florida safer by enacting background checks on every gun sale & expanding our current red flag law to allow family members to petition for ERPO's.

Sincerely,

Melissa Ransdell
14521 Nettle Creek Rd.
Tampa, FL 33624

Dear Mr Lee:

The NRA's lobbyist Marian Hammer recently asked "How do you tell a 10-year-old little girl who received a Ruger 10/22 for her birthday" that she has to give up her gun?

I'm writing to suggest you advise Mrs Hammer to tell her grand-daughter the following:

"When I was about your age and my parents gave me a gun for hunting, it was a different time in America. It was a time when those of us who lived in the countryside were taught to use guns to hunt wild animals like deer and possum so our families could have meat for dinner. It was a time when there weren't as many guns as there are today, nor were there such powerful of guns. Back then, most gun barrels could fire only a few bullets in a round. And it was a time when little girls and boys like you didn't have to practice hiding in closets at their school so that someone with a big powerful gun couldn't find them and shoot them down.

But now, unfortunately, too many Americans have guns. And some people with sick minds have used guns to shoot people they don't like or don't even know, instead of just shooting animals to eat.

So a lot of grownups in this wonderful country are worried, even scared. They have decided that it's more important to keep the children safe than to let everyone who wants a gun to have one. These grownups have decided that, to keep everyone safer, we need to have better laws or rules about who can have a gun and who cannot. And to have laws that say only policemen and soldiers will have guns that shoot many bullets terribly, terribly fast.

The new rules about who gets to have a gun are a lot like the rules about who can drive a car. Before someone is allowed to drive, she has to be old enough to understand how dangerous cars are and to prove she's responsible enough to keep the car from running over people and crashing into other cars. And there are rules that say the only place even race-car drivers can drive their cars really fast—way over the speed limit—is at a racetrack!

The adults decided that I shouldn't let you have a gun until you are old enough to prove to them that you're a responsible grownup. Of course I know you very well and am sure you'll be careful with your gun, as I have taught you to be. But over the coming years you're going to need to prove to our government officials that you will be a wise and careful gun owner who would never use your gun to hurt yourself or others.

Until then, I"m going tell them that I have your gun and that I'm keeping it safely locked away.

I love you. And I love America, too."

Ann Powell, Tallahassee

September, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair
Florida Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee
418 Senate Building
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Senator Lee:

As you lead the effort to consider legislation this session to prevent gun violence, including mass shootings, I write to express my support for passing a state law to require criminal background checks on all gun sales. Florida state law currently does not require background checks on unlicensed gun sales, leaving a massive loophole in place that makes it far too easy for criminals, people prohibited from having guns because of mental illness, and others with dangerous histories to get their hands on guns through private, online or gun show sales. Fifteen states have passed laws to require background checks on all gun sales. Background check laws —by point-of-sale check and/or permit— are associated with lower rates of firearm homicide, suicide and firearm trafficking. The Florida Legislature should build upon the important gun violence legislation passed following the Parkland mass shooting and pass a comprehensive background check law.

Sincerely,

NAME - Robyn Raymond
TITLE
ORGANIZATION- Moms Demand Action
CONTACT INFO- bluetide257@gmail.com
954-383-6636, 2713 Edgewater Court, Weston, Fl 33332

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee;

Thank you for your work and ongoing concern for the health and safety of all Floridians. I am a Florida resident who is very concerned about my own safety and that of my family and friends. It is my understanding that you and your Committee have been tasked with reviewing hate crimes and gun violence and introducing legislation in the next session to address your findings. Following, please find 3 areas that I ask you to consider.

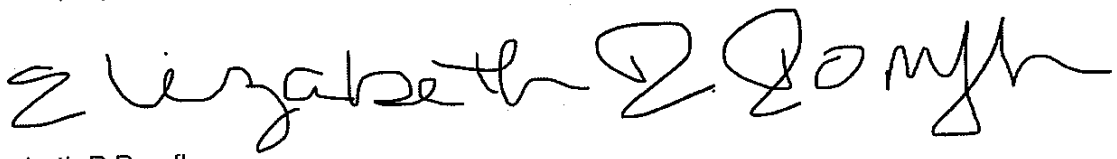
First, please consider the expansion of red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders. When a person is in crisis, their loved ones, not law enforcement, are often the first to see signs that they pose a threat. An expanded Extreme Risk law would allow family members to petition a court for an extreme risk protection order to temporarily remove guns from dangerous situations and prohibit the purchase or possession of firearms while the order is in effect. The law passed last year that allows law enforcement to petition the court has helped but it is not enough. Allowing family members who are more familiar with threats and dangers to petition the court directly would make all of us safer, whether we are Florida residents or visitors to our state.

Also, please consider crafting legislation that requires those convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence to surrender firearms temporarily under the same requirements as under ERPOs. In an average month, at least 52 American women are shot and killed by an intimate partner, and many more are injured. And often, the children are either harmed or also killed, and/or suffer the trauma of witnessing these events or losing both parents simultaneously. We must do more to prevent these tragedies.

Third, please consider requiring background checks on every firearm purchase in the State of Florida – Over 90% of Americans support requiring background checks on all gun sales. An investigation found that in 2018 alone, there were nearly 1.2 million firearm ads on an online gun marketplace called Armslist.com for gun sales where no background check was legally required. And research shows that prohibited people seek guns in those unlicensed gun sales at a disproportionate rate. We must address these so called loopholes. In order for this to work properly, background checks need to be required on every gun sale.

I worked as a teacher for many years before retiring. Active shooter drills break my heart. I am devastated that this is what my grandchildren are faced with. We need to do more. The majority of Floridians want more. It is time for our Florida State Legislators to step up and listen to the voting public. We should not dread sending our children to school, or the movies, the Mall or even grocery shopping. Enough. More guns is not the answer. Thank you in advance for helping to keep us safe.

Sincerely,

Signed: 

Name: Elizabeth R Romfh

Full Address: 167 Waterford Dr, Jupiter, FL. 33458

Sen. Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee,
It's plain to see that the people of this country are begging for common-sense gun reform from our leaders and I'm asking you to have the courage to pass some of the measures endorsed by Moms Demand Action. The measures are popular nationwide for a good reason – people are scared. I am scared. I have 3-yr-old twins who are already doing lock-down drills. It's unacceptable that our society has let gun violence get his far. It's time to do something!

I've recently become invested in fighting for gun sense legislation. Together with Moms Demand Action, I hope you will consider the possible solutions that have been shown to be effective:

Change Background Check Laws. Our background check system has not been updated to keep up with trends in gun sales methods, such as online purchases including those of 80% guns, which the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives acknowledges are problematic resources for criminals. The background check system in Florida is set up to stop criminals, particularly domestic abusers, from getting their hands on a firearm, but as long as we allow "unlicensed dealers" and 80% gun manufacturing sites to legally sell guns and rifle kits without a background check for buyers, we will have increased gun violence. I urge the committee to close these loopholes in Florida.

The argument against universal background checks is that it is simply "inconvenient" for law abiding citizens to have to obtain a background check when they purchase a gun from a person to person sale. This is most certainly not true in Florida. In our State, an overwhelming majority of Floridians live within 10 miles of a licensed gun dealer. We have 2,728 licensed gun dealers in Florida. There are also several online platforms that make it easy for individuals to pay for a background check if they sell or buy a gun through personal sale. Any slight inconvenience is worth the lives that universal background checks may save.

Ban Assault Weapons/High Capacity Magazines. These types of rifles were banned once and should be banned again. It took 32 seconds for the shooter in Dayton, Ohio to shoot 26 people. He had a high-capacity rifle with 100-round drum magazines. There is no reason for civilians to have access to this type of gun power. Additionally, the velocity of the bullets fired from these guns is more lethal than other types. Many of the students that died at MSD might have lived if a different type of firearm was used.

Additionally, it is obvious that the military-type styling of these weapons appeals directly to young men who feel powerless/aggrieved and want to cause pain. Take their preferred toy away from them! Our police are being outgunned, leading them to increasingly rely on military training and equipment. This is <u>not normal</u> for a civilized society. The Supreme Court already ruled that some gun restrictions are constitutional. Everyone knows what needs to be done. It's time to be courageous and actually do it.

Do you really want to live in a country where we are grieving a mass shooting every few weeks? Where people are literally afraid to go to school, Wal-Mart, concerts, festivals, and airports? That is our reality now and history will harshly judge lawmakers who don't act to protect their constituents. **I absolutely CAN NOT pass on this type of world to my children - not without at least trying to change it**. I hope you agree and encourage your fellow lawmakers to act.

Sincerely,

Olivia Hoch
Fort Lauderdale

Myra Wexler Darwish
1417 James Bay Rd.
Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410
Tel: (561) 630-4718
Email: mwdarwish@comcast.net

September 12, 2019

To: Sen. Tom Lee. Chair, Infrastructure and Security, The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building, 404 South Monroe St., Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee:

I am writing to you today as a concerned fellow Floridian, a wife, mother, grandmother, a retired nursing faculty and a clinician who started practicing in 1978. I am someone who cares deeply about the wellbeing of all American's. I believe the time has come when a critical mass of concern for gun safety issues has arrived, and that is the reason for this letter.

The way I see it Senator Lee [**Whatever has held us back from background checks, a ban on assault weapons, and expansion of Red Flag laws needs to be removed! Our teachers do not need to putting their energies into carrying weapons; they need to be teaching our students how to be the best that they can be!**]

We need to move forward, and we need to have the lives of our Florida citizens come first.

I ask for your help in making the experience of living in our state a more quality one, one where my grandchild doesn't have to go through drills for his safety, or where citizens don't have to worry about who might be entering a movie, a mall, a school, a club, a workplace, etc. In fact, the way I see it, the tyranny of an unsafe environment is no longer acceptable! We need your help Senator. Can we please count on you?

Respectfully,
Myra W. Darwish

Myra W Darwish
September 12, 2019

September 11, 2019

Dear Senator Lee,

I am a Florida native and a retired high school teacher. I have been appalled at the increase in gun violence in our State. While growing up here and teaching here mass killings, murders in homes, school children being slaughtered and senseless shooting in neighborhoods were never heard of!

What has happened to our society? Why is it that lawmakers are either afraid or unwilling to make our gun laws tighter? I have a license to carry a gun, but I do not feel the need to have a weapon of "mass destruction." I do not feel my "rights" are being threatened if lawmakers decide to do the sensible thing like: 1). Require extensive background checks prior to a weapon purchase (including having them at gun shows prior to turning over a purchased gun to anyone who may walk in off the street)

2). Ban all assault weapons and high capacity magazines! Who needs those other than our military? No one!

3). Increase the Red Flag laws to include family members

4). As a former educator of 40 years, I beg you to repeal the arming of teachers law.

Thank you Senator Lee for being open minded enough to consider taking a tough stance on gun control in the State of Florida. That takes courage.

Sincerely,

Linda Teague, Ph.D

FRANK J. SANTRY

414 Date St
Fernandina Beach, Florida
32034

September 12, 2019

Honorable Tom Lee, Chair
U. S. Senate Infrastructure and
Security Committee

Re: Hearing on Firearms Safety Legislation:

Dear Senator Lee:

I am a registered Republican living in Fernandina Beach, Florida. I strongly believe that the carnage of gun violence must end. It is time to apply public safety standards to firearms regulation, just like we have with auto safety.

I know that you will be conducting hearings shortly on legislation to this end. I urge you and your colleagues to include the following legislative changes:

Comprehensive handgun licensing.
No-exception universal background checks.
Federally pre-emptive elimination of Stand-your-ground laws and programs to arm teachers.
Adoption of Red Flag laws which include family members.
Ban Assault Weapons and High Capacity Magazines.

I appreciate your attention to these matters.

Sincerely,



Frank J. Santry

Mr. & Mrs. Kevin Stringer
PO Box 8238
Naples, FL 34101
410-336-0973

September 12, 2019

Senator Mike Lee
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe St.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Re: Gun Violence

Dear Senator Lee:

No one can argue that that keeping our families safe from gun violence must be a priority. As such, it's imperative that you support basic common-sense measures that will protect your constituents when they attend a house of worship, schools, shopping centers, clubs, etc.

A majority of Americans of all political persuasions support the following:

- Comprehensive background checks on ALL gun sales, whether private, from a licensed dealer or at a gun show.
- A ban on assault weapons and high capacity magazines. Military grade weapons should not be in the hands of civilians.
- Expansion of red-flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders.
- Reinstate President Obama's executive order to prohibit the sale of guns to the mentally ill.

These measures can drastically cut the number of gun deaths and injuries due to mass shootings and suicides. A response would be appreciated. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Kevin P Stringer

Janet S Stringer

Dear Senator Lee,

As Chair of the Florida Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee, we who share a deep concern about effective and much needed gun control urge your committee meeting on Sept. 16 to address citizens' concerns about meaningful gun control legislation.

We fully support Comprehensive Background Checks, fixing our Red Flag laws to include family members, banning assault weapons and high capacity magazines, and repealing ineffectual laws that allow arming teachers and other laws such as Stand Your Ground.

I am a register voter in Leon County, I urge you most strongly to help save lives by supporting common-sense gun legislation for all of us.

Sincere, Donna C. Tharpe

September 9, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee:

I am a Florida resident who is very concerned about the epidemic of gun violence not only in my city and state but in the whole country. It is my understanding that you and your Committee have been tasked with reviewing hate crimes and gun violence and introducing legislation in the next session to address your findings.

Please consider the following:

1) **Require background checks on every firearm purchase in the State of Florida.** Over 90% of Americans support requiring background checks on all gun sales. An investigation found that in 2018 alone, there were nearly 1.2 million firearm ads on an online gun marketplace called Armslist.com for gun sales where no background check was legally required. Research shows that prohibited people seek guns in those unlicensed gun sales at a disproportionate rate.

2) **Require the timely reporting of criminal and mental health records to NICS.** Hundreds of thousands of criminal and mental health records are missing from the NICS background check system, potentially enabling prohibited people to pass a background check. This is a critical fail that is required to be fixed in order to make background check legislation effective. Legislation to make this reporting mandatory will make us safer.

3) **Require gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement.** From 2007 to 2017, at least 82,000 guns were reported stolen and never found in Florida. Not knowing a gun is stolen hinders criminal investigations and law enforcement's ability to track gun-trafficking networks. Stolen gun reports also serve as a deterrent to inter-state gun-trafficking. This is a simple measure of accountability that assists law enforcement to do its job.

4) **Expansion of red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders.** When a person is in crisis, their loved ones, not law enforcement, are often the first to see signs that they pose a threat. An expanded Extreme Risk Law would allow family members to petition a court for an extreme risk protection order to temporarily remove guns from dangerous situations and prohibit the purchase or possession of firearms while the order is in effect. The law passed last year that allows law enforcement to petition the court has helped but it is not enough. Allowing family members who are more familiar with threats and dangers to petition the court directly would make all of us safer, whether we are Florida residents or visitors to our state.

Also, please consider crafting legislation that requires those convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence to surrender firearms temporarily under the same requirements as under

ERPOs. In an average month, at least 52 American women are shot and killed by an intimate partner, and many more are injured. Often as well, the children are either harmed or also killed, and/or suffer the trauma of witnessing these events or losing both parents simultaneously. We must do more to prevent these tragedies.

5) **Ban on Assault Weapons.** Since retirement of the federal ban on assault weapons in 1994, we have seen a drastic increase in the number of deaths associated with mass shootings. While we cannot presume that the rise in incidents can be attributed to assault weapons, we can say with all certainty that more deaths occur per incident when assault weapons are involved. Most recently, the Dayton Ohio shooter used a high-capacity drum magazine holding 100 rounds. Although law enforcement quickly intervened to stop the shooting, within 30 seconds 9 people had been shot and killed, largely due to the magazine capacity. Thus, while a ban on assault weapons may not impact the frequency of mass shootings, it would certainly help to decrease the number of deaths. The previous 10-year ban was shown to have worked in limiting the number of deaths.

6) **Required Training.** In the area of gun safety, please improve the safety standards associated with the training that is required prior to the purchase of a firearm. From 2014 through today, across America, 1,296 children have been killed or injured by guns. Many of these incidents result from accidents associated with the failure of the owner to safely store a weapon. While today's reality may require that we as parents ask whether there is a gun in the house each time we organize a play date, it's imperative that we be assured that those guns are safely stored.

These simple expanded protections will surely save the lives of many Floridians. I ask you to consider these as we attempt to be safer in our homes and communities throughout the state, and I would also like you to consider the huge impact it would have on our law enforcement agencies who have to confront these weapons on a daily basis.

My thanks in advance for your efforts on behalf of all Floridians.

Sincerely,

Signed:

Susan El Sheikh

Name: Susan El Sheikh

2140 NE 67 Street
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33308

September 9, 2019

Sen. Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Senator Lee,

I am writing today to urge you to TAKE ACTION on gun violence legislation! Please work to increase the safety of our children and citizens by –

1. Requiring background checks on ALL guns sales.
   This loophole makes it too easy for bad people to get guns.
2. Banning assault weapons and high capacity magazines.
   These weapons of war (which used to be banned) should be banned just like machine guns, hand grenades, etc.
3. Expanding red flag laws to allow Family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders.
   Family members are often the first to see the risks.
4. Reinstating the language in 30.15 that prohibited classroom teachers from serving as school guardians.
   Let's be honest, no one wants their 5 year old in a classroom with guns!
5. Reform the concealed carry license process to give the Department of Agriculture greater discretion to deny licenses to those individuals who present a public safety threat.
6. Require those convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence to surrender firearms and eliminate their ability to purchase firearms in the future.
7. Require firearms dealers to notify law enforcement when a customer fails a background check.
8. Prohibit concealed carry licensees from carrying firearms in additional sensitive places such as daycares, public playgrounds and at public demonstrations.
9. Require safe storage of guns in vehicles and homes and require gun owners to report lost or stolen guns to law enforcement.
   AND hold those who are not responsible gun owners Accountable.
10. Require safety training prior to purchasing a gun.
    There is a year of practice and training to get a driver's license because we know the risks involved – firearms are even more risky and should require licensing and training.
11. Require the timely reporting of criminal and mental health records to NICS
    Let's work Smarter!
12. Repeal preemption.
13. Return the burden of proof for Stand Your Ground defense to the defendant.
14. Prohibit the printing of 3D guns.

Thank you for your honest efforts to help solve this deadly issue,

Kerry Elling
425 Celebration Ave.
Celebration, FL 34747

The Honorable Tom Lee, Chair
Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee,
I understand that your committee will be working to protect the citizens of Florida by discussing and drafting legislation addressing hate crimes and gun violence. This is an urgent issue and doing nothing is simply unacceptable.
Please consider that when citizens have access to assault style weapons designed for military operations rather than for sport hunting or home protection it stands to reason that there will be far greater casualties when these weapons are used during a shooting crime. In fact, the statistics bear this out. More deaths occur, period. During the most recent crime in Dayton,Ohio the shooter managed to kill 9 innocent people in only 30 seconds before law enforcement officers stopped him. Please consider a ban on the sales of these weapons and the high capacity magazines which feed them.
Also, please consider revising the Stand Your Ground Law. Currently it is difficult, if not impossible, for prosecutors to disprove this defense. The law, as it stands, gives latitude to initiate a confrontation and then respond with deadly force. You can see how this would embolden someone with hate in his heart. This can be corrected by placing the burden of truth for this type of defense on the defendant, where it should be. Force the shooter to prove he did not initiate the incident and that he did not have the opportunity to withdraw.
Both my husband and I worked in law enforcement as probation officers in New York for many years. We were carefully vetted, trained and retrained annually. We are not bleeding heart liberals when it comes to crime. We have been residents of Florida for the past 8 years, have carry permits and own weapons. But, we are frightened for ourselves and fellow Floridians, by the lax gun laws. It's just too damn easy for people to get weapons without proper checks and training, too easy to obtain weapons designed for warfare, and too easy to get away with biased related crimes. Too many people have needlessly died. I urge you to take action immediately to do everything you can to protect innocent citizens. Thank you for your service to the community.

Very truly,
Bonnie Dorfman
5550 North Ocean Drive, 4B
Riviera Beach, Florida 33404

Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee:

I am resident of Miami Florida since 1962. I am a mother, a grandmother a former Miami- Dade Public Schools Volunteer, a Former PTA President and EESAC board member of more schools than I can list. In the last 4 years my family and I have experienced the following: **1**. My next door neighbor Pepe was shot and killed by a mentally ill neighbor because Pepe's dog stepped on this man's lawn. He was living in our neighborhood because he had too many restraining orders for aggressive behavior in his old neighborhood, so his son moved him into ours and no on took his gun away. **2**. I was visiting my son in Orlando the night of the Pulse massacre. His home was less than a mile away, we heard the horrors and the sirens and saw the lights and helicopters. **3**. My pregnant daughter was at Merrick Park leaving a maternity shop when she saw a group of half naked people running towards her screaming shooter, 8 months pregnant she ran in terror to her car. **4.** On February 14, 2018 my husband was stuck in traffic on an expressway when policemen in riot gear and riffles jumped through and over traffic, his car to get to Parkland high school. **5**. My husband walked into our home to find our tile man Carlos with a red dot on his chest and an armed intruder pointing a gun at him. These experiences and the gun related deaths of approximately 35,000 Americans annually are why I am writing you.

I am writing to you in the hopes of letting you know what issues I would like the Florida legislature to focus on next year in terms of gun violence prevention. My priorities are as follows:

1. Background checks on all gun sales

93 percent of American voters support requiring background checks on all gun sales, including 89 percent of Republicans and 87 percent of gun owners. Florida has not closed the unlicensed sale loophole which means that felons, domestic abusers and other prohibited people cans skip a background check and get armed simply by seeking an unlicensed seller online or even at a gun show. It is like if you went to TSA to board a plane and just asked to skip the line and you were ALLOWED! It just makes no sense. An investigation found that in 2018 alone, there were nearly 1.2 million gun ads on an online gun marketplace called Armslist.com for gun sales. No background check was legally required. Research shows that prohibited people seek guns in those unlicensed gun sales at a disproportionate rate.

2. Expansion of red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders

When a person is in crisis, loved ones are usually the first to see signs that they pose a threat.

3. Require firearms dealers to notify law enforcement when a customer fails a background check

Failed attempts to purchase guns can foreshadow future criminal activity. People who fail background checks are 28 percent more likely to be arrested in the five years following the denial than in the five years before it. Law enforcement should know and WANTS to know when prohibited individuals are attempting to purchase guns.

4. Reform the concealed carry license process to give the Department of Agriculture greater discretion to deny licenses to those individuals who present a public safety threat

The legislature practically apologizes to gun owners for requiring a license to concealed carry: "The Legislature does not delegate to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services the authority to regulate or restrict the issuing of licenses provided for in this section, beyond those provisions contained in this section. Subjective or arbitrary actions or rules which encumber the issuing process by placing burdens on the applicant beyond those sworn statements and specified documents detailed in this section or which create restrictions beyond those specified in this section are in conflict with the intent of this section and are prohibited. This section shall be liberally construed to carry out the constitutional right to bear arms for self-defense. This section is supplemental and additional to existing rights to bear arms, and nothing in this section shall impair or diminish such rights." Fla. Stat. 790.06(15).

5. Require gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement

From 2007 to 2017, at least 82,000 guns were reported stolen and never found in Florida. Requiring safe storage in vehicles would go a long way to reducing these numbers.

On behalf of my family, I urge you as a leader and steward of Florida, to take action on this issue of gun reform. We cannot risk another young life because of our inaction. thank you for taking the time to read this letter.

Sincerely,

Charmaine Sforza-Flick
9715 SW 104 Court
Miami, Florida 33176
305 216-9436

Dear Senator Lee and the Honorable Members of the Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee,

I understand that you are holding a hearing on potential gun safety legislation for the 2020 session. Thank you so much for calling this hearing. Gun violence is crippling our nation and we have done very little to address it so I rely on you, our state law makers to protect Floridians. I have so many friends and family directly affected by gun violence. I have friends who lost their son at the shooting at Pulse, at the time our nation's largest mass shooting. It was devastating and our community is still traumatized by this.

While I understand that our laws will not eliminate all gun violence, there are simple things we can do to prevent deaths while still allowing law abiding citizens to own guns. My husband is a gun owner and he supports these initiatives as well.

Expand Red Flag Laws- Current legislation is not strong enough. It must be expanded so that family members can also seek a risk protection order from the courts. The more people who are allowed to report these red flag behaviors, the safer we will be.

Background checks- I will never understand why we allow individuals to legally buy firearms without a background check. Background checks stop sales to prohibited people every day. Since 1994, over 3.5 million sales have been blocked to violent criminals. In 2018, there were nearly 1.2 million gun ads on Armslist.com for gun sales where no background check was legally required. States with laws requiring background checks for all gun sales are associated with 10 percent lower homicide rates. Bottom line is that background checks save lives.

Arming Teachers- Armed individuals who are not law enforcement in our schools is extremely concerning to me. I see stories on the news where adults "forget" their gun or carelessly leave it in unsecured locations all of the time. There is way more risk to this than benefit as it is extremely unlikely that a teacher or gym coach would be able to protect an entire school on their own, without the training under pressure that our law enforcement receive. I would request that your committee rethinks the decision to allow guns in our schools.

Thank you,
Athena Lilly
407-718-7968
athenarodgers@gmail.com

Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Members of the Infrastructure and Security Committee:

I am writing to you from Miami-Dade County in the hopes of letting you know what issues I would like the Florida legislature to focus on next year in terms of gun violence prevention. My priorities are as follows:

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On behalf of my family, I urge you as a leader and steward of Florida, to take action on this issue of gun reform. We cannot risk another young life because of our inaction. thank you for taking the time to read this letter.

Sincerely,

Name: M. Danielle McDonald
Address: 3211 SW 19th Terrace, Miami, Fl, 33145
Phone Number: 305-505-6891

Danielle McDonald

Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

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The legislature practically apologizes to gun owners for requiring a license to concealed carry: "The Legislature does not delegate to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services the authority to regulate or restrict the issuing of licenses provided for in this section, beyond those provisions contained in this section. Subjective or arbitrary actions or rules which encumber the issuing process by placing burdens on the applicant beyond those sworn statements and specified documents detailed in this section or which create restrictions beyond those specified in this section are in conflict with the intent of this section and are prohibited. This section shall be liberally construed to carry out the constitutional right to bear arms for self-defense. This section is supplemental and additional to existing rights to bear arms, and nothing in this section shall impair or diminish such rights." Fla. Stat. 790.06(15).

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Sincerely,

Name: Catharine Berkowitz
Address 9351 SW 100 Street, Miami, FL 33176
Phone Number 305-598-5364

Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

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2. Ban on assault weapons and high capacity magazines

The August 2019 Dayton, Ohio shooter used a rifle equipped with a high-capacity drum magazine capable of holding 100 rounds. Though law enforcement stopped the shooting in about 30 seconds, the shooter was able to fire dozens of shots—and kill 9 people—largely because of the magazine capacity. Over the past decade, the four deadliest mass shootings in America involved the use of high-capacity magazines. In fact, 58 percent of mass shootings between 2009 and 2017 were committed with firearms equipped with high-capacity magazines.

3. Expansion of red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders

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Sincerely,

Charlene Grall
2500 SW 13 St., Miami, FL 33145
786-223-6828

September 10, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee

Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee

The Florida Senate

418 Senate Building

404 South Monroe Street

Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee;

I am a Florida resident who is very concerned about my own safety and that of my family and friends. It is my understanding that you and your Committee have been tasked with reviewing hate crimes and gun violence and introducing legislation in the next session to address your findings.

Please consider the expansion of red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders. When a person is in crisis, their loved ones, not law enforcement, are often the first to see signs that they pose a threat. An expanded Extreme Risk law would allow family members to petition a court for an extreme risk protection order to temporarily remove guns from dangerous situations and prohibit the purchase or possession of firearms while the order is in effect. The law passed last year that allows law enforcement to petition the court has helped but it is not enough. Allowing family members who are more familiar with threats and dangers to petition the court directly would make all of us safer, whether we are Florida residents or visitors to our state.

Also, please consider crafting legislation that requires those convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence to surrender firearms temporarily under the same requirements as under ERPOs. In an average month, at least 52 American women are shot and killed by an intimate partner, and many more are injured. And often, the children are either harmed or also killed, and/or suffer the trauma of witnessing these events or losing both parents simultaneously. We must do more to prevent these tragedies.

These simple expanded protections will surely save the lives of many Floridians. I ask you to consider these as we attempt to be safer in our homes and communities throughout the state.

My thanks in advance for your efforts on behalf of all Floridians.

Sincerely,

Maria Nelson

Maria Nelson

12079 NW 1st Street, Coral Springs, FL 33071

September 12, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair
Florida Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee
418 Senate Building
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Senator Lee:

I am writing to express my support for passing a state law to require criminal background checks for all gun sales. Florida state law currently does not require background checks on unlicensed gun sales, leaving a massive loophole in place that makes it far too easy for criminals, people prohibited from having guns because of mental illness, and others with dangerous histories to get their hands on guns through private, online or gun show sales. We are all looking for ways to prevent gun violence and mass shootings and your leadership on this issue will be vital!

The Florida Legislature should build upon the important gun violence legislation passed following the Parkland mass shooting and pass a comprehensive background check law.

Sincerely,

Eleanor McDonough
Kissimmee, FL
603-465-1470
eleanormcd123@gmail.com

September 10, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee;

I understand that the Infrastructure and Security Committee will be focusing on ways to address gun violence and hate crimes during its September meeting. While the recent wave of mass shootings has served to focus our attention on this topic, in reality, one hundred Americans lose their lives to gun violence in their own neighborhoods daily. Obviously, this is a vitally important topic, and I thank you for spearheading this discussion.

As you move forward with the discussion, particularly as it relates to hate crimes, it is my hope that you will consider revisions to the existing Stand Your Ground Law. Under the current law, the burden of proof falls to the plaintiff and requires that the state disprove the defense which is difficult, if not impossible, for prosecutors to overcome. Additionally, the existing law is flawed and serves to exacerbate hate crimes in that it provides latitude to initiate a confrontation, then respond with deadly force. This can be corrected by placing the burden of proof for a stand your ground defense on the defendant.

Again, my thanks for spearheading the discussion and for your dedication to preserving the health, safety and welfare of us all.

Sincerely,

Maria Nelson

12079 NW 1st Street, Coral Springs, FL 33071

September 10, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee;

Thank you for your work and ongoing concern for the health and safety of all Floridians. As you and the Conunittee move forward with discussion and creation of legislation that will address hate crimes and gun violence, please consider the following.

Since retirement of the federal ban on assault weapons in 1994, we have seen a drastic increase in the number of deaths associated with mass shootings. While we cannot presume that the rise in incidents can be attributed to assault weapons, we can say with all certainty that more deaths occur per incident when assault weapons are involved. Most recently, the Dayton Ohio shooter used a high-capacity drum magazine holding 100 rounds. Although law enforcement quickly intervened to stop the shooting, within 30 seconds 9 people had been shot and killed, largely due to the magazine capacity. Thus, while a ban on assault weapons may not impact the frequency of mass shootings, it would certainly help to decrease the number of deaths.

In the area of gun safety, please improve the safety standards associated with the training that is required prior to the purchase of a firearm. From 2014 through today, across America, 1,296 children have been killed or injured by guns. Many of these incidents result from accidents associated with the failure of the owner to safely store a weapon. While today's reality may require that we as parents ask whether there is a gun in the house each time we organize a play date, it's imperative that we be assured that those guns are safely stored.

As always, my thanks for your consideration dedication to safeguarding all Floridians.

Sincerely,

Maria Nelson

Maria Nelson

12079 NW 1st Street, Coral Springs, FL 33071

September 10, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee,

As the Infrastructure and Security Committee focuses on ways to address gun violence and hate crimes during its September meeting(s), my family and I are asking you to consider these priorities:

1) **Require a background checks on every firearm purchase in the State of Florida** - Over 90% of Americans support requiring background checks on all gun sales. An investigation found that in 2018 alone, there were nearly 1.2 million firearm ads on an online gun marketplace called Armslist.com for gun sales where no background check was legally required. And research shows that prohibited people seek guns in those unlicensed gun sales at a disproportionate rate.

2) **Require the timely reporting of criminal and mental health records to NICS** - Hundreds of thousands of prohibiting criminal and mental health records are missing from the NICS background check system, potentially enabling prohibited people to pass a background check. This is a critical fail that is required to be fixed in order to make background check legislation effective. Legislation to make this reporting mandatory will make us safer.

3) **Require gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement** - From 2007 to 2017, at least 82,000 guns were reported stolen and never found in Florida. Not knowing a gun is stolen hinders criminal investigations and law enforcement's ability to track gun-trafficking networks. Stolen gun reports also serve as a deterrent to inter-state gun-trafficking. This is a simple measure of accountability that assists law enforcement do its job.

These three (3) proposals would have a positive effect in making Florida safer and would not diminish Florida residents' rights under the 2nd Amendment. It's a win-win for all of us. Please give them strong consideration.

Thank you for helping to keep us safe.

Sincerely,

Maria Nelson

Maria Nelson

12079 NW 1st Street, Coral Springs, FL 33071

9601 Miccosukee Rd, Lot 20

Tallahassee, FL 32309

September 12, 2019

Senator Tom Lee

Chair, Infrastructure and Security

Florida Senate

418 Senate Building

404 South Monroe St

Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee:

Your committee meets to talk about gun violence prevention legislation, please keep common sense measures in mind. Specifically, I hope you will consider the following:

1. Ban assault weapons and high capacity magazines from the civilian population. These weapons have no purpose other than mass murder. They are useless in hunting or target practice—they destroy their targets. Only the military should be able to kill large numbers of people.

2. Universal background checks for anyone purchasing a firearm. This includes all private sales and internet sales.

3. Fix our Red Flag laws to include family members and anyone who is a danger to self or others.

4. Repeal or severely restrict the Stand Your Ground law. It is now used to justify over-reaction and murder, and it hampers prosecutors in seeking justice.

5. Repeal the law that arms teachers. Educators should educate, not brandish firearms. Armed protection is the job of trained security staff, who can give their full attention to it, without having to teach algebra at the same time.

I hope you will keep these common sense suggestions in mind as you discuss how to protect Floridians from the ongoing epidemic of mass murder.

Sincerely,

William J. Phelan

September 11, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida State Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee,

Two out of my three children were at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School the day of the Mass Shooting at their school. All three of my children became activists to try and end gun violence to stop the epidemic that our country continues to face. More deadly shootings have occurred in our state and people continue to die. The increase in hate crimes in our area is on the rise and I am turning to you and your committee to create legislation that can end gun violence and stop hate crimes.

Since the Federal ban on assault weapons lapse in 2004 there has been a drastic increase in the number of deaths associated with mass shootings. When assault weapons are involved the amount of deaths in those incidents are high. Within seconds many lives are lost. These weapons are used for wars and they are designed to kill. They do not belong available on our streets. If nothing is done legislatively then nothing will change and more people will continue to die.

We need common sense gun laws to help prevent senseless deaths. It is possible to end gun violence. Gun safety standards need strengthening. Proper training should be required before purchasing a gun. Proper storage of weapons should be mandatory. Those that don't follow safety standard should be held accountable. The number of children killed by improper gun storage is very high and those people should be held responsible for their negligence.

Red Flag laws save lives. They should be expanded on to allow family members to petition for extreme Risk Protection Orders. When a person is in crisis it is often family members that see that their loved ones are at risk way before law enforcement. Weapons should be removed from the person in crisis and they should be prohibited from buying firearms or ammunition while the order is in effect.

Weapons should be removed from convicted domestic abusers. They should have to surrender any firearms once convicted and at the least if accused, firearms surrendered temporarily. Each month on average 52 women are shot and killed by an intimate partner. More must be done to prevent these tragedies.

More protections need to be put in place in order to save more lives. There are no safe areas in our state. People are killed in schools, Nightclubs, Yoga Studios, airports, Houses of worship, Shopping malls and gas stations. This epidemic is manmade and can be solved.

Thank you for your efforts to help create a safer Florida.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Deitsch
7915 NW 111th Way
Parkland, Fl. 33076

September 12, 2019
The Honorable Tom Lee, Chair
Florida Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Senator Lee:

I have learned that you will be heading a committee meeting to discuss reducing gun violence in Florida. I want to urge you to support state laws that will help reduce gun violence in our state.

1. Require criminal background checks on ALL gun sales in Florida. Our state currently has large loopholes that mean dangerous criminals and people with a history of crime can purchase guns through legal methods: private, online, and/or gun show sales. Other states have already passed laws to eliminate these loopholes.
2. Repeal the current law that allows teachers to be armed. Arming teachers is overwhelmingly opposed by educators, parents and law enforcement and carries tremendous risk to students. The majority of Florida's school districts recognize this and have opted out for that reason.
3. Ban high-capacity magazines. This ban was already in place in the United States (under the Brady Bill) and it was effective. This ban reduces the magnitude of deaths in a mass shooting.
4. Expand red flag laws to allow family members to petition for extreme risk protection orders. When a person is in crisis, loved ones and law enforcement are often the first to see a threat. An Extreme Risk Protection law allows families, and not just law enforcement, to petition a court to temporarily remove guns from dangerous situations and prevent the purchase of firearms while the order is in effect

After the Parkland tragedy, the Florida Legislature passed some important laws in the effort to reduce gun violence. I encourage you to continue this important work and enact these proposals.

Sincerely,

Maria K. Sullivan
Oviedo, FL 32765

September 12, 2019
The Honorable Tom Lee, Chair
Florida Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Senator Lee:

I have learned that you will be heading a committee meeting to discuss reducing gun violence in Florida. I want to urge you to support state laws that will help reduce gun violence in our state.

1. Require criminal background checks on ALL gun sales in Florida. Our state currently has large loopholes that mean dangerous criminals and people with a history of crime can purchase guns through legal methods: private, online, and/or gun show sales. Other states have already passed laws to eliminate these loopholes.
2. Repeal the current law that allows teachers to be armed. Arming teachers is overwhelmingly opposed by educators, parents and law enforcement and carries tremendous risk to students. The majority of Florida's school districts recognize this and have opted out for that reason.
3. Ban high-capacity magazines. This ban was already in place in the United States (under the Brady Bill) and it was effective. This ban reduces the magnitude of deaths in a mass shooting.
4. Expand red flag laws to allow family members to petition for extreme risk protection orders. When a person is in crisis, loved ones and law enforcement are often the first to see a threat. An Extreme Risk Protection law allows families, and not just law enforcement, to petition a court to temporarily remove guns from dangerous situations and prevent the purchase of firearms while the order is in effect

After the Parkland tragedy, the Florida Legislature passed some important laws in the effort to reduce gun violence. I encourage you to continue this important work and enact these proposals.

Sincerely,

Joseph Harrington
1425 Twin Oaks Circle
Oviedo, FL 32765

Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Members of the Infrastructure and Security Committee:

I am writing from Miami -Dade County to thank you for your work on gun violence and to ask you to support the common sense gun reform so desperately needed in our state. Based on the experiences we have had in Miami Date County, I believe the following changes would be the most impactful in preventing gun violence:

1. Background checks on all gun sales

The vast majority of Florida voters support requiring background checks on all gun sales, including 89 percent of Republicans and 87 percent of gun owners. Although Florida passed some landmark gun laws in 2018 after Parkland, we still have not closed the unlicensed gun sale loophole which means that prohibited people can take advantage of this loophole and get armed illegally. The loophole diminishes the public safety impact of our laws. Underage buyers and people subject to Extreme Risk Orders can simply circumvent the law and purchase a firearm from an unlicensed seller and skip a background check altogether. It is like going to TSA and asking to skip the line and being allowed to do that. Crazy!

2. Ban on high capacity magazines

The August 2019 Dayton, Ohio shooter used a rifle equipped with a high-capacity drum magazine capable of holding 100 rounds. Though law enforcement stopped the shooting in about 30 seconds, the shooter was able to fire dozens of shots—and kill 9 people—largely because of the magazine capacity. Over the past decade, the four deadliest mass shootings in America involved the use of high-capacity magazines. In fact, 58 percent of mass shootings between 2009 and 2017 were committed with firearms equipped with high-capacity magazines.

3. Require firearms dealers to notify law enforcement when a customer fails a background check

Failed attempts to purchase guns can foreshadow future criminal activity. People who fail background checks are 28 percent more likely to be arrested in the five years following the denial than in the five years before it. Law enforcement wants to know and should know when prohibited individuals are attempting to purchase guns. To that end,

4. Expansion of red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders

When a person is in crisis, loved ones are often the first to see signs that they pose a threat to themselves or others. An Extreme Risk law allows them to petition a court for an extreme risk protection order to temporarily remove guns from dangerous situations and prohibit the purchase or possession of firearms while the order is in effect.

5. Require gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement

From 2007 to 2017, at least 82,000 guns were reported stolen and never found in Florida. Law enforcement has said over and over that they want to know if a stolen gun is on the street.

6. Ban on the sale of assault weapons

The bottom line is that too many Floridians are killed with guns. The loopholes in our background check laws are negatively impacting our state in terms of gun trafficking, suicide, domestic violence and homicide. I ask that you focus on the above priorities to save lives.

Thank you for your time and attention,

Onofre Torres
600 Grapetree Drive, Apt. 10BS
Key Biscayne, FL 33149

Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Infrastructure and Security Committee:

I am writing to thank you for your work on gun violence and to ask you to support the commonsense gun reform so **desperately** needed in our state. Based on the experiences here in Miami Dade County, I believe the following changes would be the most impactful in preventing gun violence:

1. Background checks on all gun sales

Most Florida voters support requiring background checks on all gun sales, including 89 percent of Republicans and 87 percent of gun owners. We still have not closed the unlicensed gun sale loophole which means that prohibited buyers can take advantage of this loophole and get armed illegally in person and via internet. This loophole guts the public safety impact of **all** our laws. Criminals, underage buyers and people subject to Extreme Risk Orders can simply circumvent the law and purchase a firearm from an unlicensed seller and skip a background check altogether. It is like going to TSA, skipping the line and being allowed through a side door. Crazy!

2. Ban on high capacity magazines

The August 2019 Dayton, Ohio shooter used a rifle equipped with a high-capacity drum magazine capable of holding 100 rounds. Though law enforcement stopped the shooting in about 30 seconds. the shooter was able to fire dozens of shots—and kill 9 people—largely because of the magazine capacity. Over the past decade, **the four deadliest mass shootings in America involved the use of high-capacity magazines. In fact, 58 percent of mass shootings between 2009 and 2017 were committed with firearms equipped with high-capacity magazines.** Limiting magazine capacity would make **ALL** guns less lethal.

3. Require firearms dealers to notify law enforcement when a customer fails a background check

Failed attempts to purchase guns can foreshadow future criminal activity. People who fail background checks are 28 percent more likely to be arrested in the five years following the denial than in the five years before it. Law enforcement wants to know and should know when prohibited individuals are attempting to purchase guns.

4. Expansion of red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders

When a person is in crisis, loved ones are often the first to see signs that they pose a threat to themselves or others. An Extreme Risk law allows them to petition a court for an order to temporarily remove guns from dangerous situations and prohibit the purchase or possession of firearms while the order is in effect.

5. Require gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement and make responsible storage laws stricter so stolen guns are kept off the streets.

From 2007 to 2017, at least 82,000 guns were reported stolen and never found in Florida. Law enforcement has said over and over that they want to know if a stolen gun is on the street. Here in Miami Dade we need solutions for our urban violence NOW -- please raise the bar to make it more difficult for guns to be stolen and for law enforcement to be informed.

The bottom line is that too many Floridians are killed with guns. The impact of this violence is heartbreaking and impacts our residents, tourist industry, hospitals and economy through gun trafficking, suicide, domestic violence, injury and death. I ask that you focus on the above priorities to save lives and that you don't wait.

Thank you for your time and attention,

Name
Address
Phone

Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Stop the Violence!
No Guns

Dear Infrastructure and Security Committee:

I am writing to thank you for your work on gun violence and to ask you to support the commonsense gun reform so **desperately** needed in our state. Based on the experiences here in Miami Dade County, I believe the following changes would be the most impactful in preventing gun violence:

1. Background checks on all gun sales

Most Florida voters support requiring background checks on all gun sales, including 89 percent of Republicans and 87 percent of gun owners. We still have not closed the unlicensed gun sale loophole which means that prohibited buyers can take advantage of this loophole and get armed illegally in person and via internet. This loophole guts the public safety impact of **all** our laws. Criminals, underage buyers and people subject to Extreme Risk Orders can simply circumvent the law and purchase a firearm from an unlicensed seller and skip a background check altogether. It is like going to TSA, skipping the line and being allowed through a side door. Crazy!

2. Ban on high capacity magazines

The August 2019 Dayton, Ohio shooter used a rifle equipped with a high-capacity drum magazine capable of holding 100 rounds. Though law enforcement stopped the shooting in about 30 seconds, the shooter was able to fire dozens of shots—and kill 9 people—largely because of the magazine capacity. Over the past decade, **the four deadliest mass shootings in America involved the use of high-capacity magazines. In fact, 58 percent of mass shootings between 2009 and 2017 were committed with firearms equipped with high-capacity magazines.** Limiting magazine capacity would make **ALL** guns less lethal.

3. Require firearms dealers to notify law enforcement when a customer fails a background check

Failed attempts to purchase guns can foreshadow future criminal activity. People who fail background checks are 28 percent more likely to be arrested in the five years following the denial than in the five years before it. Law enforcement wants to know and should know when prohibited individuals are attempting to purchase guns.

4. Expansion of red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders

When a person is in crisis, loved ones are often the first to see signs that they pose a threat to themselves or others. An Extreme Risk law allows them to petition a court for an order to temporarily remove guns from dangerous situations and prohibit the purchase or possession of firearms while the order is in effect.

5. Require gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement and make responsible storage laws stricter so stolen guns are kept off the streets.

From 2007 to 2017, at least 82,000 guns were reported stolen and never found in Florida. Law enforcement has said over and over that they want to know if a stolen gun is on the street. Here in Miami Dade we need solutions for our urban violence NOW – please raise the bar to make it more difficult for guns to be stolen and for law enforcement to be informed.

The bottom line is that too many Floridians are killed with guns. The impact of this violence is heartbreaking and impacts our residents, tourist industry, hospitals and economy through gun trafficking, suicide, domestic violence, injury and death. I ask that you focus on the above priorities to save lives and that you don't wait.

Thank you for your time and attention,

Name Shelby W. Turner
Address 15921 SW 97 Avenue, Miami, FL. 33157
Phone (305) 244-7263

Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Infrastructure and Security Committee:

I am writing to thank you for your work on gun violence and to ask you to support the commonsense gun reform so **desperately** needed in our state. Based on the experiences here in Miami Dade County, I believe the following changes would be the most impactful in preventing gun violence:

1. Background checks on all gun sales

Most Florida voters support requiring background checks on all gun sales, including 89 percent of Republicans and 87 percent of gun owners. We still have not closed the unlicensed gun sale loophole which means that prohibited buyers can take advantage of this loophole and get armed illegally in person and via internet. This loophole guts the public safety impact of **all** our laws. Criminals, underage buyers and people subject to Extreme Risk Orders can simply circumvent the law and purchase a firearm from an unlicensed seller and skip a background check altogether. It is like going to TSA, skipping the line and being allowed through a side door. Crazy!

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5. Require gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement and make responsible storage laws stricter so stolen guns are kept off the streets.

From 2007 to 2017, at least 82,000 guns were reported stolen and never found in Florida. Law enforcement has said over and over that they want to know if a stolen gun is on the street. Here in Miami Dade we need solutions for our urban violence NOW – please raise the bar to make it more difficult for guns to be stolen and for law enforcement to be informed.

The bottom line is that too many Floridians are killed with guns. The impact of this violence is heartbreaking and impacts our residents, tourist industry, hospitals and economy through gun trafficking, suicide, domestic violence, injury and death. I ask that you focus on the above priorities to save lives and that you don't wait.

Thank you for your time and attention,

Name Gwendolyn Smith
Address 10358 SW 205 Terrace
Phone Miami Florida 33189

Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Infrastructure and Security Committee:

I am writing to thank you for your work on gun violence and to ask you to support the commonsense gun reform so **desperately** needed in our state. Based on the experiences here in Miami Dade County, I believe the following changes would be the most impactful in preventing gun violence:

1. Background checks on all gun sales

Most Florida voters support requiring background checks on all gun sales, including 89 percent of Republicans and 87 percent of gun owners. We still have not closed the unlicensed gun sale loophole which means that prohibited buyers can take advantage of this loophole and get armed illegally in person and via internet. This loophole guts the public safety impact of **all** our laws. Criminals, underage buyers and people subject to Extreme Risk Orders can simply circumvent the law and purchase a firearm from an unlicensed seller and skip a background check altogether. It is like going to TSA, skipping the line and being allowed through a side door. Crazy!

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5. Require gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement and make responsible storage laws stricter so stolen guns are kept off the streets.

From 2007 to 2017, at least 82,000 guns were reported stolen and never found in Florida. Law enforcement has said over and over that they want to know if a stolen gun is on the street. Here in Miami Dade we need solutions for our urban violence NOW – please raise the bar to make it more difficult for guns to be stolen and for law enforcement to be informed.

The bottom line is that too many Floridians are killed with guns. The impact of this violence is heartbreaking and impacts our residents, tourist industry, hospitals and economy through gun trafficking, suicide, domestic violence, injury and death. I ask that you focus on the above priorities to save lives and that you don't wait.

Thank you for your time and attention,

Name Nadine Wright
Address 9944 SW 224th Apt 201
Phone 786-379-2922

September, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair
Florida Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee
418 Senate Building
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Senator Lee:

As you lead the effort to consider legislation this session to prevent gun violence, including mass shootings, I write to express my support for passing a state law to require criminal background checks on all gun sales. Florida state law currently does not require background checks on unlicensed gun sales, leaving a massive loophole in place that makes it far too easy for criminals, people prohibited from having guns because of mental illness, and others with dangerous histories to get their hands on guns through private, online or gun show sales. Fifteen states have passed laws to require background checks on all gun sales. Background check laws —by point-of-sale check and/or permit— are associated with lower rates of firearm homicide, suicide and firearm trafficking. The Florida Legislature should build upon the important gun violence legislation passed following the Parkland mass shooting and pass a comprehensive background check law.

Sincerely,

Dana Elliott Preble

Dear Senator Lee
Thank-you for addressing this Long
Awaited Urgent Issue of gun violence all around us in our communities in this country.
I have been a life time resident in Florida. I live in Tallahassee presently but grew up near Tampa Florida.
I earned a teaching degree from University of South Florida and taught for 34 years in Hillsborough county.
The grades I taught were first through sixth.
The last ten years of my career were teaching in a little neighborhood school in Plant City Florida. Much of the student body was of Hispanic descent.
Some families communicated that they had experienced deaths from gun violence.
Back then, violence from guns could usually be traced to gang affiliation,rivals .Many gun deaths had in the past been contributed to domestic quarrels.

Those days seem centuries ago.

When the tragic Sandy Hook shooting took place on December 14, 2012 ,it shook my world as it did with many. To even fathom someone coming into a school setting, a classroom and killing innocent 6 year olds was unbelievable.

The parents and families of these children and their teachers who were killed will forever be devastated and heartbroken.

These families along with people all over the countries implored Congress to take action and pass legislation to prevent another horrific tradgedy. I participated with faith groups, other activist groups as did many pleading with lawmakers to write bills and vote for change.

We asked for loopholes to be closed in purchasing guns online. We asked for bans on assault rifles. We asked for stricter background checks to prevent people who were unstable from getting guns.

Nothing was done.

Now almost seven years later, we wake up to news where daily shootings take place.
Children all over America have to worry about a prospective shooter coming into their school setting.
High school football games are constantly interrupted with gun shots and fear.
People aren't safe in malls or night clubs. When will the next shooting happen?Where will it happen?Are these questions we want our children to be asking?
Is this the country we want to live in?
Thank-you Senator Lee for doing what you can. I only pray and hope it doesn't rest on deaf ears Before It is TOO LATE.

Anne Wilde

Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee:

I am writing to you from Miami-Dade County in the hopes of letting you know what issues I would like the Florida legislature to focus on next year in terms of gun violence prevention. My priorities are as follows:

1. Background checks on all gun sales

93 percent of American voters support requiring background checks on all gun sales, including 89 percent of Republicans and 87 percent of gun owners. Florida has not closed the unlicensed sale loophole which means that felons, domestic abusers and other prohibited people cans skip a background check and get armed simply by seeking an unlicensed seller online or even at a gun show. It is like if you went to TSA to board a plane and just asked to skip the line and you were ALLOWED! It just makes no sense. An investigation found that in 2018 alone, there were nearly 1.2 million gun ads on an online gun marketplace called Armslist.com for gun sales. No background check was legally required. Research shows that prohibited people seek guns in those unlicensed gun sales at a disproportionate rate.

2. Expansion of red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders

When a person is in crisis, loved ones are usually the first to see signs that they pose a threat.

3. Require firearms dealers to notify law enforcement when a customer fails a background check

Failed attempts to purchase guns can foreshadow future criminal activity. People who fail background checks are 28 percent more likely to be arrested in the five years following the denial than in the five years before it. Law enforcement should know and WANTS to know when prohibited individuals are attempting to purchase guns.

4. Reform the concealed carry license process to give the Department of Agriculture greater discretion to deny licenses to those individuals who present a public safety threat

The legislature practically apologizes to gun owners for requiring a license to concealed carry: "The Legislature does not delegate to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services the authority to regulate or restrict the issuing of licenses provided for in this section, beyond those provisions contained in this section. Subjective or arbitrary actions or rules which encumber the issuing process by placing burdens on the applicant beyond those sworn statements and specified documents detailed in this section or which create restrictions beyond those specified in this section are in conflict with the intent of this section and are prohibited. This section shall be liberally construed to carry out the constitutional right to bear arms for self-defense. This section is supplemental and additional to existing rights to bear arms, and nothing in this section shall impair or diminish such rights." Fla. Stat. 790.06(15).

5. Require gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement

From 2007 to 2017, at least 82,000 guns were reported stolen and never found in Florida. Requiring safe storage in vehicles would go a long way to reducing these numbers.

On behalf of my family, I urge you as a leader and steward of Florida, to take action on this issue of gun reform. We cannot risk another young life because of our inaction. thank you for taking the time to read this letter.

Sincerely,

Name: Catharine Berkowitz
Address 9351 SW 100 Street, Miami, FL 33176
Phone Number 305-598-5364

Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee:

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Sincerely,

Emily Nelson
2309 SW 58th Court, Miami, FL 33155
(786) 496 - 2193

Sen. Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Senator Lee,

I'm glad you are taking the time to explore the ways in which gun violence can be addressed in Florida. I hope you and your colleagues will consider the proposals below, all of which are backed by hard evidence. These actions have saved lives all over the country and will do the same here in Florida. Among them:

1. **Require background checks on *all* gun sales (including gun shows and personal sales).** 93% of all Americans support this, including 87% of gun owners. Background checks are simple, effective and again and again they have prevented dangerous people from doing great harm.
2. **Repeal the portion of the Marjorie Stoneman Douglas act that allows teachers to be armed.** Arming teachers is overwhelmingly opposed by educators, parents and law enforcement and carries tremendous risk to students. The majority of Florida's school districts recognize this and have opted out for that reason. This is a misguided, dangerous measure that merits repealing.
3. **Ban assault weapons and high-capacity magazines.** This ban was in place once (and before that it was supported by President Reagan), and *it worked.* In the decade after the ban ended, there was a 347% increase in fatalities in gun massacres. The ban saved lives and should be back in place. A strong majority of Americans — up to 70% — favors such a ban.
4. **Expand red flag laws to allow family members to petition for extreme risk protection orders.** When a person is in crisis, loved ones and law enforcement are often the first to see a threat. An Extreme Risk Protection law allows them to petition a court to temporarily remove guns from dangerous situations and prevent the purchase of firearms while the order is in effect.

As a Florida mother of school-age children, I sincerely hope you'll enact these evidenced-based proposals to keep our communities safe and to prevent gun violence. Please ACT to help save the lives of those you are elected to represent. We cannot afford any more lives lost, and we know these measures work.

Thank you,
Michelle Tauber
Longwood, Fla.

Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Infrastructure and Security Committee:

I am writing to thank you for your work on gun violence and to ask you to support the commonsense gun reform so **desperately** needed in our state. Based on the experiences here in Miami Dade County, I believe the following changes would be the most impactful in preventing gun violence:

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The bottom line is that **too** many Floridians are killed with guns. The impact of this violence is heartbreaking and impacts our residents, tourist industry, hospitals and economy through gun trafficking, suicide, domestic violence, injury and death. I ask that you focus on the above priorities to save lives and that you don't wait.

Thank you for your time and attention,

Name Tyler Webb
Address 10455 S.W. 165 Terr. 33196
Phone 305-233-0530

There would not be mass shootings if people did not have access to these weapons. Stop selling these weapons

Gun violence has plagued America for decades. Now it is at a point where gun laws are needed to help lessen the death toll.

Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

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Thank you for your time and attention,

Name Audrey Bericho
Address 5563 Tyler St.
Phone Miami, Fla
33176

September 13,209

The Honorable Tom Lee

Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee

The Florida Senate

418 Senate Building

404 South Monroe Street

Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee;

I am a Florida resident who is very concerned about my own safety and that of my family and friends. It is my understanding that you and your Committee have been tasked with reviewing hate crimes and gun violence and introducing legislation in the next session to address your findings.

Please consider the expansion of red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders. When a person is in crisis, their loved ones, not law enforcement, are often the first to see signs that they pose a threat. An expanded Extreme Risk law would allow family members to petition a court for an extreme risk protection order to temporarily remove guns from dangerous situations and prohibit the purchase or possession of firearms while the order is in effect. The law passed last year that allows law enforcement to petition the court has helped but it is not enough. Allowing family members who are more familiar with threats and dangers to petition the court directly would make all of us safer, whether we are Florida residents or visitors to our state.

Also, please consider crafting legislation that requires those convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence to surrender fire arms temporarily under the same requirements as under ERPOs. In an average month, at least 52 American women are shot and killed by an intimate partner, and many more are injured. And often, the children are either harmed or also killed, and/or suffer the trauma of witnessing these events or losing both parents simultaneously. We must do more to prevent these tragedies.

These simple expanded protections will surely save the lives of many Floridians. I ask you to consider these as we attempt to be safer in our homes and communities throughout the state.

My thanks in advance for keeping my family & grandchildren safe.

Sincerely,

Deborah Mendelson

Deborah Mendelson
7743 NW 124th Terr.
Parkland, FL. 330796

September 13, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee;

Thank you for your work and ongoing concern for the health and safety of all Floridians. As you and the Committee move forward with discussion and creation of legislation that will address hate crimes and gun violence, please considerthe following.

Since retirement of the federal ban on assault weapons in 1994, we have seen a drastic increase in the number of deaths associated with mass shootings. While we cannot presume that the rise in incidents can be attributed to assault weapons, we can say with all certainty thatmore deaths occur per incident when assault weapons are involved. Most recently, the Dayton Ohio shooter used a high-capacity drum magazine holding 100 rounds. Although law enforcement quickly intervened to stop the shooting, within 30 seconds 9 people had been shot and killed, largely due to the magazine capacity. Thus, while a ban on assault weapons may not impact the frequency of mass shootings, it would certainly help to decrease the number of deaths.

In the area of gun safety, please improve the safety standards associated with the training that is required prior to the purchase of a firearm. From 2014 through today, across America, 1,296 children have been killed or injured by guns. Many of these incidents result from accidents associated with the failure of the owner to safely store a weapon. While today's reality may require that we as parents ask whether there is a gun in the house each time we organize a play date, it's imperative that we be assured that those guns are safely stored.

Thank you for your consideration and dedication to safeguarding my grandchildren and all Floridians.

Sincerely,

Deborah Mendelson

Deborah Mendelson
7743 NW 124th Terr.
Parkland, Fl. 33076

September 13, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee;

I understand that the Infrastructure and Security Committee will be focusing on ways to address gun violence and hate crimes during its September meeting. While the recent wave of mass shootings has served to focus our attention on this topic, in reality, one hundred Americans lose their lives to gun violence in their own neighborhoods daily. Obviously, this is a vitally important topic, and I thank you for spearheading this discussion.

As you move forward with the discussion, particularly as it relates to hate crimes, it is my hope that you will consider revisions to the existing Stand Your Ground Law. Under the current law, the burden of proof falls to the plaintiff and requires that the state disprove the defense which is difficult, if not impossible, for prosecutors to overcome. Additionally, the existing law is flawed and serves to exacerbate hate crimes in that it provides latitude to initiate a confrontation, then respond with deadly force. This can be corrected by placing the burden of proof for a stand your ground defense on the defendant.

Again, my thanks for spearheading the discussion and for your dedication to preserving the health, safety and welfare of my family, my grandchildren - Brody & Audrey - and all Floridians.

Sincerely,

Martin Mendelson

Martin Mendelson
7743 NW 124th Terr.
Parkland, Fl. 33076

Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

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I am writing to thank you for your work on gun violence and to ask you to support the commonsense gun reform so **desperately** needed in our state. Based on the experiences here in Miami Dade County, I believe the following changes would be the most impactful in preventing gun violence:

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2. Ban on high capacity magazines

The August 2019 Dayton, Ohio shooter used a rifle equipped with a high-capacity drum magazine capable of holding 100 rounds. Though law enforcement stopped the shooting in about 30 seconds, the shooter was able to fire dozens of shots—and kill 9 people—largely because of the magazine capacity. Over the past decade, **the four deadliest mass shootings in America involved the use of high-capacity magazines. In fact, 58 percent of mass shootings between 2009 and 2017 were committed with firearms equipped with high-capacity magazines.** Limiting magazine capacity would make **ALL** guns less lethal.

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Thank you for your time and attention,

Name Jana Bethel
Address Miramar, Florida
Phone

Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

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Thank you for your time and attention.

Name KAREN WEBB
Address 10455 S.W. 165 Terr 33170
Phone 305-253-0530

Gun violence needs to stop. EASY Access to guns make MASS shooting EASIER with high capacity magazines

Assault weapons and should highly capacity is the military not for the streets

Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

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Thank you for your time and attention,

Name [signature]
Address 10455 S.W. 165 Terr 33157
Phone 786-991-5511

STOP THE VIOLENCE !

Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

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Thank you for your time and attention,

Name Leon Miller
Address 1149 S.W. 21 St.
Phone 786-581-9291

No More Killing in my Community this need to end now

Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

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The August 2019 Dayton, Ohio shooter used a rifle equipped with a high-capacity drum magazine capable of holding 100 rounds. Though law enforcement stopped the shooting in about 30 seconds, the shooter was able to fire dozens of shots—and kill 9 people—largely because of the magazine capacity. Over the past decade, **the four deadliest mass shootings in America involved the use of high-capacity magazines. In fact, 58 percent of mass shootings between 2009 and 2017 were committed with firearms equipped with high-capacity magazines.** Limiting magazine capacity would make **ALL** guns less lethal.

3. Require firearms dealers to notify law enforcement when a customer fails a background check

Failed attempts to purchase guns can foreshadow future criminal activity. People who fail background checks are 28 percent more likely to be arrested in the five years following the denial than in the five years before it. Law enforcement wants to know and should know when prohibited individuals are attempting to purchase guns.

4. Expansion of red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders

When a person is in crisis, loved ones are often the first to see signs that they pose a threat to themselves or others. An Extreme Risk law allows them to petition a court for an order to temporarily remove guns from dangerous situations and prohibit the purchase or possession of firearms while the order is in effect.

5. Require gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement and make responsible storage laws stricter so stolen guns are kept off the streets.

From 2007 to 2017, at least 82,000 guns were reported stolen and never found in Florida. Law enforcement has said over and over that they want to know if a stolen gun is on the street. Here in Miami Dade we need solutions for our urban violence NOW – please raise the bar to make it more difficult for guns to be stolen and for law enforcement to be informed.

The bottom line is that too many Floridians are killed with guns. The impact of this violence is heartbreaking and impacts our residents, tourist industry, hospitals and economy through gun trafficking, suicide, domestic violence, injury and death. I ask that you focus on the above priorities to save lives and that you don't wait.

Thank you for your time and attention,

Enough is Enough

Name Jeffrey Cross
Address 11345W 31St
Phone 786 366-4164

Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Infrastructure and Security Committee:

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Thank you for your time and attention,

Name Darren Handy Jr
Address 11107 SW 200 St Apt 7125 Miami, FL 33157
Phone 305-832-5080

What if it was your son or daughter

Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

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Thank you for your time and attention,

Name Esther Estelle
Address 20901 SW 117 Ave Miami FL 33177
Phone ~~305~~ 786 201 5921

All of the reason mentioned below are good reason why we need better gun laws. The one that concerns me the most are the high capacity magazines and reloads. In a few seconds many people are killed. Keep these weapons far away

Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

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Thank you for your time and attention,

Name Amber Beech Hawkins
Address 16431 SW 105 Ave
Phone Miami FL 33157

I strongly agree on Back grounds checks for veryone period. They should raise the Law to 23 years of age and sale only hand guns.

Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

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Thank you for your time and attention,

Name JAVON BETHEL
Address 14631 SW 104 AVE MIAMI, FLA 33157
Phone 305-351-6743

Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

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   Thank you for your time and attention,

Name Peyton Webb
Address 10455 S.W. 165 Terr
Phone 786-229-3155

No one should be allowed to walk into a place and just buy a gun – STOP Mass shootings

Juliet Lewis
924 Michele Circle
Dunedin, FL 34698

September 7, 2019

Senator Linda Stewart
Infrastructure Committee
1726 South Bumby Avenue
Orlando, FL 32806

Dear Senator Stewart:

I am a member of Everytown for Gun Safety/Moms Demand Action. I believe that the upcoming public meeting to address hate crime and gun violence is of paramount importance, especially in Florida. Our state has witnessed too many gun related incidences. I would appreciate the following issues to be addressed by your committee:

- Background checks on all gun sales
- Ban on assault weapons and high capacity magazines
- Expansion of red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Rick Protection Orders
- Reinstate the language in 30.15 that prohibited classroom teachers from serving as school guardians
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- Prohibit those convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence to possess firearms
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- Require safety training prior to purchasing a firearm
- Require timely reporting of criminal and mental records to NICS
- Repeal preemption
- Return the burden of proof for stand your ground defense to the defendant
- Prohibit the printing of 3D guns

Thank you for your consideration of these matters.

Sincerely,
Juliet Lewis
Dunedin, Florida

Juliet Lewis
924 Michele Circle
Dunedin, FL 34698

September 7, 2019

Senator Annette Taddeo
Infrastructure and Security Committee
10689 N. Kendall Drive, Suite 212
Miami, FL 33176

Dear Senator Taddeo:

I am a member of Everytown for Gun Safety/Moms Demand Action. I believe that the upcoming public meeting to address hate crime and gun violence is of paramount importance, especially in Florida. Our state has witnessed too many gun related incidences. I would appreciate the following issues to be addressed by your committee:

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Sincerely,
Juliet Lewis
Dunedin, Florida

Senator Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

September 11, 2019

Senator Lee,

I have sat back feeling helpless for years while one after another preventable mass shooting, suicide, and other gun violence continued to escalate in our country. This is supposed to be the land of the free, but citizens do not feel free, we feel scared. We avoid public places for fear of being gunned down. No place is sacred and safe. When 2500 Floridians are killed with guns every year, that is 2500 too many.

BUT it doesn't have to be this way. We can unite, and we can make changes that the vast majority of people are in favor of, including gun owners. We can take the spirit of 9/11 and come together for the common good of all.

I have met gun owners at candle light vigils who are advocating for stopping the sale of semi- and automatic weapons and large magazine clips. These same people, on their own, turned in their semi-automatic weapons to their local police, "these have no place on the street," they said to me.

After Las Vegas (where I spent much of my elementary years) and Parkland (where my niece, nephew and their kids live), I said enough was a long time ago, "what can I do"? In my so-called spare time, I advocate for our legislators to save our lives and restore our country to the land of the free.

I have attended countless vigils, I have written letters, I have made thousands of phone calls, I have visited our legislators in Florida, and I have met amazing people along the way. People who have had enough, who have witnessed gun violence first hand and who are survivors of gun violence. I've met people so scared that they've gone out to purchase their own guns, and admit they've never held a gun prior to purchase.

September is Suicide Awareness month, as you know. I lost my grandfather to suicide by gun and missed knowing a grandfather and all that comes with that. Robust Red Flag laws would have stopped this. As a youth, peers being killed by guns, at a time when it was uncommon, affected me. I cannot imagine the emotional impact on today's youth. I contract as a registered dietitian nutritionist for the Air Force and we have a day coming up for resiliency training because of the number of suicides. Our military is a reflection of our society.

Following are **common sense gun reform laws** that if adopted would save thousands of Floridian lives, and thousands more of the heartache and emotional toll of gun violence in America. Since 80 – 93% of Americans (including Floridians and gun owners) agree with these reforms, it's mind boggling to understand why these aren't the easiest pieces of legislation to be introduced and passed into law.

Thank you for your time, thank you for your service, and I hope and pray that Floridians will be safer and live longer as the result of the bills passed into law this legislative session. Please, Enough.

Julie Schwartz
1002 Chillum Ct
Safety Harbor, FL 34695
Jrsagator8@gmail.com

September 12, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair
Florida Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee
418 Senate Building
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Senator Lee:

My name is Mona-Rose Bedard and I am a constituent in Wesley Chapel, Florida.
As the Chair of the Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee, I urge you to hear our voices as we demand better gun violence legislation. As a mother and a grandmother, this is something that keeps me up at night and I am tired of my leaders not listening and not taking action.
Here are a few items that I feel are extremely important to ensure a safer America.

Florida state law currently does not require background checks on unlicensed gun sales, leaving a massive loophole in place that makes it far too easy for criminals, people prohibited from having guns because of mental illness, and others with dangerous histories to get their hands on guns through private, online or gun show sales. Fifteen states have passed laws to require background checks on all gun sales. Background check laws —by point-of-sale check and/or permit— are associated with lower rates of firearm homicide, suicide and firearm trafficking. The Florida Legislature should build upon the important gun violence legislation passed following the Parkland mass shooting and pass a comprehensive background check law.

I want to see licenses needed along with mandatory training for guns: the same as vehicles.

The legislature practically apologizes to gun owners for requiring a license to concealed carry: "The Legislature does not delegate to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services the authority to regulate or restrict the issuing of licenses provided for in this section, beyond those provisions contained in this section. Subjective or arbitrary actions or rules which encumber the issuing process by placing burdens on the applicant beyond those sworn statements and specified documents detailed in this section or which create restrictions beyond those specified in this section are in conflict with the intent of this section and are prohibited. This section shall be liberally construed to carry out the constitutional right to bear arms for self-defense. This section is supplemental and additional to existing rights to bear arms, and nothing in this section shall impair or diminish such rights." Fla. Stat. 790.06(15).

Sincerely,

Mona-Rose Bedard
4899 Wandering Way
Wesley Chapel, Fl
33544

Juliet Lewis
924 Michele Circle
Dunedin, FL 34698

September 7, 2019

Senator Aaron Bean
Infrastructure and Security Committee
Duval Station
13453 North Main Street
Suite 301
Jacksonville, FL 32218

Dear Senator Bean:

I am a member of Everytown for Gun Safety/Moms Demand Action. I believe that the upcoming public meeting to address hate crime and gun violence is of paramount importance, especially in Florida. Our state has witnessed too many gun related incidences. I would appreciate the following issues to be addressed by your committee:

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- Repeal preemption
- Return the burden of proof for stand your ground defense to the defendant
- Prohibit the printing of 3D guns

Thank you for your consideration of these matters.

Sincerely,

Juliet Lewis
Dunedin, Florida

Juliet Lewis
924 Michele Circle
Dunedin, FL 34698

September 7, 2019

Senator Janet Cruz
Infrastructure Committee
210A S. MacDill Avenue
Tampa, FL 33609

Dear Senator Cruz:

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924 Michele Circle
Dunedin, FL 34698

September 7, 2019

Senator Ed Hooper
Infrastructure and Security Committee
3450 East Lake Road
Suite 305
Palm Harbor, FL 34685

Dear Senator Hooper:

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924 Michele Circle
Dunedin, FL 34698

September 7, 2019

Senator Travis Hutson
Infrastructure and Security Committee
4875 Palm Coast Parkway, NW
Palm Coast, FL 32137

Dear Senator Hutson:

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- Prohibit the printing of 3D guns

Thank you for your consideration of these matters.

Sincerely,

Juliet Lewis
Dunedin, Florida

Sen. Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee,

My name is Blythe Marulanda and I am a member of Moms Demand Action in Land O Lakes, Florida (Pasco County). As a concerned mother of two, I urge you to hear our voices as we demand better gun violence legislation. I'm tired of hearing about mass shootings and senseless gun violence in our country, and I'm sure you have the same concerns. Please take into account the following actions for better gun control.

Background checks on all gun sales. This is something that 93 percent of all Americans are in favor of (including 89% of Republicans and 87% of gun owners.) Background checks work as we need to close any and all loopholes that allow someone to purchase a gun without a proper background check.

Ban on assault weapons and high capacity magazines. Nobody - and I mean nobody - needs these deadly weapons if they are not on the battlefields fighting a war. The August 2019 Dayton, Ohio shooter used a rifle equipped with a high-capacity drum magazine capable of holding 100 rounds. Though law enforcement stopped the shooting in about 30 seconds, the shooter was able to fire dozens of shots—and kill 9 people —largely because of the magazine capacity. Over the past decade, the four deadliest mass shootings in America involved the use of high-capacity magazines. In fact, 58 percent of mass shootings between 2009 and 2017 were committed with firearms equipped with high-capacity magazines.

Expansion of red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders. When a person is in crisis, loved ones and law enforcement are often the first to see signs that they pose a

threat. An Extreme Risk law allows them to petition a court for an extreme risk protection order to temporarily remove guns from dangerous situations and prohibit the purchase or possession of firearms while the order is in effect.

Reinstate the language in §30.15 that prohibited classroom teachers from serving as school guardians. A March 2018 survey of almost 500 U.S. teachers found that 73 percent oppose proposals to arm school staff. Another survey found that 63 percent of parents of elementary, middle, and high school students oppose arming teachers. I was a teacher for 13 years and am dismayed at the thought of children being around guns in schools.

Require those convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence to surrender firearms. In an average month, at least 52 American women are shot and killed by an intimate partner, and many more are injured.

Require firearms dealers to notify law enforcement when a customer fails a background check
Failed attempts to purchase guns can foreshadow future criminal activity. People who fail background checks are 28 percent more likely to be arrested in the five years following the denial than in the five years before it. Law enforcement should know when prohibited individuals are attempting to purchase guns.

Prohibit concealed carry licensees from carrying firearms in additional sensitive places, such as daycares, public playgrounds, and at public demonstrations. Florida's list of "sensitive" places is fairly small, and despite the NRA talking point, data from 2009-2016 shows that only 10 percent of the 156 mass shootings during that period happened in a "gun free zone."

Require safe storage of guns in vehicles and Require gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement. From 2007 to 2017, at least 82,000 guns were reported stolen and never found in Florida.

Require safety training prior to purchasing a firearm. Gun buyers should be educated on firearm safety, including safe storage. Every year almost 350 children shoot themselves or someone else unintentionally. Most of these shootings take place inside a home where a gun was not properly secured.

Require the timely reporting of criminal and mental health records to NICS. Hundreds of thousands of prohibiting mental health records are missing from the NICS background check system, potentially enabling prohibited people to pass a background check.

Repeal preemption. Efforts by municipalities to regulate where guns can be carried and fired have been struck down on the basis of Florida's preemption statute.

Return the burden of proof for stand your ground defense to the defendant. Florida's Stand Your Ground defense, which requires the state to disprove the defense before trial, is very difficult for prosecutors to overcome.

Prohibit the printing of 3D guns. 3d Printed guns provide another way for individuals prohibited by law from purchasing a gun to obtain one without a background check.

Thank you!

Sincerely,

Blythe Marulanda

Juliet Lewis
924 Michele Circle
Dunedin, FL 34698

September 7, 2019

Senator Keith Perry
Vice Chair, Infrastructure and Security
2610 NW 43rd Street
Suite 2B
Gainesville, FL 32606

Dear Senator Perry:

I am a member of Everytown for Gun Safety/Moms Demand Action. I believe that the upcoming public meeting to address hate crime and gun violence is of paramount importance, especially in Florida. Our state has witnessed too many gun related incidences. I would appreciate the following issues to be addressed by your committee:

- Background checks on all gun sales
- Ban on assault weapons and high capacity magazines
- Expansion of red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Rick Protection Orders
- Reinstate the language in 30.15 that prohibited classroom teachers from serving as school guardians
- Reform the concealed carry license process to give the Dept. of Agriculture greater discretion to deny licenses to those individuals who present a public safety threat
- Prohibit those convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence to possess firearms
- Require firearms dealers to notify law enforcement when a customer fails a background check
- Prohibit concealed carry licensees from carrying firearms in additional sensitive places, such as daycares, public playgrounds, and at public demonstrations
- Require safe storage in vehicles and require gun owners to report lost of stolen firearms to law enforcement
- Require safety training prior to purchasing a firearm
- Require timely reporting of criminal and mental records to NICS
- Repeal preemption
- Return the burden of proof for stand your ground defense to the defendant
- Prohibit the printing of 3D guns

Thank you for your consideration of these matters.

Sincerely,

Juliet Lewis
Dunedin, Florida

SENATOR TOM LEE
CHAIR, INFRASTRUCTURE & SECURITY
THE FLORIDA SENATE
418 SENATE BUILDING
404 SOUTH MONROE STREET
TALLAHASSEE, FL 32399-1100

SEPTEMBER 12, 2019

DEAR SENATOR LEE,

HAVING LIVED IN FLORIDA NOW 40 YEARS I FEEL THIS STATE IS MY HOME. MY WIFE AND I RAISED TWO CHILDREN HERE. ONE OF THEM, NOW NEARING 40 YEARS OLD ALSO CALLS FLORIDA HOME AND THE OTHER RETURNS FREQUENTLY. WE LOVE THIS STATE. AS I LOOK BACK TO OUR CHILDRENS SCHOOL DAYS I DO NOT RECALL EVER BEING CONCERNED ABOUT THEIR SAFETY AND WELL BEING AS I DROPPED THEM OFF AT SCHOOL. UNFORTUNATELY, THIS WILL NOT BE THE CASE WHEN OUR BEAUTIFUL GRAND DAUGHTERS BEGIN THEIR SCHOOLING — UNLESS SOMETHING CHANGES VERY SOON. SO, I WRITE THIS LETTER IN HOPE THAT YOU MAY CONSIDER COMMON SENSE MEASURES REGARDING OUR STATE'S GUN LAWS. FOLLOWING ARE A FEW THINGS I FEEL STRONGLY ABOUT & THINK WOULD SAVE LIVES PLUS ALLOW A RETURN TO OUR COMMON PURSUIT OF "LIFE, LIBERTY & HAPPINESS". AFTER ALL, NO YOUNG FATHER, MOTHER OR GRANDPARENT SHOULD HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THEIR CHILDREN BEING SHOT WHILE ATTENDING THE NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOL!

- BAN EXTENDED CAPACITY MAGAZINES
- BAN SEMI-AUTOMATIC ASSAULT STYLE RIFLES
- ALL GUN SALES SHOULD REQUIRE COMPREHENSIVE BACKGROUND CHECKS — TO INCLUDE, INDIVIDUAL TO INDIVIDUAL, GUN SHOW SALES.
- STATE SYSTEM (SIMILAR TO REQUIRED ELECTRONIC RECORDS FOR PSEUDOEPHEDRINE SALES) TO TRACK AMMUNITION SALES, WITH MANDATORY VISIT FROM LAW ENFORCEMENT FOR MULTIPLE LARGE QUANTITY PURCHASES.
- RED FLAG LAWS THAT INCLUDE BOYFRIENDS WHO ABUSE, STALK PARTNERS & ARE CONVICTED OF SUCH.

P172

— IT CONCERNS ME THAT SHOULD I GO TO A LOCAL BAR OR RESTAURANT THE POTENTIAL IS THERE FOR 1 OF EVERY 10 PATRONS TO BE CARRYING A GUN. THINKING OF THE MIX OF ALCOHOL, STAND YOUR GROUND & GUNS IS TOUGH TO RECONCILE.

— FINALLY, I WISH TO EXPRESS MY COMPLETE DISAGREEMENT WITH STATE LAWS THAT ALLOW ARMING OF TEACHERS.

WHILE THERE ARE MANY THINGS TO CONSIDER WHEN ATTEMPTING TO REMEDY GUN VIOLENCE IN OUR SOCIETY, IT IS MY OPINION THAT THE GUN MUST BE CONSIDERED AN INTEGRAL IF NOT DOMINATING PIECE OF ANY FORMULA TO MAKE POSITIVE CHANGE.

SINCERELY,

JAMES D. PENNINGTON
ST. AUGUSTINE, FL.

(Date) 9/12/19

The Honorable Tom Lee

Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee

The Florida Senate

418 Senate Building

404 South Monroe Street

Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee;

I am a Florida resident who is very concerned about my own safety and that of my family and friends. It is my understanding that you and your Committee have been tasked with reviewing hate crimes and gun violence and introducing legislation in the next session to address your findings.

Please consider the expansion of red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders. When a person is in crisis, their loved ones, not law enforcement, are often the first to see signs that they pose a threat. An expanded Extreme Risk law would allow family members to petition a court for an extreme risk protection order to temporarily remove guns from dangerous situations and prohibit the purchase or possession of firearms while the order is in effect. The law passed last year that allows law enforcement to petition the court has helped but it is not enough. Allowing family members who are more familiar with threats and dangers to petition the court directly would make all of us safer, whether we are Florida residents or visitors to our state.

Also, please consider crafting legislation that requires those convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence to surrender firearmstemporarily under the same requirements as under ERPOs. In an average month, at least 52 American women are shot and killed by an intimate partner, and many more are injured.And often, the children are either harmed or also killed, and/or suffer the trauma of witnessing these events or losing both parents simultaneously. We must do more to prevent thesetragedies.

These simple expanded protections will surely save the lives of many Floridians.I ask you to consider these as we attempt to be safer in our homes and communities throughout the state.

My thanks in advance for your efforts on behalf of all Floridians.

Sincerely,

Signed: Jeffrey Kaye

Name: (typed or printed)

Full Address: 5906 Michaux St
Boca Raton, FL 33433

10 September 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee,

As the Infrastructure and Security Committee focuses on ways to address gun violence and hate crimes during its September meeting(s), my family and I are asking you to consider these priorities:

1.) Require a background checks on every firearm purchase in the State of Florida – Over 90% of Americans support requiring background checks on all gun sales. An investigation found that in 2018 alone, there were nearly 1.2 million firearm ads on an online gun marketplace called Armslist.com for gun sales where no background check was legally required. And research shows that prohibited people seek guns in those unlicensed gun sales at a disproportionate rate. One of the recent mass shootings in Texas had a shooter who failed a background check but because of significant loopholes was still able to procure a weapon. As a grandfather, with a grandchild who began kindergarten in the last few weeks, it is imperative that more be done to limit the potential of firearms ending up in the hands of those who should not possess them.

2.) Require the timely reporting of criminal and mental health records to NICS - Hundreds of thousands of prohibiting criminal and mental health records are missing from the NICS background check system, potentially enabling prohibited people to pass a background check. This is a critical fail that is required to be fixed in order to make background check legislation effective. Legislation to make this reporting mandatory will make us safer.

3.) Require gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement - From 2007 to 2017, at least 82,000 guns were reported stolen and never found in Florida. Not knowing a gun is stolen hinders criminal investigations and law enforcement's ability to track gun-trafficking networks. Stolen gun reports also serve as a deterrent to inter-state gun-trafficking. This is a simple measure of accountability that assists law enforcement do its job.

These three (3) proposals would have a positive effect in making Florida safer and would not diminish Florida residents' rights under the 2nd Amendment. It's a win-win for all of us. Please give them strong consideration.

Thank you for helping to keep us safe.

Sincerely,

Stuart Weisbrod
1943 W. Frederick Small Road

Jupiter, FL 33458

September 12, 2019

Sen. Tom Lee, Chair Infrastructure and Security
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

RE: Florida WANTS Common Sense Gun Laws

Your Honorable Senator Lee,

Florida residents WANT Common Sense Gun Laws.
Please skip the insulting "thoughts and prayers" and **DO SOMETHING constructive: DO YOUR JOB.**

Reinstate the language in §30.15 that prohibited classroom teachers from serving as school guardians
A March 2018 survey of almost 500 U.S. teachers found that 73 percent oppose proposals to arm school staff. Another survey found that 63 percent of parents of elementary, middle, and high school students oppose arming teachers.
https://everytownresearch.org/arming-teachers-introduces-new-risks-into-schools/4

Reform the concealed carry license process to give the Department of Agriculture greater discretion to deny licenses to those individuals who present a public safety threat
The legislature practically apologizes to gun owners for requiring a license to concealed carry: "The Legislature does not delegate to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services the authority to regulate or restrict the issuing of licenses provided for in this section, beyond those provisions contained in this section. Subjective or arbitrary actions or rules which encumber the issuing process by placing burdens on the applicant beyond those sworn statements and specified documents detailed in this section or which create restrictions beyond those specified in this section are in conflict with the intent of this section and are prohibited. This section shall be liberally construed to carry out the constitutional right to bear arms for self-defense. This section is supplemental and additional to existing rights to bear arms, and nothing in this section shall impair or diminish such rights." Fla. Stat. 790.06(15).

Require those convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence to surrender firearms
In an average month, at least 52 American women are shot and killed by an intimate partner, and many more are injured.
https://everytownresearch.org/reports/guns-violence-women-americas-uniquely-lethal-domestic-violence-6 problem/

Please DO YOUR JOB,

Chere Force
550 Brookside Cir
Maitland FL 32751

September 12, 2019

Sen. Tom Lee, Chair Infrastructure and Security
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

RE: Florida WANTS Common Sense Gun Laws

Your Honorable Senator Lee,

Florida residents WANT Common Sense Gun Laws.
Please skip the insulting "thoughts and prayers" and **DO SOMETHING constructive: DO YOUR JOB.**

Give us background checks on all gun sales 1
93 percent of American voters support requiring background checks on all gun sales, including 89 percent of Republicans and 87 percent of gun owners. An investigation found that in 2018 alone, there were nearly 1.2 million gun ads on an online gun marketplace called Armslist.com for gun sales where no background check was legally required. And research shows that prohibited people seek guns in those unlicensed gun sales at a disproportionate rate.
https://everytownresearch.org/background-checks-save-lives-protect-communities/1

Ban on assault weapons and high capacity magazines 2
The August 2019 Dayton, Ohio shooter used a rifle equipped with a high-capacity drum magazine capable of holding 100 rounds. Though law enforcement stopped the shooting in about 30 seconds, the shooter was able to fire dozens of shots—and kill 9 people—largely because of the magazine capacity. Over the past decade, the four deadliest mass shootings in America involved the use of high-capacity magazines. In fact, 58 percent of mass shootings between 2009 and 2017 were committed with firearms equipped with high-capacity magazines.
https://everytown.org/learn/h-r-1186-prohibiting-high-capacity-magazines-would-reduce-the-devastation-2 of-gun-violence/

Expansion of red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders
When a person is in crisis, loved ones and law enforcement are often the first to see signs that they pose a threat. An Extreme Risk law allows them to petition a court for an extreme risk protection order to temporarily remove guns from dangerous situations and prohibit the purchase or possession of firearms while the order is in effect.
https://everytownresearch.org/extreme-risk-laws/3

Please DO YOUR JOB,

Chere Force
550 Brookside Cir
Maitland FL 32751

Sen. Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee,

I am writing you as a Floridian resident with serious concerns for the safety of my loved ones in this state. The gun violence epidemic has gotten steadily worse, year after year, with nearly 100 Americans dying every single day due to homicides, unintentional shootings, and suicide by gun. As an American and a mother, I'm terrified of the direction this country is going in, but I know change is possible. I'm grateful you are exploring solutions. Here are some common sense ideas I implore you to consider:

- **Background Checks on all Gun Sales** – States that have implemented this simple measure have reduced gun homicides and suicides by gun. It's painfully simple to understand that not having this law enables a clear workaround for those who wouldn't be able to pass a background check to purchase in person or online from an unlicensed seller.
- **Expand Red Flag Laws** – This law, already used frequently in Florida, to allow firearms to be temporarily removed from those who pose a risk to themselves or others could be even stronger if we allowed family members to ability to use it.
- **Ban Assault Weapons and High Capacity Magazines** – With assault weapons being the weapon of choice for every mass shooting, this seems like a no brainer. They do not serve any real purpose for hunting or home protection. In my view, the fact that is it used to kill as many people as possible (9 in 30 seconds in Dayton, OH) should make it illegal for a civilian to own and operate.
- **Repeal Arming Teachers** – Since passing this bill, the vast majority of schools, teachers, parents, and school boards have opted out the program. They know it will make them and their kids less safe. More guns don't stop guns. It only reduces the reaction time of actual law enforcement, increases the risk of escalations, and could lead to unintentional shootings (which have happened around the country). There's no evidence that arming teachers discourages shootings or decreases gun violence in any form.
- **Repeal Stand Your Ground** – In the years since this law was enacted, homicide rates have increased dramatically in Florida since there is less fear of repercussions. Incidents like the one in Clearwater may have been avoided if the shooter was not emboldened by this law.
- **Prohibit the Printing of 3D guns** – These cruder guns can avoid detection and also provide a way around background checks.
- **Require those Convicted of Misdemeanor Domestic Violence to Surrender Firearms** – Each month, an average of 52 women are killed by an intimate partner. They should not be armed.

I appreciate your consideration.

Thank you,

Julie Gehring
15771 Avenue of the Arbors
Winter Garden, FL 34787

Sen. Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee,

My name is Sherry from Lutz , Florida.
As a mother, grandmother and great grandmother,
I urge you to hear our voices as we demand better gun violence legislation.
Here are a few items that I feel are
extremely important to ensure a safer America.
Background checks on all gun sales. This is something that 93 percent of all Americans are in favor of (including 89% of Republicans and 87% of gun owners.) Background checks work as we need to close any and all loopholes that allow someone to purchase a gun without a proper background check.
Ban on assault weapons and high capacity magazines. Nobody - and I mean nobody - needs these deadly weapons if they are not on the battlefields fighting a war. The August 2019 Dayton, Ohio shooter used a rifle equipped with a high-capacity drum magazine capable of holding 100 rounds. Though law enforcement stopped the shooting in about 30 seconds, the shooter was able to fire dozens of shots—and kill 9 people—largely because of the magazine capacity. Over the past decade, the four deadliest mass shootings in America involved the use of high-capacity magazines. In fact, 58 percent of mass shootings between 2009 and 2017 were committed with firearms equipped with high-capacity magazines.
Expansion of red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders. When a person is in crisis, loved ones and law enforcement are often the first to see signs that they pose a threat. An Extreme Risk law allows them to petition a court for an extreme risk protection order to temporarily remove guns from dangerous situations and prohibit the purchase or possession of firearms while the order is in effect.
Reinstate the language in §30.15 that prohibited classroom teachers from serving as school guardians. A March 2018 survey of almost 500 U.S. teachers found that 73 percent oppose proposals to arm school staff. Another survey found that 63 percent of parents of elementary, middle, and high school students oppose arming teachers.
Require those convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence to surrender firearms. In an average month, at least 52 American women are shot and killed by an intimate partner, and many more are injured.
Require firearms dealers to notify law enforcement when a customer fails a background check
Failed attempts to purchase guns can foreshadow future criminal activity. People who fail background checks are 28 percent more likely to be arrested in the five years following the denial than in the five years before it. Law enforcement should know when prohibited individuals are attempting to purchase guns.

Prohibit concealed carry licensees from carrying firearms in additional sensitive places, such as daycares, public playgrounds, and at public demonstrations. Florida's list of "sensitive" places is fairly small, and despite the NRA talking point, data from 2009-2016 shows that only 10 percent of the 156 mass shootings during that period happened in a "gun free zone."
Require safe storage of guns in vehicles and Require gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement. From 2007 to 2017, at least 82,000 guns were reported stolen and never found in Florida.
Require safety training prior to purchasing a firearm. Gun buyers should be educated on firearm safety, including safe storage. Every year almost 350 children shoot themselves or someone else unintentionally. Most of these shootings take place inside a home where a gun was not properly secured.
Require the timely reporting of criminal and mental health records to NICS. Hundreds of thousands of prohibiting mental health records are missing from the NICS background check system, potentially enabling prohibited people to pass a background check.
Repeal preemption. Efforts by municipalities to regulate where guns can be carried and fired have been struck down on the basis of Florida's preemption statute.
Return the burden of proof for stand your ground defense to the defendant. Florida's Stand Your Ground defense, which requires the state to disprove the defense before trial, is very difficult for prosecutors to overcome.
Prohibit the printing of 3D guns. 3d Printed guns provide another way for individuals prohibited by law from purchasing a gun to obtain one without a background check.

Sincerely,

Sherry L Williamson

1541 Lake Heron Drive

Lutz, FL 33549

Sen. Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee,
My name is Elizabeth Heenan and I live in Wesley Chapel, Florida. As the Chair of the Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee, I would ask you to listen as ww continue to fight for better gun violence legislation. I have 6 children and am doing online school with my three youngest because I'm scared to send them to school. They had a lockdown in public school and while it turned out fine, it was the worst three hours of my life before I could get to them. I can't believe that our legislators are not just as scared as I am and aren't ready to try a change to keep not just our children safe, but everyone.

Here are a few items that I feel are extremely important to ensure a safer America.

Background checks on all gun sales. This is something that 93 percent of all Americans are in favor of (including 89% of Republicans and 87% of gun owners.) Background checks work as we need to close any and all loopholes that allow someone to purchase a gun without a proper background check.

Ban on assault weapons and high capacity magazines. Nobody - and I mean nobody - needs these deadly weapons if they are not on the battlefields fighting a war. The August 2019 Dayton, Ohio shooter used a rifle equipped with a high-capacity drum magazine capable of holding 100 rounds. Though law enforcement stopped the shooting in about 30 seconds, the shooter was able to fire dozens of shots—and kill 9 people—largely because of the magazine capacity. Over the past decade, the four deadliest mass shootings in America involved the use of high-capacity magazines. In fact, 58 percent of mass shootings between 2009 and 2017 were committed with firearms equipped with high-capacity magazines.

Expansion of red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders. When a person is in crisis, loved ones and law enforcement are often the first to see signs that they pose a threat. An Extreme Risk law allows them to petition a court for an extreme risk protection order to temporarily remove guns from dangerous situations and prohibit the purchase or possession of firearms while the order is in effect.

Reinstate the language in §30.15 that prohibited classroom teachers from serving as school guardians. A March 2018 survey of almost 500 U.S. teachers found that 73 percent oppose proposals to arm school staff. Another survey found that 63 percent of parents of elementary, middle, and high school students oppose arming teachers.

Require those convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence to surrender firearms. In an average month, at least 52 American women are shot and killed by an intimate partner, and many more are injured.

Require firearms dealers to notify law enforcement when a customer fails a background check Failed attempts to purchase guns can foreshadow future criminal activity. People who fail background checks are 28 percent more likely to be arrested in the five years following the denial than in the five years before it. Law enforcement should know when prohibited individuals are attempting to purchase guns.

Prohibit concealed carry licensees from carrying firearms in additional sensitive places, such as daycares, public playgrounds, and at public demonstrations. Florida's list of "sensitive" places is fairly small, and despite the NRA talking point, data from 2009-2016 shows that only 10 percent of the 156 mass shootings during that period happened in a "gun free zone."

Require safe storage of guns in vehicles and require gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement. From 2007 to 2017, at least 82,000 guns were reported stolen and never found in Florida.

Require safety training prior to purchasing a firearm. Gun buyers should be educated on firearm safety, including safe storage. Every year almost 350 children shoot themselves or someone else unintentionally. Most of these shootings take place inside a home where a gun was not properly secured.

Require the timely reporting of criminal and mental health records to NICS. Hundreds of thousands of prohibiting mental health records are missing from the NICS background check system, potentially enabling prohibited people to pass a background check.

Repeal preemption. Efforts by municipalities to regulate where guns can be carried and fired have been struck down on the basis of Florida's preemption statute.

Return the burden of proof for stand your ground defense to the defendant. Florida's Stand Your Ground defense, which requires the state to disprove the defense before trial, is very difficult for prosecutors to overcome.

Prohibit the printing of 3D guns. 3D printed guns provide another way for individuals prohibited by law from purchasing a gun to obtain one without a background check.

Thank you for taking the time to review my letter. I will keep fighting until I see the day when citizens don't have to be anxious going to a concert or a movie or school - we are all so tired of living on high alert. I urge you to stand up and say ENOUGH!!

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Heenan

Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee:

I am writing to you from Miami-Dade County in the hopes of letting you know what issues I would like the Florida legislature to focus on next year in terms of gun violence prevention. My priorities are as follows:

1. Background checks on all gun sales

93 percent of American voters support requiring background checks on all gun sales, including 89 percent of Republicans and 87 percent of gun owners. Florida has not closed the unlicensed sale loophole which means that felons, domestic abusers and other prohibited people cans skip a background check and get armed simply by seeking an unlicensed seller online or even at a gun show. It is like if you went to TSA to board a plane and just asked to skip the line and you were ALLOWED! It just makes no sense. An investigation found that in 2018 alone, there were nearly 1.2 million gun ads on an online gun marketplace called Armslist.com for gun sales. No background check was legally required. Research shows that prohibited people seek guns in those unlicensed gun sales at a disproportionate rate.

2. Expansion of red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders

When a person is in crisis, loved ones are usually the first to see signs that they pose a threat.

3. Require firearms dealers to notify law enforcement when a customer fails a background check

Failed attempts to purchase guns can foreshadow future criminal activity. People who fail background checks are 28 percent more likely to be arrested in the five years following the denial than in the five years before it. Law enforcement should know and WANTS to know when prohibited individuals are attempting to purchase guns.

4. Reform the concealed carry license process to give the Department of Agriculture greater discretion to deny licenses to those individuals who present a public safety threat

The legislature practically apologizes to gun owners for requiring a license to concealed carry: "The Legislature does not delegate to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services the authority to regulate or restrict the issuing of licenses provided for in this section, beyond those provisions contained in this section. Subjective or arbitrary actions or rules which encumber the issuing process by placing burdens on the applicant beyond those sworn statements and specified documents detailed in this section or which create restrictions beyond those specified in this section are in conflict with the intent of this section and are prohibited. This section shall be liberally construed to carry out the constitutional right to bear arms for self-defense. This section is supplemental and additional to existing rights to bear arms, and nothing in this section shall impair or diminish such rights." Fla. Stat. 790.06(15).

5. Require gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement

From 2007 to 2017, at least 82,000 guns were reported stolen and never found in Florida. Requiring safe storage in vehicles would go a long way to reducing these numbers.

On behalf of my family, I urge you as a leader and steward of Florida, to take action on this issue of gun reform. We cannot risk another young life because of our inaction. thank you for taking the time to read this letter.

Sincerely,

R Bacall

Name: Richard BACALL

Address: 11775 SW 133 Ct - Miami, FL 33186

Phone Number: 305-382-3926

Honorable Tom Lee,
Chair, Infrastructure and Security
Committee
The Florida Senate

Dear Senator Lee,

Your infrastructure and security committee will be meeting soon to discus ways to address the gun violence crisis in Florida. As a father of twin 4 year olds and a firefighter for Palm Beach Counthy, this issue is a priority for me. I'm aware that over 90% of Americans support a background check of gun sales. NOW is the time to act.

I'm asking you to support the following common sense policies that are widely supported by Republicans, Democrats, and non party affiliated individuals.

1. Background checks on ALL gun sales including private sales. There are plenty of licensed dealers in our state. More in fact than the number of Starbucks and this is true even in rural communities. See for yourself here: www.safer-america.com.

2. Safe Storage education and requirements to prevent innocent children from being killed accidentally because an adult did not safely store the firearm.

3. Require gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement.

4. Fix NICS to prohibit those with mental illness and a history of violence from acquiring firearms.

Thank you for your time.

Best Regards,

Rene Gonzalez
18830 Misty Lake Dr.
Jupiter, FL 33458

(9/9/2019)

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee,

As the Infrastructure and Security Committee focuses on ways to address gun violence and hate crimes during its September meeting(s), my family and I are asking you to consider these priorities:

1.) **Require a background checks on every firearm purchase in the State of Florida** – Over 90% of Americans support requiring background checks on all gun sales. An investigation found that in 2018 alone, there were nearly 1.2 million firearm ads on an online gun marketplace called Armslist.com for gun sales where no background check was legally required. And research shows that prohibited people seek guns in those unlicensed gun sales at a disproportionate rate.

2.) **Require the timely reporting of criminal and mental health records to NICS** - Hundreds of thousands of prohibiting criminal and mental health records are missing from the NICS background check system, potentially enabling prohibited people to pass a background check. This is a critical fail that is required to be fixed in order to make background check legislation effective. Legislation to make this reporting mandatory will make us safer.

3.) **Require gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement** - From 2007 to 2017, at least 82,000 guns were reported stolen and never found in Florida. Not knowing a gun is stolen hinders criminal investigations and law enforcement's ability to track gun-trafficking networks. Stolen gun reports also serve as a deterrent to inter-state gun-trafficking. This is a simple measure of accountability that assists law enforcement do its job.

These three (3) proposals would have a positive effect in making Florida safer and would not diminish Florida residents' rights under the 2nd Amendment. It's a win-win for all of us. Please give them strong consideration. The life of those we love are at risk every second because of the lack of a clear and strong legislation.

Thank you for helping to keep us safe.

Sincerely,

Carolina Sassi

8175 SW 24 t, Davie, FL 33324

Dear Mr. Lee,

I am mother of a kindergartner. I want to express to you my concern on gun control, or lack of gun control. Of all the emotions a mother feels as her child starts school, I can tell you two things they shouldn't have to worry about. The first is a mass shooter coming to kill her child and second, is the psychological impact having active shooter drills will have on their child. I wonder if these things keep you up at night, I know I have lost many hours of sleep worrying about my child's safety. I am a resident of Tampa, Florida. My nieces live in West Palm Beach and I remember calling my brother to make sure his oldest daughter was OK and praying Parkland wasn't her school. She is in an honors program and I knew traveled a distance to attend her high school. These things shouldn't keep happening and prayers aren't causing change, we need reform. After Parkland, we made a decent start. However, our legislature continues to try to increase gun quantity and access in this state, rather than working to enact the proven, common sense laws that would keep us and our children safer. Please review my 10 comments below on the change that needs to happen.

1. Background checks on every gun sale. It is ridiculous to allow some sales without background checks.
2. Ban assault weapons and high capacity magazines. These are not even permitted in hunting grounds, they are weapons of mass destruction and no one, no one needs one.
3. DO NOT ARM TEACHERS. I really do comprehend how anyone could think this is a solution to the problem!
4. Require convicts of any form of domestic violence to surrender their firearms.
5. Require firearms dealers to notify authorities when someone tries to buy a gun and does not pass the background check.
6. Require safe storage of guns in vehicles.
7. Implement penalties for "losing" and/or having your gun stolen.
8. Repeal the preemption law.
9. Repeal Stand your Ground. Stand your Ground has led to people shooting others without normal restraint. It has resulted in children losing their life.
10. Prohibit and penalize the printing of 3D guns.

YOU need to implement change, now. Our children are being murdered and it is your choice to allow them to be killed.

Respectfully,

Michelle Earley

September 10, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee;

Thank you for your work and ongoing concern for the health and safety of all Floridians. As you and the Committee move forward with discussion and creation of legislation that will address hate crimes and gun violence, please consider the following.

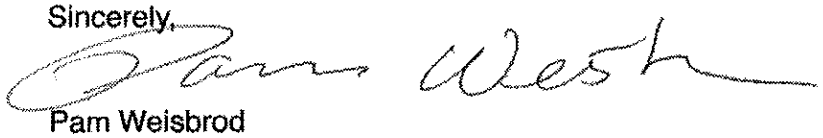
Since retirement of the federal ban on assault weapons in 1994, we have seen a drastic increase in the number of deaths associated with mass shootings. While we cannot presume that the rise in incidents can be attributed to assault weapons, we can say with all certainty that more deaths occur per incident when assault weapons are involved. Most recently, the Dayton Ohio shooter used a high-capacity drum magazine holding 100 rounds. Although law enforcement quickly intervened to stop the shooting, within 30 seconds 9 people had been shot and killed, largely due to the magazine capacity. Thus, while a ban on assault weapons may not impact the frequency of mass shootings, it would certainly help to decrease the number of deaths.

In the area of gun safety, please improve the safety standards associated with the training that is required prior to the purchase of a firearm. From 2014 through today, across America, 1,296 children have been killed or injured by guns. Many of these incidents result from accidents associated with the failure of the owner to safely store a weapon. While today's reality may require that we as parents ask whether there is a gun in the house each time we organize a play date, it's imperative that we be assured that those guns are safely stored.

My own faith community has been the target of hate crimes and mass shootings. As a Jew in America, the shootings at the Tree of Life Synagogue struck close to my heart. My own daughter is a congregational rabbi who serves her her community each day. I never would have believed this would be a risky profession in America, but sadly, i now now that it is.

As always, my thanks for your consideration dedication to safeguarding all Floridians.

Sincerely,



Pam Weisbrod
1943 W Frederick Small Rd
Jupiter, FL 33458

September 11, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee,

As the Infrastructure and Security Committee focuses on ways to address gun violence and hate crimes during its September meeting(s), my family and I are asking you to consider these priorities:

1.) **Require a background checks on every firearm purchase in the State of Florida –** Over 90% of Americans support requiring background checks on all gun sales. An investigation found that in 2018 alone, there were nearly 1.2 million firearm ads on an online gun marketplace called Armslist.com for gun sales where no background check was legally required. And research shows that prohibited people seek guns in those unlicensed gun sales at a disproportionate rate.

2.) **Require the timely reporting of criminal and mental health records to NICS** - Hundreds of thousands of prohibiting criminal and mental health records are missing from the NICS background check system, potentially enabling prohibited people to pass a background check. This is a critical fail that is required to be fixed in order to make background check legislation effective. Legislation to make this reporting mandatory will make us safer.

3.) **Require gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement** - From 2007 to 2017, at least 82,000 guns were reported stolen and never found in Florida. Not knowing a gun is stolen hinders criminal investigations and law enforcement's ability to track gun-trafficking networks. Stolen gun reports also serve as a deterrent to inter-state gun-trafficking. This is a simple measure of accountability that assists law enforcement do its job.

These three (3) proposals would have a positive effect in making Florida safer and would not diminish Florida residents' rights under the 2nd Amendment. It's a win-win for all of us. Please give them strong consideration.

Thank you for helping to keep us safe.

Sincerely,

C. Frederick

Christopher Frederick
17051 SW 49 Street
Southwest Ranches, FL 33331

September 12, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Senator Lee:

As a mother of two grown children and a volunteer with at risk children, I am urging you to address the gun violence epidemic in our state and country. I feel this is the most important issue we are facing today. I am extremely concerned that we are raising children that are being traumatized by this gun violence and what appears to be a lack of concern from our legislature to address this issue. Then on top of that, we are traumatizing them further with active shooter drills that will not save them from a shooter with an assault weapon.

As you lead the effort to consider legislation this session to prevent gun violence, including mass shootings, I write to express my support for passing a state law to require criminal background checks on all gun sales. Florida state law currently does not require background checks on unlicensed gun sales, leaving a massive loophole in place that makes it far too easy for criminals, people prohibited from having guns because of mental illness, and others with dangerous histories to get their hands on guns through private, online or gun show sales. Fifteen states have passed laws to require background checks on all gun sales. Background check laws —by point-of-sale check and/or permit— are associated with lower rates of firearm homicide, suicide and firearm trafficking. The Florida Legislature should build upon the important gun violence legislation passed following the Parkland mass shooting and pass a comprehensive background check law.

I am also asking that you address the issue of assault weapons and large capacity magazines. As the mother of an Army officer, I understand that these are military weapons and have no place in civilian hands. We know that under Ronald Reagan there was a Federal assault weapons ban and it saved lives. The majority of Americans, close to 70%, support a ban on these weapons.

I am asking that the Florida Legislature address this issue. We can save lives. We owe it to our children to do everything we can to keep them safe.

Thank you,

Fiona E. Shannon

Fiona Shannon
Longwood, FL

September 10, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee

Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee

The Florida Senate

418 Senate Building

404 South Monroe Street

Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee;

I am a Florida resident who is very concerned about my own safety and that of my family and friends. The incidence of mass shootings, school shootings, violence against women and hate crimes involving a firearm has increased at an alarming rate. It is my understanding that you and your Committee have been tasked with reviewing hate crimes and gun violence and introducing legislation in the next session to address your findings.

Please consider legislation that requires that those convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence to surrender firearms. My mother was a victim of domestic violence. When I was one year old my father attacked my mother while she was holding me, forcing her to drop me to the floor to protect me. My mother called the police, had my father arrested and pressed charges. Needless to say, they divorced, but he had a cabinet full of guns and terrorized us for at least 10 years after their divorce. We had a bullet hole in our kitchen window from the time he tried to shoot my mother from our yard while she was making dinner. She couldn't prove that he did it, so the police did nothing. We moved several times over the next 10 years and my mother lived in constant fear for her safety as it was clear that the law was on his side. In an average month, at least 52 American women are shot and killed by an intimate partner, and many more are injured. And often, the children are either harmed or also killed, and/or suffer the trauma of witnessing these events or losing both parents simultaneously. We must do more to prevent these tragedies. I am thankful that my mother was not shot and killed by my father, but, that could have easily been the case with the laws as they currently stand. More needs to be done to protect women and children from such tragedies.

These simple expanded protections will surely save the lives of many Floridians. I ask you to consider these as we attempt to be safer in our homes and communities throughout the state.

My thanks in advance for your efforts on behalf of all Floridians.

Sincerely,

Lisa Rispoli

3900 89th Rd S Boynton Beach, FL 33436

September 8, 2019

Senator Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee:

I am writing to express my despair and utter embarrassment about unrelenting gun violence and urge you and your colleagues to take meaningful action to try to reduce this epidemic.

I am ashamed as a parent and member of Moms Demand Action, that we have not done more to protect our children. I am ashamed as a woman that we have not done more to protect victims of domestic violence. I am ashamed as an American that our incidence of gun violence is the highest amongst developed nations. We have the same rate of mental illness as the rest of the world but still we hold the awful title of the mass shooting capital of the world. Every day, EVERY DAY, 109 Americans are shot and killed and hundreds more are injured. EVERY YEAR 2,500 Floridians are killed by guns.

I am ashamed that our elected officials have done NOTHING.

I write to share my express request that the following sensible gun legislation be passed. Sensible gun laws. Sensible!

80% of registered gun owners support sensible gun legislation. 94% of Americans support sensible gun legislation.

1) **Background Checks on ALL gun sales.**

Background checks are currently required for the purchase of firearms in gun stores and this bill will close the loophole around online gun sales and gun shows where currently no background check is required. In a single year, there were nearly 100,000 online gun sale ads on Armlist.com in Florida that would not require a background check. One in seven prospective Florida buyers on that site would have failed a background check.

2) **A Ban on Assault weapons and high capacity magazines**

These are weapons of war. For no reason would any American require a weapon of this magnitude for hunting or personal protection.

These laws will save lives. They will help keep your kids safe and mine.

3) **Expansion of existing Red Flag Laws to allow family members to petition extreme risk protection orders.**

When a person is in crisis and poses a threat to themselves or others, it is often their loved ones or law enforcement who see the signs of such a threat. An Extreme Risk law would allow those family members or law enforcement to petition a court for an Extreme Risk Protection Order to temporarily remove guns from dangerous situations and to prohibit the purchase or possession of firearms while the Order is in effect. Evidence shows that red flag laws can make a real difference.

4) **Require those convicted of misdemeanor violence to surrender firearms**

In an average month, at least 52 American women are shot and killed by an intimate partner, and many more are injured. Take the time to put yourself in the shoes of these women and the fear they live in every day of their lives. We can make a difference and we SHOULD.

5) **Reinstate the Prohibition against arming classroom teachers**

Teachers are resoundingly against having guns in the classroom. We need to allow our teachers to do the honorable job they were trained for – TEACH. Arming teachers is strongly opposed by school safety experts like law enforcement. Moreover, neither teachers, administrators, students nor parents want more guns in schools and absolutely do not want to arm untrained teachers.

These are common sense solutions that will reduce gun violence. This is not a repeal of the 2nd amendment nor will it create restrictions for law-abiding gun owners. These are measures that will protect your children and mine. We must do something. The state of Florida can be an example for the rest of the country and it is your job to ACT.

Sincerely,

Katie Hammill

377 8th street
Atlantic Beach, FL
32233

September 6, 2019

Senator Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee:

I am writing to express my deep concerns about unrelenting gun violence and urge you and your colleagues to take meaningful action to try to reduce this epidemic. I am a resident of Neptune Beach, Florida, a parent of children that attend public school and a constituent who watches with horror and fear the never-ending stream of mass shootings. Jacksonville, the larger community in which I have lived and raised my family for 15 years, is plagued by gun violence and has drastically rising suicide rates. It is my genuine hope that you and your colleagues will sincerely consider the reasonable and common sense steps supported by Moms Demand Action and the majority of Floridians and will DO something.

If we sets aside partisan battle lines, I think we can all agree that it is important to keep guns out of the hands of the wrong people, such as criminals, domestic abusers, those whom have made threats of violence or otherwise triggered red flags and those with mental illness. There are several common sense approaches that can help do exactly that. The first is to require background checks on all gun sales. Under the current status quo, any person who would not pass a background check if purchasing a gun from a licensed dealer, can easily purchase a gun at a gun show or over the internet. In fact, in Florida in a single year, there were nearly 100,000 online gun sale ads on Armlist.com, none of which would require a background check. Moreover, one in seven prospective Florida buyers on that site would have failed a background check. Nationally, nearly **a quarter** of all Americans who obtain a firearm do so without getting a background check. That adds up to tens of thousands, if not more, of guns in the hands of the wrong people.

This loophole has real and fatal consequences. Indeed, only one week ago in Odessa, TX, a man who had been previously denied an assault weapon because of a failed background check was able to work the system and purchase such a weapon from a private seller without the requirement of a background check. He then used that automatic weapon to indiscriminately kill 7 innocent people and injure more than 20 others. If a background check had been required for all gun sales, including private gun sales, he would not have been able to purchase an assault weapon. There can simply be no legitimate opposition to the requirement of a background check for all gun sales.

Significantly, implementation of background checks for all gun sales not only makes common sense, this measure has overwhelming bipartisan support. In fact, 93 percent of American voters support requiring background checks on all gun sales, including 89 percent of Republicans and 87 percent of gun owners.[1] I urge you to support this common sense measure to reduce gun violence in Florida.

Second, I likewise ask you to sponsor and/or support expansion of the existing red flag law to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders. When a person is in crisis and poses a threat to themselves or others, it is often their loved ones or law enforcement who see the signs of such a threat. An Extreme Risk law would allow those family members or law enforcement to petition a court for an Extreme Risk Protection Order to temporarily remove guns from dangerous situations and to prohibit the purchase or possession of firearms while the Order is in effect. Although there is no way to prevent every instance of gun violence, evidence shows that red flag laws can make a real difference. With never-ending gun violence devastating our state, it simply makes sense to create a procedure by which deadly weapons can be kept out of the hands of someone who poses a threat to themselves or others. Red flag laws are no different in theory than temporary restraining orders and should, likewise, cause no greater reservation or opposition. The process would require a judge to consider evidence of the threat posed by someone and any restriction of someone's right to possess a firearm would be temporary and based on such evidence. Such laws have been passed by numerous states around the country and all such states have seen a reduction in gun deaths – gun suicides in particular.

Third, I urge you to support a ban on assault weapons and high capacity magazines. These are weapons of war and there is simply no legitimate reason for any civilian to possess such a weapon in our society. Assault weapons are not used for sport and they are not used to defend people or property. Instead, as these weapons were designed for war, their entire purpose is to kill as many people as possible in as short a period of time. Mass killing is exactly what ownership of these weapons is accomplishing – the killing of innocent Americans.

One of the common NRA-sponsored talking points against all reasonable steps to reduce gun violence is "a good guy with a gun will stop a bad guy with a gun." The prevalence of assault weapons in mass shootings demonstrates how that argument does not work. In the recent mass shooting in Dayton, OH, brave law enforcement officers were on the scene and stopped the shooting in about 30 seconds. In that short time, however, the shooter was able to kill 9 people and critically wound dozens of other people because he had a rifle equipped with a high-capacity magazine capable of holding 100 rounds. He literally shot dozens of innocent people in less than 30 seconds. This is not an anomaly either. Over the past decade, the 4 deadliest mass shootings were perpetrated with automatic weapons or guns equipped with high-capacity magazines. Banning assault weapons just makes sense. Such a restriction does not unreasonably restrict Americans' 2nd Amendment rights. No law abiding Americans will lost their right to bear arms or to protect themselves, their families and their property. Instead, such a ban is nothing more than a reasonable restriction in light of the death and destruction caused when civilians use

[1] https://everytownresearch.org/background-checks-save-lives-protect-communities/

weapons of war in our society. I urge you to do the right thing here and support a ban on assault weapons and high capacity magazines.

Lastly, I ask that the legislature reinstate the prohibition against the arming of classroom teachers. Arming teachers is strongly opposed by school safety experts like law enforcement. Moreover, neither teachers, administrators, students nor parents want more guns in schools and absolutely do not want to arm untrained teachers. Schools should be a place for learning and growth. Injecting more dangerous weapons into that environment can only do harm. Teachers are not trained to and should not be expected to take on the role of armed guards.

The steps outlined above are all common sense solutions that will reduce gun violence and will not create restrictions on law-abiding gun owners. These are solutions that we must implement to try to save lives. Please do not forget that nearly **100 Americans are shot and killed every day in our country**. We have to **do something**. Inaction can no longer be the status quo. The reasonable measures supported by Moms Demand Action would make a positive impact without creating undue restrictions on gun ownership. I urge you to be on the right side of history on these issues, to stand up to the NRA and to refuse to let another American die without taking action.

Sincerely,

Amanda E. Ferrelle

1365 Hickory Marsh Lane
Neptune Beach, FL 32266
904-891-8779

September 12, 2019

Sen. Tom Lee, Chair Infrastructure and Security
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

RE: Florida WANTS Common Sense Gun Laws

Your Honorable Senator Lee,

Florida residents WANT Common Sense Gun Laws.
Please skip the insulting "thoughts and prayers" and **DO SOMETHING constructive: DO YOUR JOB.**

Require the timely reporting of criminal and mental health records to NICS
Hundreds of thousands of prohibiting mental health records are missing from the NICS background check system, potentially enabling prohibited people to pass a background check.
Repeal preemption 12
Efforts by municipalities to regulate where guns can be carried and fired have been struck down on the basis of Florida's preemption statute.

Return the burden of proof for stand your ground defense to the defendant
Florida's Stand Your Ground defense, which requires the state to disprove the defense before trial, is very difficult for prosecutors to overcome.

Please DO YOUR JOB,

Chere Force
550 Brookside Cir
Maitland FL 32751

September 12, 2019

Sen. Tom Lee, Chair Infrastructure and Security
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

RE: Florida WANTS Common Sense Gun Laws

Your Honorable Senator Lee,

Florida residents WANT Common Sense Gun Laws.
Please skip the insulting "thoughts and prayers" and **DO SOMETHING constructive: DO YOUR JOB.**

Require firearms dealers to notify law enforcement when a customer fails a background check
Failed attempts to purchase guns can foreshadow future criminal activity. People who fail background checks are 28 percent more likely to be arrested in the five years following the denial than in the five years before it. Law enforcement should know when prohibited individuals are attempting to purchase guns.
https://www.freshfromflorida.com/Consumer-Resources/Concealed-Weapon-License/Applying-for-a-5 Concealed-Weapon-License/Eligibility-Requirements
https://www.thetrace.org/2018/03/florida-lie-and-try-loophole-background-check-denials/7

Prohibit concealed carry licensees from carrying firearms in additional sensitive places, such as daycares, public playgrounds, and at public demonstrations
Florida's list of "sensitive" places is fairly small, and despite the NRA talking point, data from 2009-2016 shows that only 10 percent of the 156 mass shootings during that period happened in a "gun free zone."

Require safe storage of guns in vehicles and Require gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement
From 2007 to 2017, at least 82,000 guns were reported stolen and never found in Florida.
Require safety training prior to purchasing a firearm 10
Gun buyers should be educated on firearm safety, including safe storage. Every year almost 350 children shoot themselves or someone else unintentionally. Most of these shootings take place inside a home where a gun was not properly secured.

Please DO YOUR JOB,

Chere Force
550 Brookside Cir
Maitland FL 32751

Sen. Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee,

My name is Robert Spaulding from Lutz, Florida. I am a gun owner, supporter of the 2nd Amendment, and former NRA member who closed my eyes to the damage created by their extreme stance on firearm availability to the public. I now recognize my complicity in contributing to the horrendous position in which we find ourselves and now totally oppose their disastrous agenda. As a concerned father and grandfather, I am contacting you in support of Mother's Demand Action and urge you to hear our voices as we demand better gun violence legislation. The tone of this letter is restrained but I want you to know that I am personally outraged that we are still debating this issue, arguing over semantics, and watching the constant politicization of public safety some twenty years after Columbine.
Here are a few actions that I feel are extremely important to ensure a safer America that will not result in the repeal of the 2nd Amendment as claimed by some.

Background checks on all gun sales.
This is something that 93 percent of all Americans are in favor of (including 89% of Republicans and 87% of gun owners.) Background checks work and we need to close any and all loopholes that allow someone to purchase a gun without a proper background check.
Ban on assault weapons and high capacity magazines.
Nobody - and I mean nobody – needs these deadly weapons if they are not on the battlefields fighting a war. Opponents of banning highly lethal weapons originally designed for combat use claim that they are not really "assault weapons" since they are not capable of fully automatic fire but, as we have seen, a semi-automatic weapon can be fired very rapidly causing numerous casualties. I believe that we need to take the focus off the description "assault weapon" and rather address the lethality of the bullet fired combined with the ability of the weapon to accommodate high capacity magazines in this struggle to make our lives safer.
Expansion of red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders.
When a person is in crisis, loved ones and law enforcement are often the first to see signs that they pose a threat. An Extreme Risk law allows them to petition a court for an extreme risk protection order to temporarily remove guns from dangerous situations and prohibit the purchase or possession of firearms while the order is in effect.
Reinstate the language in §30.15 that prohibited classroom teachers from serving as school guardians.
A March 2018 survey of almost 500 U.S. teachers found that 73 percent oppose proposals to arm school staff. Another survey found that 63 percent of parents of elementary, middle, and high school students oppose arming teachers.

Require those convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence to surrender firearms.
In an average month, at least 52 American women are shot and killed by an intimate partner, and many more are injured.
Require firearms dealers to notify law enforcement when a customer fails a background check
Failed attempts to purchase guns can foreshadow future criminal activity. People who fail background checks are 28 percent more likely to be arrested in the five years following the denial than in the five years before it. Law enforcement should know when prohibited individuals are attempting to purchase guns.
Prohibit concealed carry licensees from carrying firearms in additional sensitive places, such as day-cares, public playgrounds, and at public demonstrations. Florida's list of "sensitive"places is fairly small, and despite the NRA talking point, data from 2009-2016 shows that only 10 percent of the 156 mass shootings during that period happened in a "gun free zone."
Require safe storage of guns in vehicles and Require gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement.
From 2007 to 2017, at least 82,000 guns were reported stolen and never found in Florida.
Require safety training prior to purchasing a firearm.
Gun buyers should be educated on firearm safety, including safe storage. Every year almost 350 children shoot themselves or someone else unintentionally. Most of these shootings take place inside a home where a gun was not properly secured.
Require the timely reporting of criminal and mental health records to NICS. Hundreds of thousands of prohibiting mental health records are missing from the NICS background check system, potentially enabling prohibited people to pass a background check.
Repeal preemption.
Efforts by municipalities to regulate where guns can be carried and fired have been struck down on the basis of Florida's preemption statute.
Return the burden of proof for stand your ground defense to the defendant. Florida's Stand Your Ground defense, which requires the state to disprove the defense before trial, is very difficult for prosecutors to overcome. Another major problem with this law is the inconsistency of its application and enforcement.
Prohibit the printing of 3D guns and the assembly of firearms using purchased parts lacking serial numbers by private individuals.
Both of these practices provide another way for individuals prohibited by law from purchasing a gun to obtain one without a background check.

Sincerely,

Robert F Spaulding

1541 Lake Heron Drive

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F

September 12, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair
Florida Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee
418 Senate Building
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Senator Lee:

I am writing you as a Florida resident and mother of a young child. As you know, gun violence is a serious problem in our state and nation with nearly 100 Americans dying every day due to senseless acts of gun violence. In Florida alone we have experienced two of the most horrific mass shootings in history at the Pulse nightclub in Orlando and at Marjory Stoneman Douglass High School in Parkland, Florida. As a volunteer for Moms Demand Action, I have met too many wonderful people that have had their lives shattered by gun violence. As a mom, I am frightened to send my son to school. This should not be our reality. We should all feel safe to live happy lives free from gun violence in our communities.

As you lead the effort to consider legislation this session to prevent gun violence, including mass shootings, I write to express my support for the following common-sense ideas I hope you will consider:

- Background Checks on all Gun Sales – States that have implemented this simple measure have reduced gun homicides and suicides by gun. It's painfully simple to understand that not having this law enables a clear workaround for those who wouldn't be able to pass a background check to purchase in person or online from an unlicensed seller.
- Expand Red Flag Laws – This law, already used frequently in Florida, to allow firearms to be temporarily removed from those who pose a risk to themselves or others could be even stronger if we allowed family members to ability to use it.
- Ban Assault Weapons and High Capacity Magazines – With assault weapons being the weapon of choice for every mass shooting, this seems like a no brainer. They do not serve any real purpose for hunting or home protection. In my view, the fact that is it used to kill as many people as possible (9 in 30 seconds in Dayton, OH) should make it illegal for a civilian to own and operate.
- Repeal Arming Teachers – Since passing this bill, the vast majority of schools, teachers, parents, and school boards have opted out the program. They know it will make them and their kids less safe. More guns don't stop guns. It only reduces the reaction time of actual law enforcement, increases the risk of escalations, and could lead to unintentional shootings (which have happened around the country). There's no evidence that arming teachers discourages shootings or decreases gun violence in any form.
- Repeal Stand Your Ground – In the years since this law was enacted, homicide rates have increased dramatically in Florida since there is less fear of repercussions. Incidents like the one in Clearwater may have been avoided if the shooter was not emboldened by this law.
- Prohibit the Printing of 3D guns – These cruder guns can avoid detection and also provide a way around background checks.
- Require those Convicted of Misdemeanor Domestic Violence to Surrender Firearms – Each month, an average of 52 women are killed by an intimate partner. They should not be armed.

I really appreciate your consideration in this matter.

Thank you,
Beth Rothwell
Moms Demand Action Orlando
Social Media Lead
3707 Wilder Lane
Orlando, FL 3280

September 9, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee;

I understand that the Infrastructure and Security Committee will be focusing on ways to address gun violence and hate crimes during its September meeting. While the recent wave of mass shootings has served to focus our attention on this topic, in reality, one hundred Americans lose their lives to gun violence in their own neighborhoods daily. Obviously, this is a vitally important topic, and I thank you for spearheading this discussion.

As you move forward with the discussion, particularly as it relates to hate crimes, it is my hope that you will consider revisions to the existing Stand Your Ground Law. Under the current law, the burden of proof falls to the plaintiff and requires that the state disprove the defense which is difficult, if not impossible, for prosecutors to overcome. Additionally, the existing law is flawed and serves to exacerbate hate crimes in that it provides latitude to initiate a confrontation, then respond with deadly force. This can be corrected by placing the burden of proof for a stand your ground defense on the defendant.

I recently volunteered my two teenage sons to go door to door delivering flyers about our neighborhood events. It occurred to me afterwards, that I put them in tremendous danger because someone could have attacked them using a Stand Your Ground defense. Self defense is our right, but attacking an assailant (or possibly an innocent person) puts everyone in danger. The safest thing to do for self defense is to run or hide, not attack. The Stand Your Ground law makes us all much less safe, because people feel they can use deadly force more freely without repercussions. Situations can get escalated, and result in avoidable tragedies. If someone is truly acting in self-defense, and their only option is to use deadly force, then they don't need "Stand Your Ground" to do it. But their actions should be accountable and defendable without hiding behind a blanket protection for committing violence.

Again, my thanks for spearheading the discussion and for your dedication to preserving the health, safety and welfare of us all.

Sincerely,
Signed
Name: Betty Wolpert
Address: 6315 Lucerne St. Jupiter, FL 33458

9/12/2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee;

I understand that the Infrastructure and Security Committee will be focusing on ways to address gun violence and hate crimes during its September meeting. While the recent wave of mass shootings has served to focus our attention on this topic, in reality, one hundred Americans lose their lives to gun violence in their own neighborhoods daily. Obviously, this is a vitally important topic, and I thank you for spearheading this discussion.

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Again, my thanks for spearheading the discussion and for your dedication to preserving the health, safety and welfare of us all.

Sincerely,



Name: Roberta Weber
Address: 11976 NW 78th Place, Parkland, FL 33076

Senator Tom Lee
Chair of the Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee
Tallahassee, Florida

Dear Honorable Lee:

The horrendous tragedies that were committed this month leaving 39 people dead and scores left injured are hard to fathom. These atrocities will have left hundreds of families' lives forever changed. They have lost family and friends who are gone forever. Social media is reflecting the disturbing polarization in our country. The Left is calling for the imposition of stronger reasonable gun laws. The Right is blaming "Fake News", video games and mental health issues. The leadership of the country is expressing their obligatory "Thoughts and Prayers" and NRA pro gun groups are advocating the old hackneyed John Birch Society rants of "Guns don't kill people, people kill people" and "The only way to stop a bad guy with a gun is, a good guy with a gun". Not to forget the one White Nationalists have used for years; "If you outlaw guns only outlaws will have guns". So where do we go from here?

So the President and the Republicans say the reasons for the violence Is not about racism or hate or White Nationalism but blame the press, video games and of course mental health issues.

So maybe I'll agree with the President and accept that mental health is one of the contributing factors to the emergence and radicalization of those bent to commit mass murder. Aligning this causation from the Right with stronger gun regulation from the Left we can come up with reasonable solutions.

1. MENTAL HEALTH
OK, let's address mental health. Why wouldn't Anyone intent on buying a weapon would first need to undergo a psychological evaluation assessing the mental stability needed to own a gun

2. WAITING PERIOD
Next, at the time of purchase the applicant would have a three day waiting period and a very thorough background check would be conducted

3. REGISTRATION/DATA BASE
Each gun would be registered with serial number and owners fingerprints and photo into the National Data Base

4. LIABILITY INSURANCE
Purchaser would need to own liability insurance and catastrophic insurance to protect the owners as well as any victims in the case of an accident or malevolent actions on others; because the costs for trauma care and surgery are astronomical and shouldn't have to be charged to the rest of the taxpayers

From a Congressional responsibility there are additional steps that need to be taken:

1. LOBBYISTS
Ban all gun manufacturers' lobbyists from access to our congressional representatives and agree not to accept political contributions or inducements from them.

2. LEGISLATION
All gun related bills must be put up to an open Senate vote and be Stand Alone legislation

3. MANUFACTURERS LIABILITY
Remove the prohibition on holding gun manufacturers or dealers liable to face lawsuits

4. INTERNET and MAIL ORDER SALES
Ban all mail order and internet sales

5. UNUSUAL PURCHASES
Report Any attempt to purchase an unusually large purchase of munitions, many guns at one time or bulletproof vests to the authorities

6. BUYBACK or EXCHANGE
Have a voluntary National buy back or exchange programs to get currently owned assault guns off the street and replaced with another of equal value providing all other requirements were met. Antique or non functioning guns would be exempted

7. BIOMETRICAL / SAFE GUNS
Utilization of biometrics on all new guns manufactured and as part of the exchange program

8. BAN OF CERTAIN WEAPONS
Most importantly- Ban the manufacturing, importation of assault weapons

9. APPROVED SELLERS
All gun sales should take place only in a licensed brick and mortar store

10. ATF / ENFORCEMENT
Increase the funding of ATF and other domestic terrorism agencies to assess and identify threats ASAP. Included in this would be greater funding for mental health agencies, with special emphasis on the suicides by our veterans.

11. SENATE REVIEWS
Demand that the President and the Senate Majority leader take a leadership role in positive action and not stonewall House bills submitted for Senate action

12. STUDIES On GUN VIOLENCE
Remove restrictions on NIH from conducting research on gun violence

The Second Amendment Rights of gun ownership would still be applicable for sportsman, hunters, skeet lovers, target practice and home and family self defense but understanding that the the Second Amendment is not absolute and restrictions are upheld by numerous Supreme Court decisions.

Michael Morse
Bradenton, Florida 34211

9-9-2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee,

As the Infrastructure and Security Committee focuses on ways to address gun violence and hate crimes during its September meeting(s), my family and I are asking you to consider these priorities:

1.) **Require a background checks on every firearm purchase in the State of Florida –** Over 90% of Americans support requiring background checks on all gun sales. An investigation found that in 2018 alone, there were nearly 1.2 million firearm ads on an online gun marketplace called Armslist.com for gun sales where no background check was legally required. And research shows that prohibited people seek guns in those unlicensed gun sales at a disproportionate rate.

2.) **Require the timely reporting of criminal and mental health records to NICS** - Hundreds of thousands of prohibiting criminal and mental health records are missing from the NICS background check system, potentially enabling prohibited people to pass a background check. This is a critical fail that is required to be fixed in order to make background check legislation effective. Legislation to make this reporting mandatory will make us safer.

3.) **Require gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement -** From 2007 to 2017, at least 82,000 guns were reported stolen and never found in Florida. Not knowing a gun is stolen hinders criminal investigations and law enforcement's ability to track gun-trafficking networks. Stolen gun reports also serve as a deterrent to inter-state gun-trafficking. This is a simple measure of accountability that assists law enforcement do its job.

These three (3) proposals would have a positive effect in making Florida safer and would not diminish Florida residents' rights under the 2nd Amendment. It's a win-win for all of us. Please give them strong consideration.

Thank you for helping to keep us safe.

Sincerely,

Maria Swanson

MARIA SWANSON
10720 N.W. 5th St.
Plantation, FL 33324

JOETTE M SEQUEIRA

September 9, 2019
Sen Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee,

My name is Joette Sequeira. I have watched the gun violence not only in the state of Florida increase but nationally. I still remember the day Columbine happened and how something like that happening was really too much to even comprehend at the time. Now it happens daily, weekly in our country. We all have children, sister's, brother's, families, friends that are not safe any longer.

You sit in a chair that will let our voices be heard, loud and clear. Please help us change the gun legislation laws to to more sensible, more responsible ones and make our communities, our country a safe place to be.

BACKGROUND CHECKS ON ALL GUN SALES

93 percent of American voters support requiring background checks on all gun sales, including 89 percent of Republicans and 87 percent of gun owners. An investigation found that in 2018 alone, there were nearly 1.2 million gun ads on an online gun marketplace called Armslist.com for gun sales where no background check was legally required. And research shows that prohibited people seek guns in those unlicensed gun sales at a disproportionate rate.

BAN ON ASSAULT WEAPONS AND HIGH CAPACITY MAGAZINES

16824 MOSS TREE LOOP, LAND O LAKES, FL 34638

The August 2019 Dayton, Ohio shooter used a rifle equipped with a high-capacity drum magazine capable of holding 100 rounds. Though law enforcement stopped the shooting in about 30 seconds, the shooter was able to fire dozens of shots—and kill 9 people—largely because of the magazine capacity. Over the past decade, the four deadliest mass shootings in America involved the use of high-capacity magazines. In fact, 58 percent of mass shootings between 2009 and 2017 were committed with firearms equipped with high-capacity magazines.[5]

Reinstate the language in §30.15 that prohibited classroom teachers from serving as school guardians[1]

A March 2018 survey of almost 500 U.S. teachers found that 73 percent oppose proposals to arm school staff. Another survey found that 63 percent of parents of elementary, middle, and high school students oppose arming teachers.

Require the timely reporting of criminal and mental health records to NICS[2]

Hundreds of thousands of prohibiting mental health records are missing from the NICS background check system, potentially enabling prohibited people to pass a background check.

Sincerely yours,

Joette M Sequeira

September 8, 2019

Senator Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 S, Monroe Street
Tallahassee FL 32399-1100

Re: Gun violence in in Florida

Dear Senator Lee:

I understand your Committee will be meeting to plan for the upcoming Legislative Session. In that regard, I would ask that you take action to pass laws that limit access to guns by people who are a danger to themselves and others. This would include both expanding background checks as well as expanding the current red flag law to allow family members to petition the courts to have guns removed from dangerous persons. And, of course, banning military style rapid fire weapons should not be allowed in the general public. There are many other actions I can ask you to take but I believe these three are critical to get a handle on the expanding danger we all face in our everyday lives.

Why expand background checks to include all bona fide sales? Aside from the fact that over 90% of American voters - Republican, Democrat, NPA - support doing so, checking just criminal records will capture many individuals who should not possess weapons. Of course this also requires that all such records must be submitted to the database, from all sources, states, agencies, entities, so that, too, is a matter that should be addressed. But, if you review many of the mass shootings that have occurred in the past few years, private sales, sales across state lines from states in which private sales are not checked, and the failure to wait for the report are factors in all or at least the significant majority of those actions. So expanding background checks to cover all sales and insuring that all relevant records are reported to the database would go a long way to stop a lot of senseless deaths and injuries. Include private sales. Require that all violence-based convictions be reported to the database. Require military and all state records report to the database.

We are lucky to have passed a red flag law after the Parkland massacre (sorry, but that is what they are). However, it only allows law enforcement personnel to submit affidavits to the court. According to reports, the law has been implemented more than 1000 times in this state; certainly saving many lives. However, I also know that it has only recently, finally, been used in St Johns County and I am sure we are not a crime-free zone. It is a little easier for a law enforcement officer to utilize the red flag law in a domestic violence situation. But what about suicide? How many times are police called in time to prevent a suicide by gun? The law should allow family members to apply for the order for just that

reason. More than 60% of suicides are deaths by gun. A suicide in which a gun is used is more likely to be successful. People in desperate situations may not be visible to the public but family members will know that a problem has escalated to a dangerous place. They can stop a death if the law allows them to submit the petition.

Assault weapons are not appropriate for public use. Period. You can read research on many state examples in which the implementation of a ban immediately reduced deaths by gun. And the rapid increase in mass killings since the federal ban expired is clear to see. Making these guns illegal on the street will ease the minds of millions of people. We all now have at top of mind that we could be shot in the store, at a festival, in a theatre, on the street, in a bar or nightclub, or in a school. This ban alone would provide comfort to millions of people. The only thing these weapons do is kill large numbers of people in seconds, minutes. Why?

So there are a lot of other things you could do to end gun violence but you can do the things I mention here and we could be well on our way to increasing safety in our communities. I don't want guns in schools; there are ways to address the reasons for school shootings and I'm hoping the expanded mental health access to kids will begin to end that trend. I really don't like stand your ground. But I would be thrilled if the matters I have discussed above are addressed.

I don't want to take guns from anyone who is a responsible owner. As a member of Moms Demand Action, most of our members are such responsible owners. I work with people who are responsible owners. My problem is the people who do not have the competence or judgement to be responsible owners. Expanding background checks and expanding red flag law petitioners addresses that. Banning "assault weapons" is just common sense.

Thank you for taking the time to read this. I hope that you and our other elected officials can begin to end the fear all of us now live with each day.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth K Balaschak

Elizabeth K. Balaschak
4 Beacon Street
St Augustine FL 32084
904-466-2536

Aruna Chandra
9691 Salty Bay Drive
Delray Beach, FL 33446

September 9, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee,

I am a Florida resident, Florida parent, and Florida voter who is very concerned about the safety of my family, my friends, and children throughout our state. I understand that the Infrastructure and Security Committee will be focusing on ways to address gun violence and hate crimes during its September meeting. While the recent wave of mass shootings has served to focus our attention on this topic, in reality, one hundred Americans lose their lives to gun violence in their own neighborhoods daily. Obviously, this is a vitally important topic, and I thank you for spearheading this discussion.

As you move forward with the discussion, particularly as it relates to hate crimes, it is my hope that you will consider revisions to the existing Stand Your Ground Law. Under the current law, the burden of proof falls to the victim and requires that the state disprove the defense which is difficult, if not impossible, for prosecutors to overcome. ***The existing law is flawed and serves to exacerbate hate crimes*** in that it provides latitude to initiate a confrontation, then respond with deadly force. This injustice can be corrected by placing the burden of proof for a stand your ground defense on the defendant.

Please also consider the following critical safety measures:

- Expand red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders.

When a person is in crisis, their loved ones, not law enforcement, are often the first to see signs that they pose a threat. An expanded Extreme Risk law would allow family members to petition a court for an extreme risk protection order to temporarily remove guns from dangerous situations and prohibit the purchase or possession of firearms while the order is in effect. The law passed

last year that allows law enforcement to petition the court has helped but it is not enough. Allowing family members who are more familiar with threats and dangers to petition the court directly would make all of us safer, whether we are Florida residents or visitors to our state.

- Require those convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence to surrender firearms temporarily under the same requirements as under ERPOs.

In an average month, at least 52 American women are shot and killed by an intimate partner, and many more are injured. And often, the children are either harmed or also killed, and/or suffer the trauma of witnessing these events or losing both parents simultaneously. We must do more to prevent these tragedies.

- Require a background check on every firearm purchase in the State of Florida

Over 90% of Americans support requiring background checks on all gun sales. An investigation found that in 2018 alone, there were nearly 1.2 million firearm ads on an online gun marketplace called Armslist.com for gun sales where no background check was legally required. And research shows that prohibited people seek guns in those unlicensed gun sales at a disproportionate rate

These simple expanded protections will surely save the lives of many Floridians. I ask you to consider these as we attempt to be safer in our homes and communities throughout the state. Again, my thanks for spearheading the discussion and for your dedication to preserving the health, safety and welfare of us all.

Sincerely,

Aruna Chandra

Sen. Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee,

My name is Heather Young and I am a constituent in Wesley Chapel, Florida. As the Chair of the Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee, I urge you to hear our voices as we demand better gun violence legislation. As a new mom, this is something that keeps me up at night and I am tired of my leaders not listening and not taking action. Here are a few items that I feel are extremely important to ensure a safer America.

Background checks on all gun sales. This is something that 93 percent of all Americans are in favor of (including 89% of Republicans and 87% of gun owners.) Background checks work as we need to close any and all loopholes that allow someone to purchase a gun without a proper background check.

Ban on assault weapons and high capacity magazines. Nobody - and I mean nobody - needs these deadly weapons if they are not on the battlefields fighting a war. The August 2019 Dayton, Ohio shooter used a rifle equipped with a high-capacity drum magazine capable of holding 100 rounds. Though law enforcement stopped the shooting in about 30 seconds, the shooter was able to fire dozens of shots—and kill 9 people—largely because of the magazine capacity. Over the past decade, the four deadliest mass shootings in America involved the use of high-capacity magazines. In fact, 58 percent of mass shootings between 2009 and 2017 were committed with firearms equipped with high-capacity magazines.

Expansion of red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders. When a person is in crisis, loved ones and law enforcement are often the first to see signs that they pose a threat. An Extreme Risk law allows them to petition a court for an extreme risk protection order to temporarily remove guns from dangerous situations and prohibit the purchase or possession of firearms while the order is in effect.

Reinstate the language in §30.15 that prohibited classroom teachers from serving as school guardians. A March 2018 survey of almost 500 U.S. teachers found that 73 percent oppose proposals to arm school staff. Another survey found that 63 percent of parents of elementary, middle, and high school students oppose arming teachers.

Require those convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence to surrender firearms. In an average month, at least 52 American women are shot and killed by an intimate partner, and many more are injured.

Require firearms dealers to notify law enforcement when a customer fails a background check
Failed attempts to purchase guns can foreshadow future criminal activity. People who fail background checks are 28 percent more likely to be arrested in the five years following the denial than in the five years before it. Law enforcement should know when prohibited individuals are attempting to purchase guns.

Prohibit concealed carry licensees from carrying firearms in additional sensitive places, such as daycares, public playgrounds, and at public demonstrations. Florida's list of "sensitive" places is fairly small, and despite the NRA talking point, data from 2009-2016 shows that only 10 percent of the 156 mass shootings during that period happened in a "gun free zone."

Require safe storage of guns in vehicles and Require gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement. From 2007 to 2017, at least 82,000 guns were reported stolen and never found in Florida.

Require safety training prior to purchasing a firearm. Gun buyers should be educated on firearm safety, including safe storage. Every year almost 350 children shoot themselves or someone else unintentionally. Most of these shootings take place inside a home where a gun was not properly secured.

Require the timely reporting of criminal and mental health records to NICS. Hundreds of thousands of prohibiting mental health records are missing from the NICS background check system, potentially enabling prohibited people to pass a background check.

Repeal preemption. Efforts by municipalities to regulate where guns can be carried and fired have been struck down on the basis of Florida's preemption statute.

Return the burden of proof for stand your ground defense to the defendant. Florida's Stand Your Ground defense, which requires the state to disprove the defense before trial, is very difficult for prosecutors to overcome.

Prohibit the printing of 3D guns. 3d Printed guns provide another way for individuals prohibited by law from purchasing a gun to obtain one without a background check.

Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Infrastructure and Security Committee:

I am writing from Miami -Dade County to thank you for your work on gun violence and to ask you to support the common sense gun reform so desperately needed in our state.Based on the experiences we have had in Miami Date County, I believe the following changes would be the most impactful in preventing gun violence:

1. Background checks on all gun sales

The vast majority of Florida voters support requiring background checks on all gun sales, including 89 percent of Republicans and 87 percent of gun owners. Although Florida passed some landmark gun laws in 2018 after Parkland, we still have not closed the unlicensed gun sale loophole meaning that prohibited people can take advantage and get armed illegally and the loophole diminishes the public safety impact of our laws. Underage buyers and people subject to Extreme Risk Orders can simply circumvent the law and purchase a firearm from an unlicensed seller and skip a background check altogether.

2. Ban on assault weapons and high capacity magazines

The August 2019 Dayton, Ohio shooter used a rifle equipped with a high-capacity drum magazine capable of holding 100 rounds. Though law enforcement stopped the shooting in about 30 seconds, the shooter was able to fire dozens of shots—and kill 9 people—largely because of the magazine capacity. Over the past decade, the four deadliest mass shootings in America involved the use of high-capacity magazines. In fact, 58 percent of mass shootings between 2009 and 2017 were committed with firearms equipped with high-capacity magazines.

3. Require firearms dealers to notify law enforcement when a customer fails a background check

Failed attempts to purchase guns can foreshadow future criminal activity. People who fail background checks are 28 percent more likely to be arrested in the five years following the denial than in the five years before it. Law enforcement wants to know and should know when prohibited individuals are attempting to purchase guns. To that end,

4 .Expansion of red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders

When a person is in crisis, loved ones and law enforcement are often the first to see signs that they pose a threat. An Extreme Risk law allows them to petition a court for an extreme risk protection order to temporarily remove guns from dangerous situations and prohibit the purchase or possession of firearms while the order is in effect.

5. Require gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement

From 2007 to 2017, at least 82,000 guns were reported stolen and never found in Florida. Law enforcement would appreciate knowing if a stolen gun is on the street.

The bottom line is that too many Floridians are killed with guns. The loopholes in our background check laws are negatively impacting our state in terms of gun trafficking, suicide, domestic violence and homicide. I ask that you focus on the above priorities to safe lives.

Thank you for your time and attention,

Name: Catharine Berkowitz
Address 9351 SW 100 Street, Miami, FL 33176
Phone Number 305-598-5364

September 11th, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee;

I understand that the Infrastructure and Security Committee will be focusing on ways to address gun violence and hate crimes during its September meeting. While the recent wave of mass shootings has served to focus our attention on this topic, in reality, one hundred Americans lose their lives to gun violence in their own neighborhoods daily. Obviously, this is a vitally important topic, and I thank you for spearheading this discussion.

As you move forward with the discussion, particularly as it relates to hate crimes, it is my hope that you will consider revisions to the existing Stand Your Ground Law. Under the current law, the burden of proof falls to the plaintiff and requires that the state disprove the defense which is difficult, if not impossible, for prosecutors to overcome. Additionally, the existing law is flawed and serves to exacerbate hate crimes in that it provides latitude to initiate a confrontation, then respond with deadly force. This can be corrected by placing the burden of proof for a stand your ground defense on the defendant.

Again, my thanks for spearheading the discussion and for your dedication to preserving the health, safety and welfare of us all.

Walter Zapata

10577 NW 51st Street

Doral FL 33178

September 11th, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee;

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Again, my thanks for spearheading the discussion and for your dedication to preserving the health, safety and welfare of us all.

Adriana Fuentes

4668 NW 103 Ct.

Doral FL 33178

September 11th, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee;

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Again, my thanks for spearheading the discussion and for your dedication to preserving the health, safety and welfare of us all.

Andrea Fuentes

4668 NW 103 Ct.

Doral FL 33178

September 11th, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee;

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Again, my thanks for spearheading the discussion and for your dedication to preserving the health, safety and welfare of us all.

Osmania Diaz Fuentes

4668 NW 103 Ct.

Doral FL 33178

September 11th, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee;

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Again, my thanks for spearheading the discussion and for your dedication to preserving the health, safety and welfare of us all.

Violeta Amestoy

4480 NW 102 Pl.

Doral FL 33178

1639 NW 11th Road
Gainesville, FL 32605-5319
September 15, 2019

Senator Tom Lee,
Chair, Infrastructure and Security
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Chairman,

I am a retired 25-year veteran of the U.S. Air Force, serving three years as an AFOSI Agent and 22 years as a career Judge Advocate, as well as a 18 year retired Department of the Army civilian with over 25 years of service overseas, three years in Germany and 22 years in South Korea. Although I qualified twice for the Expert Marksmanship badge as an officer limited to a 9mm handgun, I am not a gun owner, nor do I feel the need to carry one.

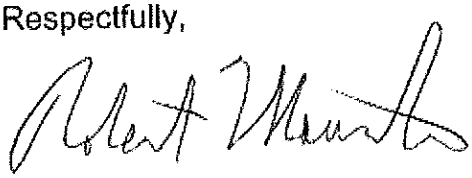
My experience overseas, especially in Seoul, Korea, tells me that we would all be much safer without so many weapons of mass destruction in civilian hands in Florida and in America. I support the 2nd Amendment right to bear arms, so long as there is common sense regulation (a "well-regulated militia) such as a ban on assault weapons and high capacity magazines, thorough background checks on all gun sales, and an expansion of "red flag" laws, such as the one that reportedly has worked very well in Florida.

Listen to the students. It no longer acceptable to do nothing. Public safety must be balanced with the 2nd Amendment.

Listen to the State Attorneys and law enforcement. Florida's "Stand Your Ground" law makes it very difficult for them to get convictions, where punishment for taking a life is warranted.

Do something!

Respectfully,



Robert Mounts
Lt Col, USAF (Ret); GS-15, DAC (Ret)
Gainesville

September 15, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair
Florida State Infrastructure and Security Committee
418 Senate Building
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Senator Lee,

My name is Timothy Murphy and I'm an active voter in Florida's 23rd district. I understand there will be some discussion as to Florida's prioritization of gun specific legislation and I wanted to make sure reached out and offered a citizen's support on some of those issues. As a father of two young children and a 34 year old who's grown up in the mass shooting era of our country's history, these issues are incredibly important to me. I'd love to live in slightly less fear that every time I leave my children and wife won't be the last time I see them because of senseless and preventable gun violence. I strongly believe in our government's responsibility to protect its citizens without influence of lobbyists that support domestic terrorism and I truly appreciate your interest in bringing this to the Infrastructure and Security committee in order to serve the will of your constituents of the state of Florida.

There's 3 main points of emphasis I'd like to see our state government put in place to increase gun safety in our communities, centered around preventing gun sales to those unqualified to own them, increasing opportunity for loved ones to flag behaviors indicative of a potential gun violence perpetrator, and allowing the state to decide if weapons of war should be banned by a constitutionally protected democratic right to vote.

Currently in the State of Florida, there is NO REGULATION on online gun sales. If I were a felon with a history of mental illness and domestic abuse, I could go online right now and purchase an assault weapon with no background check. I could purchase a gun from a private owned with no background check. I could go to a gun show surrounded by weapons, all of which I could purchase with no background check. This is a massive loophole in gun regulation, one that just allowed a disturbed individual to murder 24 innocent humans and wound 22 others in El Paso, TX. 15 other states have already passed legislation to enforce background checks on ALL gun sales. Florida could take this VERY SIMPLE step to ensure we're not making it easier for disqualified individuals to easily purchase weapons used to murder.

Florida's red flag laws were a solid start following the mass shooting that killed 17 people, the majority of those children. However, as the law stands now it requires police intervention in order to push a risk protection order through the courts for a year long "suspension" from guns. The police, in this sense, have to be the one's responding to a scene already in place or someone who has already identified themselves as inclined to gun violence, or significant mental health issues. Imagine how many gun violence victims could be saved if we extended the reporting opportunity to those closest to the potential gun man. If families can identify those behaviors, if those that know them well are able to

report as well, it expands our opportunity to remove guns from someone who is high risk for gun violence.

Finally, I'm of the opinion that all assault weapons should be banned and there's 0 reason anyone in this country outside of our military has any need for a weapon designed specifically for killing human beings. I also understand that this I'm only one person and this is a decision that should be made by the citizens of Florida through normal constitutionally protected democratic process. The fact that our Attorney General, a State selected representative, is openly blocking our State's right to bring this to ballot is an affront to everything our country stands for. The signatures have been received. Bring it to ballot. Let our citizens decide if we should have weapons of war available for purchase. We live in a democracy and we as voting citizens have a right to decide on our state's future without those in the pockets of special interest groups that support domestic terrorism and the murder of children blocking those opportunities.

I don't use any of this language lightly. We are at a crossroads in our country where we can help protect our citizens, or we can continue our descent into fear. Florida can be on the right side of history, or our legislature can decide that mass murder is an acceptable inevitability of daily life. I thank you again for leading the effort to consider this legislation within your committee and I thank you for your public service to the state that I've lived in my entire life and love very dearly. I want its people protected.

Sincerely,

Timothy Murphy
Sarasota, FL
941-809-0994
timmurphyfl17@yahoo.com

9/15/2019

The Honorable Tom Lee

Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee

The Florida Senate

418 Senate Building

404 South Monroe Street

Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee,

As the Infrastructure and Security Committee focuses on ways to address gun violence and hate crimes during its September meeting(s), my family and I are asking you to consider these priorities:

1.) Require a background checks on every firearm purchase in the State of Florida – Over 90% of Americans support requiring background checks on all gun sales. An investigation found that in 2018 alone, there were nearly 1.2 million firearm ads on an online gun marketplace called Armslist.com for gun sales where no background check was legally required. And research shows that prohibited people seek guns in those unlicensed gun sales at a disproportionate rate.

2.) Require the timely reporting of criminal and mental health records to NICS - Hundreds of thousands of prohibiting criminal and mental health records are missing from the NICS background check system, potentially enabling prohibited people to pass a background check. This is a critical fail that is required to be fixed in order to make background check legislation effective. Legislation to make this reporting mandatory will make us safer.

3.) Require gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement - From 2007 to 2017, at least 82,000 guns were reported stolen and never found in Florida. Not knowing a gun is stolen hinders criminal investigations and law enforcement's ability to track gun-trafficking networks. Stolen gun reports also serve as a deterrent to inter-state gun-trafficking. This is a simple measure of accountability that assists law enforcement do its job.

These three (3) proposals would have a positive effect in making Florida safer and would not diminish Florida residents' rights under the 2nd Amendment. It's a win-win for all of us. Please give them strong consideration.

Thank you for helping to keep us safe.

Sincerely,

Signed: Meagan Bell
549 Fairwind Drive
North Palm Beach, FL 33408

Sen. Sen. Tom Lee

Chair, Infrastructure and Security

The Florida Senate

418 Senate Building

404 South Monroe Street

Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Senator Lee,

My name is Teresa Christy English, a resident of Bradenton, FL. I am glad you are taking the time to explore the ways in which gun violence can be addressed in Florida. I hope you and your colleagues will consider the proposals below, all of which are backed by hard evidence. These actions have saved lives all over the country and will do the same here in Florida. Among them:

1. Require background checks on all gun sales (including gun shows and personal sales). 93% of all Americans support this, including 87% of gun owners. Background checks are simple, effective and again and again they have prevented dangerous people from doing great harm.

2. Repeal the portion of the Marjorie Stoneman Douglas act that allows teachers to be armed. Arming teachers is overwhelmingly opposed by educators, parents and law enforcement and carries tremendous risk to students. The majority of Florida's school districts recognize this and have opted out for that reason. This is a misguided, dangerous measure that merits repealing.

3. Ban assault weapons and high-capacity magazines. This ban was in place once (and before that it was supported by President Reagan), and it worked. In the decade after the ban ended, there was a 347% increase in fatalities in gun massacres. The ban saved lives and should be back in place. A strong majority of Americans — up to 70% — favors such a ban.

4. Expand red flag laws to allow family members to petition for extreme risk protection orders. When a person is in crisis, loved ones and law enforcement are often the first to see a threat. An Extreme Risk Protection law allows them to petition a court to temporarily remove guns from dangerous situations and prevent the purchase of firearms while the order is in effect.

As a Florida mother of school-age children, we sincerely hope you'll enact these evidenced-based proposals to keep our communities safe and to prevent gun violence. Please ACT to help save the lives of those you are elected to represent. We cannot afford any more lives lost, and we know these measures work.

Thank you,

Teresa Christy

Bradenton, FL

Sen. Sen. Tom Lee

Chair, Infrastructure and Security

The Florida Senate

418 Senate Building

404 South Monroe Street

Tallahassee, FL 32399

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Teresa Christy

Bradenton, FL

September 14, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee:

I understand that the Infrastructure and Security Committee will be focusing on ways to address gun violence and hate crimes during its September 16th meeting with the goal of drafting legislation to bring forward next session.

As a Florida resident I am most concerned with:

Background checks on all gun sales
93 percent of American voters support requiring background checks on all gun sales, including 87 percent of gun owners. The existing background check law does not require checks on private sales, is outdated, and never contemplated internet sales or gun shows.

Banning assault weapons and high capacity magazines
Over the past decade, the four deadliest mass shootings in America involved the use of high-capacity magazines. In fact, 58 percent of mass shootings between 2009 and 2017 were committed with firearms equipped with high-capacity magazines. There is no public purpose for civilian possession of these weapons of war.

Expansion of red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders
When a person is in crisis, loved ones and law enforcement are often the first to see signs that they pose a threat. An Extreme Risk law allows them to petition a court for an extreme risk protection order to temporarily remove guns from dangerous situations and prohibit the purchase or possession of firearms while the order is in effect.

Requiring those convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence to surrender firearms
In an average month, at least 52 American women are shot and killed by an intimate partner, and many more are injured.

Requiring safety training prior to purchasing a firearm
Gun buyers should be educated on firearm safety, including safe storage. Every year almost 350 children shoot themselves or someone else unintentionally. Most of these shootings take place inside a home where a gun was not properly secure.

My thanks to you and the committee for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Jimmy Peter Cassis
5841 NE 21 Way
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33308

September 14, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

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Sincerely,

Alex Cassis

Alexandra Cassis
UV7-202D 1527 Albenga Ave
Coral Gables, FL 33146

1639 NW 11th Road
Gainesville, FL 32605-5319
September 15, 2019

Senator Tom Lee,
Chair, Infrastructure and Security
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Chairman,

I am a retired 25-year veteran of the U.S. Air Force, serving three years as an AFOSI Agent and 22 years as a career Judge Advocate, as well as an 18-year retired Department of the Army civilian with over 25 years of combined service overseas, three years in Germany and 22 years in South Korea. Although I qualified twice for the Expert Marksmanship badge as an officer limited to a 9mm handgun, I am not a gun owner, nor do I feel the need to carry one.

My experience overseas, especially in Seoul, Korea, tells me that we would all be much safer without so many weapons of mass destruction in civilian hands in Florida and in America. I support the 2nd Amendment right to bear arms, so long as there is common sense regulation (a "well-regulated militia") such as a ban on assault weapons and high capacity magazines, thorough background checks on all gun sales, and an expansion of "red flag" laws, such as the one that reportedly has worked very well in Florida.

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Do something!

Respectfully,

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Lt Col, USAF (Ret); GS-15, DAC (Ret)
Gainesville

September 14, 2019

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Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
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Sincerely,

Ana Cristina Rodrigues
5841 NE 21 Way
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33308

September 11th, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee;

I understand that the Infrastructure and Security Committee will be focusing on ways to address gun violence and hate crimes during its September meeting. While the recent wave of mass shootings has served to focus our attention on this topic, in reality, one hundred Americans lose their lives to gun violence in their own neighborhoods daily. Obviously, this is a vitally important topic, and I thank you for spearheading this discussion.

As you move forward with the discussion, particularly as it relates to hate crimes, it is my hope that you will consider revisions to the existing Stand Your Ground Law. Under the current law, the burden of proof falls to the plaintiff and requires that the state disprove the defense which is difficult, if not impossible, for prosecutors to overcome. Additionally, the existing law is flawed and serves to exacerbate hate crimes in that it provides latitude to initiate a confrontation, then respond with deadly force. This can be corrected by placing the burden of proof for a stand your ground defense on the defendant.

Again, my thanks for spearheading the discussion and for your dedication to preserving the health, safety and welfare of us all.

TATIANA GONZÁLEZ

6971 Bottlebrush Dr.

Hialeah, FL 33014

September 11th, 2019

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Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

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Fernando Morandi

11320 NW 84 St.

Doral FL 33178

September 11th, 2019

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Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

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Andoni Echeverria

4749 NW 98 th PL

Doral FL 33178

September 11th, 2019

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Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

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Ruben Parra

8167 NW 108 Ct

Doral FL 33178

September 11th, 2019

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Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

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Claudia Paola Orta

8167 NW 108 Ct

Doral FL 33178

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418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
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Ana Soriano

5558 NW 102 PL

Doral FL 33178

September 11th, 2019

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Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

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Lilian Balcazar

7839 NW 110 Ave

Doral FL 33178

September 11th, 2019

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Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

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Teresa Lobato

4566 NW 104 Ave.

Doral 33178

September 11th, 2019

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Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

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Christopher Yow

4455 NW 102nd PL

Doral FL 33178

September 11th, 2019

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Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

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Diana Yow

4455 NW 102nd PL

Doral FL 33178

321 SE 3rd St, H17

Gainesville, FL 32601

September 15, 2019

Sen. Tom Lee

Chair, Infrastructure and Security

Florida Senate

418 Senate Building

404 South Monroe Street

Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee:

I am a Florida voter and writing to ask that the Infrastructure and Security Committee take steps to eliminate deaths and injuries from guns. While recent mass shootings have received the most publicity, the death toll from individually targeted victims, crime victims, accidents and suicides is much greater.

Background checks should be required on all gun sales including gun fairs and private sales. Mental Health problems should not be an automatic disqualifier unless related to risky or impulsive behavior

Red flag laws should be expanded to include court-ordered removal of guns on the application of family members, teachers, social workers and therapists who perceive a risk of violent behavior. People can be Baker-acted on evidence that they are a danger to themselves or others.

Assault weapons and high capacity magazines should be banned. There is no legitimate civilian use for such weapons.

There should be education on the safe storage and use of guns.

These measures if enacted into law would at least be a start in ending the epidemic of gun violence.

Sincerely,

Gaby Gross

Sen. Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee,

We are both 90 years of age and not only parents and grandparents, but great grandparents. We are registered Republicans and have been in Florida for 34 years. We pride ourselves with trying to keep up with what is going on with politics in our great country.

Recently it has been brought to our attention that both in Florida and in the national political arena that 75% of gun owners approve background checks on gun sales and also 90% of the general public, including gun owners, are in favor and want universal background checks. When our country was founded and the Constitution was adopted, guns that were available were only hand guns and rifles that were limited in their bullet capacity. Obviously, at that time, our founders did not consider a future that would have all sorts of weapons with the ability to kill hundreds of people in the matter of minutes. We believe we need to adapt the laws to our current culture to make sure guns are safely sold and used.

Senator Lee, we are asking you to lead the way for your committee in amending background check laws, especially in closing loopholes in Florida that allow non-licensed sellers and gun-manufacturing sites to legally sell guns and rifle "kits" without background checks for buyers.

We mentioned our ages at the outset of this letter to let you know that we still care for the wonderful country in which we have been privileged to grow up. We want our leaders, no matter their political persuasion, to join together to ensure that future generations grow up in a safe and secure manner.

God Bless America.

Earle and Grace Andrews
New Port Richey, FL 34655

Sunday, September 15, 2019

Sen. Tom Lee

Chair, Infrastructure and Security

The Florida Senate

Dear Senator Lee,

Thank you for agreeing to chair the Infrastructure and Security Committee. This important committee has much work to do this session and I know you will not take the task lightly.

As a member of Moms Demand Action and a 40 year veteran teacher (recently retired from Leon County Schools), I am grateful for the progress that was made during the last session in regards to common sense gun legislation. Strides were made after the tragedy of the Parkland massacre and now we must continue to the fight the good fight to change the culture of gun violence in our state. I know the answers are complex and multifaceted but we have to work towards solutions.

Please consider more complex background checks, fixing red flag laws to include family members, and by all means ban assault weapons and high capacity magazines that are meant to be weapons of war for killing human beings in large numbers. As a recently retired teacher who lives in a state that looks at thousands more unfilled teaching positions each year, I can tell you that arming teachers is not conducive to attracting qualified caring teachers to serve the students in our state. Marion Hammer recently spoke out against banning assault weapons at a financial impact hearing at the capitol. She asked the panel what she should say to her 10 year old granddaughter when she has to tell her she can no longer have the (certain caliber) "rifle with the pink stock that she got for her birthday, because it is against the law". I wanted to tell her that she should say, here is a soccer ball, or an anthology of lovely children's literature, or any number of more appropriate items for a ten year old girl. I wanted to ask her what SHE would say to a closet full of wide-eyed 7 year olds as they look you in the face for reassurance during an active shooter drill in their elementary school.

We are all getting tired of looking over our shoulder as we enter a grocery store, movie theatre, house of worship, school, or yoga studio!

In this morning's issue of the Tallahassee Democrat, our own Senator Montford expressed his belief that in regards to gun legislation "something good is going to come out of the Senate this year". He said, "Everybody said it's time." I pray he is right.

Sincerely,

Lynn S. Janasiewicz

Tallahassee, Florida

Sen. Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee,

As a mother, professor, wife of a military veteran, and a graduate student, the subject of gun violence crosses my mind on a daily basis. Dropping my children off at school, I consider the possibility of a shooter attacking their school. As a professor, I struggle to be a personable and empathetic teacher while in the back of mind I wonder if any of my students are capable of committing a mass shooting. The threat of gun violence is very real for me and not just imagined. Following the loss of a family friend to gun violence and the constant news of mass shootings in our country, I have become invested in fighting for gun sense legislation. I have made it my goal to be informed about this issue and research the effectiveness of possible solutions. I hope you will take the following to heart:

The place to begin is amending background check laws. Our background check system has not been updated to keep up with trends in gun sales methods, such as online purchases including those of 80% guns, which the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives acknowledges are problematic resources for criminals. The background check system in Florida is set up to stop criminals, particularly domestic abusers, from getting their hands on a firearm, but as long as we allow "unlicensed dealers" and 80% gun manufacturing sites to legally sell guns and rifle kits without a background check for buyers, we will have increased gun violence. I urge the committee to close these loopholes in Florida.

The argument against universal background checks is that it is simply "inconvenient" for law abiding citizens to obtain a background check when they purchase a gun in a personal sale. However, along with the 2,728 licensed gun dealers in Florida, there are several online platforms that make it easy for individuals to pay for a background check if they sell or buy a gun through personal sale. Any slight inconvenience is worth the lives that universal background checks may save.

The second gun violence prevention measure the legislature can take is repealing the portion of the Marjorie Stoneman Douglas act that allows classroom teachers to be armed. This is especially personal to me as a mom and professor. It has never been proven that arming teachers serves as a deterrent to a would-be shooter or that an undertrained teacher could stop a shooter. However, there is plenty of evidence to support that arming classroom teachers makes our kids less safe. I ask that the committee repeal this addition to the MSD Act before a child is unintentionally hurt.

Lastly, amending Florida's Red Flag Laws to allow family members and cohabitors to report is key to saving lives. We know that the Parkland shooting could have been prevented if law enforcement was able to act on the mother's warnings. In the case of my friend's death, which occurred in Orlando in 2014, Red Flag Laws allowing the gunman's roommate to act would have saved lives. I ask that the committee consider extending the ability to petition the court to family members and cohabitors, romantic or otherwise.

Thank you and the committee for taking time this month to consider solutions to gun violence in our state.

Brianna Jerman
Tampa, FL 33626

September 15, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee,

I understand that you will be chairing your committee's discussion regarding gun violence and hate crimes in September. I thank you for leading this discussion with your colleagues.

I am writing to ask for your support for a more appropriate regulation of firearms in the State of Florida. We have seen such a heart breaking pattern of violence in our country. No other country in the world has the number of deaths by guns on a daily count as our country.

The Second Amendment specifies 'a well regulated Militia'. I support this amendment as it is written. I believe that the intent is to have regulations in place appropriate for the times. I do not believe our founding fathers had any idea of the types of weapons that would be present today. As you look at the range of weaponry that is available in our country today, I hope that you will ponder with a healthy dose of discretion on what weapons are best suited for a militia and what is appropriate for individual possession.

Do you think that our founding fathers intended every individual to have a stockpile of weapons with the same capacity of weapons as designated for the militia?
Would this point of discretion include the right to own a nuclear device?

At what point on the list of weaponry will you suggest a line of regulation should be drawn to protect innocent people?

I do not believe in the availability of assault weapons for non-militia persons.

I do not believe in the sale of any guns without a background check.

I support your leadership in having a discussion that will find new points for regulation that will provide the residents of the grand state of Florida with better protects for their safety and good health.

Sincerely,

Helen K. Warren
1215 NW 36th Terrace
Gainesville, Florida 32605

September 15, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee,

As the Infrastructure and Security Committee focuses on ways to address gun violence and hate crimes during its September meeting(s), my family and I are asking you to consider these priorities:

1.) **Require a background checks on every firearm purchase in the State of Florida –** Over 90% of Americans support requiring background checks on all gun sales. An investigation found that in 2018 alone, there were nearly 1.2 million firearm ads on an online gun marketplace called Armslist.com for gun sales where no background check was legally required. And research shows that prohibited people seek guns in those unlicensed gun sales at a disproportionate rate.

2.) **Require the timely reporting of criminal and mental health records to NICS** - Hundreds of thousands of prohibiting criminal and mental health records are missing from the NICS background check system, potentially enabling prohibited people to pass a background check. This is a critical fail that is required to be fixed in order to make background check legislation effective. Legislation to make this reporting mandatory will make us safer.

3.) **Require gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement** - From 2007 to 2017, at least 82,000 guns were reported stolen and never found in Florida. Not knowing a gun is stolen hinders criminal investigations and law enforcement's ability to track gun-trafficking networks. Stolen gun reports also serve as a deterrent to inter-state gun-trafficking. This is a simple measure of accountability that assists law enforcement do its job.

These three (3) proposals would have a positive effect in making Florida safer and would not diminish Florida residents' rights under the 2nd Amendment. It's a win-win for all of us. Please give them strong consideration.

Thank you for helping to keep us safe.

Sincerely,

Signed:

Name: Maria A. Fernandez

Full Address: 8145 SW 83 PL, Miami, FL. 33143

September 15, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee

Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee

The Florida Senate

418 Senate Building

404 South Monroe Street

Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee;

I am a Florida resident who is very concerned about my own safety and that of my family and friends. It is my understanding that you and your Committee have been tasked with reviewing hate crimes and gun violence and introducing legislation in the next session to address your findings.

Please consider the expansion of red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders. When a person is in crisis, their loved ones, not law enforcement, are often the first to see signs that they pose a threat. An expanded Extreme Risk law would allow family members to petition a court for an extreme risk protection order to temporarily remove guns from dangerous situations and prohibit the purchase or possession of firearms while the order is in effect. The law passed last year that allows law enforcement to petition the court has helped but it is not enough. Allowing family members who are more familiar with threats and dangers to petition the court directly would make all of us safer, whether we are Florida residents or visitors to our state.

Also, please consider crafting legislation that requires those convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence to surrender firearms temporarily under the same requirements as under ERPOs. In an average month, at least 52 American women are shot and killed by an intimate partner, and many more are injured. And often, the children are either harmed or also killed, and/or suffer the trauma of witnessing these events or losing both parents simultaneously. We must do more to prevent these tragedies.

These simple expanded protections will surely save the lives of many Floridians. I ask you to consider these as we attempt to be safer in our homes and communities throughout the state.

My thanks in advance for your efforts on behalf of all Floridians.

Sincerely,

Signed:

Name: Maria Aranalde Fernandez

Full Address: 8145 SW 83 Place, Miami, FL. 33143

September 15, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee;

Thank you for your work and ongoing concern for the health and safety of all Floridians. As you and the Committee move forward with discussion and creation of legislation that will address hate crimes and gun violence, please consider the following.

Since retirement of the federal ban on assault weapons in 1994, we have seen a drastic increase in the number of deaths associated with mass shootings. While we cannot presume that the rise in incidents can be attributed to assault weapons, we can say with all certainty that more deaths occur per incident when assault weapons are involved. Most recently, the Dayton Ohio shooter used a high-capacity drum magazine holding 100 rounds. Although law enforcement quickly intervened to stop the shooting, within 30 seconds 9 people had been shot and killed, largely due to the magazine capacity. Thus, while a ban on assault weapons may not impact the frequency of mass shootings, it would certainly help to decrease the number of deaths.

In the area of gun safety, please improve the safety standards associated with the training that is required prior to the purchase of a firearm. From 2014 through today, across America, 1,296 children have been killed or injured by guns. Many of these incidents result from accidents associated with the failure of the owner to safely store a weapon. While today's reality may require that we as parents ask whether there is a gun in the house each time we organize a play date, it's imperative that we be assured that those guns are safely stored.

As always, my thanks for your consideration dedication to safeguarding all Floridians.

Sincerely,
Signed
Name: Maria A. Fernandez
Address: 8145 SW 83 PL, Miami, FL. 33143

September 15, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee;

I understand that the Infrastructure and Security Committee will be focusing on ways to address gun violence and hate crimes during its September meeting. While the recent wave of mass shootings has served to focus our attention on this topic, in reality, one hundred Americans lose their lives to gun violence in their own neighborhoods daily. Obviously, this is a vitally important topic, and I thank you for spearheading this discussion.

As you move forward with the discussion, particularly as it relates to hate crimes, it is my hope that you will consider revisions to the existing Stand Your Ground Law. Under the current law, the burden of proof falls to the plaintiff and requires that the state disprove the defense which is difficult, if not impossible, for prosecutors to overcome. Additionally, the existing law is flawed and serves to exacerbate hate crimes in that it provides latitude to initiate a confrontation, then respond with deadly force. This can be corrected by placing the burden of proof for a stand your ground defense on the defendant.

Again, my thanks for spearheading the discussion and for your dedication to preserving the health, safety and welfare of us all.

Sincerely,
Signed
Name: Maria A. Fernandez
Address: 8145 SW 83 PL. Miami, FL. 33143

September 15, 2019

Senator Tom Lee
915 Oakfield Drive
Suite D
Brandon, FL 33511

Dear Senator Lee:

I am writing as a resident of the State of Florida and member of Moms Demand Action to express my appreciation for your support of legislation that will address hate crimes and gun violence.

I ask that you work with other Florida Senators to support:

1) Background checks on all gun sales,
2) Ban on assault weapons and high capacity magazines,
3) Expand red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders,
4) Require firearms dealers to notify law enforcement when a customer fails a background check, and
5) Require safety training prior to purchasing a firearm.

Your leadership in promptly acting on legislation with the above provisions will save lives! Thank you in advance.

Respectfully,

C Heshmati

Christine Heshmati
(954) 684-5030

September 11th, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

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Again, my thanks for spearheading the discussion and for your dedication to preserving the health, safety and welfare of us all.

Karina Moussa

6661 NW 105 Ave.

Doral FL 33178

September 11th, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee;

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Again, my thanks for spearheading the discussion and for your dedication to preserving the health, safety and welfare of us all.

Jean Luca Rossi

5562 NW 112 Ct.

Doral FL 33178

September 11th, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee;

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Again, my thanks for spearheading the discussion and for your dedication to preserving the health, safety and welfare of us all.

Marcos Rossi

5562 NW 112 Ct.

Doral FL 33178

September 11th, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

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Again, my thanks for spearheading the discussion and for your dedication to preserving the health, safety and welfare of us all.

Maria Paula da Silva

5562 NW 112 Ct.

Doral FL 33178

September 11th, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

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Again, my thanks for spearheading the discussion and for your dedication to preserving the health, safety and welfare of us all.

Andoni Garrogerrikaetxeberria

5600 NW 107 Ave. Apt. 1403

Doral FL 33178

September 11th, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

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Again, my thanks for spearheading the discussion and for your dedication to preserving the health, safety and welfare of us all.

Antonio Martelo

5786 NW 113 Ave.

Doral FL 33178

September 11th, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

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Again, my thanks for spearheading the discussion and for your dedication to preserving the health, safety and welfare of us all.

Roberto Martelo

5786 NW 113 Ave.

Doral FL 33178

September 11th, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

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Again, my thanks for spearheading the discussion and for your dedication to preserving the health, safety and welfare of us all.

Kelly Martelo

5786 NW 113 Ave.

Doral FL 33178

September 11th, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

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Again, my thanks for spearheading the discussion and for your dedication to preserving the health, safety and welfare of us all.

Kevin Fonseca

6661 NW 105 Ave.

Doral FL 33178

September 11th, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee;

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Again, my thanks for spearheading the discussion and for your dedication to preserving the health, safety and welfare of us all.

Jose Gregorio Fonseca

6661 NW 105 Ave.

Doral FL 33178

September 15, 2019

Senator Keith Perry
2610 N 43rd Street
Suite 2B
Gainesville, FL 32606

Dear Senator Perry:

I am writing as a resident of the State of Florida and member of Moms Demand Action to express my support of legislation that will address hate crimes and gun violence.

I ask that you work with other Florida Senators to support legislation to require:

1) Background checks on all gun sales,
2) Ban on assault weapons and high capacity magazines,
3) Expansion of red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders,
4) Notification from firearms dealers to law enforcement when a customer fails a background check, and
5) Safety training for potential buyers prior to purchasing a firearm.

Your leadership in promptly acting on legislation like the above provisions will save lives! Thank you in advance for your assistance in protecting our communities while maintaining our 2nd amendment rights.

Respectfully,

Cheshmati

Christine Heshmati
(954) 684-5030

September 15, 2019

Senator Travis Huston
4875 Palm Coast Parkway, NW

Palm Coast, FL 32137

Dear Senator Huston:

I am writing as a resident of the State of Florida and member of Moms Demand Action to express my appreciation for your support of legislation that will address hate crimes and gun violence.

I ask that you work with other Florida Senators to support:

1) Background checks on all gun sales,
2) Ban on assault weapons and high capacity magazines,
3) Expand red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders,
4) Require firearms dealers to notify law enforcement when a customer fails a background check, and
5) Require safety training prior to purchasing a firearm.

Your leadership in promptly acting on legislation with the above provisions will save lives! Thank you in advance.

Respectfully,

C Heshmati

Christine Heshmati
(954) 684-5030

September 15, 2019

Senator Aaron Bean
Duval Station
13453 N. Main Street
Suite 301
Jacksonville, FL 32218

Dear Senator Bean:

I am writing as a resident of the State of Florida and member of Moms Demand Action to express my appreciation for your support of legislation that will address hate crimes and gun violence.

I ask that you work with other Florida Senators to support:

1) Background checks on all gun sales,
2) Ban on assault weapons and high capacity magazines,
3) Expand red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders,
4) Require firearms dealers to notify law enforcement when a customer fails a background check, and
5) Require safety training prior to purchasing a firearm.

Your leadership in promptly acting on legislation with the above provisions will save lives! Thank you in advance.

Respectfully,

C. Heshmati

Christine Heshmati
(954) 684-5030

September 15, 2019

Senator Ed Hooper
3450 East Lake Road
Suite 305
Palm Harbor, FL 34685

Dear Senator Bean:

I am writing as a resident of the State of Florida and member of Moms Demand Action to express my appreciation for your support of legislation that will address hate crimes and gun violence.

I ask that you work with other Florida Senators to support:

1) Background checks on all gun sales,
2) Ban on assault weapons and high capacity magazines,
3) Expand red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders,
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Respectfully,

C Heshmati

Christine Heshmati
(954) 684-5030

September 15, 2019

Senator Annette Taddeo
10689 N. Kendall Drive
Suite 212
Miami, FL 33176

Dear Senator Taddeo:

I am writing as a resident of the State of Florida and member of Moms Demand Action to express my appreciation for your support of legislation that will address hate crimes and gun violence.

I ask that you work with other Florida Senators to support:

1) Background checks on all gun sales,
2) Ban on assault weapons and high capacity magazines,
3) Expand red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders,
4) Firearms dealers' requirement to notify law enforcement when a customer fails a background check, and
5) Safety training requirement for buyers prior to purchasing a firearm.

Your leadership in promptly acting on legislation with the above provisions will save lives! Thank you in advance.

Respectfully,

C Heshmati

Christine Heshmati
(954) 684-5030

September 15, 2019

Senator Linda Stewart
1726 South Bumby Avenue
Orlando, FL 32806

Dear Senator Stewart:

I am writing as a resident of the State of Florida and member of Moms Demand Action to express my appreciation for your support of legislation that will address hate crimes and gun violence.

I ask that you work with other Florida Senators to support:

1) Background checks on all gun sales,
2) Ban on assault weapons and high capacity magazines,
3) Expand red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders,
4) Require firearms dealers to notify law enforcement when a customer fails a background check, and
5) Require safety training prior to purchasing a firearm.

Your leadership in promptly acting on legislation with the above provisions will save lives! Thank you in advance.

Respectfully,

C Heshmati

Christine Heshmati
(954) 684-5030

September 15, 2019

Senator Janet Cruz
210A S. MacDill Avenue
Tampa, FL 33609

Dear Senator Cruz:

I am writing as a resident of the State of Florida and member of Moms Demand Action to express my appreciation for your support of legislation that will address hate crimes and gun violence.

I ask that you work with other Florida Senators to support:

1) Background checks on all gun sales,
2) Ban on assault weapons and high capacity magazines,
3) Expand red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders,
4) Require firearms dealers to notify law enforcement when a customer fails a background check, and
5) Require safety training prior to purchasing a firearm.

Your leadership in promptly acting on legislation with the above provisions will save lives! Thank you in advance.

Respectfully,

C Heshmati

Christine Heshmati
(954) 684-5030

Sen. Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee,

I am a professor at the University of Central Florida and a mom to be with serious concerns about gun safety for myself, my students, and my unborn child. I had the privilege of going to college and growing up in an environment where I was never afraid for my safety. I believe that future generations deserve the same luxury I was afforded. I want to thank you for taking the time to consider actions that could make this future a reality. I would strongly support the Florida legislature taking the following actions:

- **Require background checks on all gun sales** - 93 percent of American voters support requiring background checks on all gun sales, including 89 percent of Republicans and 87 percent of gun owners.
- **Ban on assault weapons and high capacity magazines** – Assault type weapons belong only in the hands of trained military professionals on the field of battle. They were not designed for personal protection or hunting, they were designed to kill as many people as possible and have no place in our schools, movie theaters, and grocery stores.
- **Prohibit guns in schools and universities** – As an educator myself I cannot tell you how disturbing the thought of guns on campus is. Professors routinely challenge students and we must feel safe to do so in order to maintain educational standards and promote student growth.
- **Expand red flag laws to family members** – Loved ones and law enforcement are often the first to see signs that someone is in crisis and may pose a threat to themselves and others. An Extreme Risk law allows them to petition a court to temporarily remove guns from dangerous situations and prohibit the purchase or possession of firearms while the order is in effect.
- **Require law enforcement notification of failed background checks** – Law enforcement has recently been able to intercept several potential mass shooters prior to their planned attacks. One such plot was prevented very close to home for me in Winter Park, FL. Notifying law enforcement of failed background checks provides an additional opportunity for early identification of bad actors, as those who fail background checks are 28 percent more likely to be arrested in the five years following the denial than in the five years before it.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Elizabeth Poziemski
1761 Big Oak Lane
Kissimmee, FL 34746

Sen. Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Senator Lee,

Thank you for taking the time to explore the ways in which gun violence can be addressed in Florida. I hope you and your colleagues will consider the proposals below, all of which are backed by hard evidence. These actions have saved lives all over the country and will do the same here in Florida. Among them:

1. **Require background checks on *all* gun sales (including gun shows and personal sales).** 93% of all Americans support this, including 87% of gun owners. Background checks are simple, effective and again and again they have prevented dangerous people from doing great harm.
2. **Repeal the portion of the Marjorie Stoneman Douglas act that allows teachers to be armed.** Arming teachers is overwhelmingly opposed by educators, parents and law enforcement and carries tremendous risk to students. The majority of Florida's school districts recognize this and have opted out for that reason. This is a misguided, dangerous measure that merits repealing.
3. **Ban assault weapons and high-capacity magazines.** This ban was in place once (and before that it was supported by President Reagan), and *it worked.* In the decade after the ban ended, there was a 347% increase in fatalities in gun massacres. The ban saved lives and should be back in place. A strong majority of Americans — up to 70% — favors such a ban.
4. **Expand red flag laws to allow family members to petition for extreme risk protection orders.** When a person is in crisis, loved ones and law enforcement are often the first to see a threat. An Extreme Risk Protection law allows them to petition a court to temporarily remove guns from dangerous situations and prevent the purchase of firearms while the order is in effect.

As a Florida mother and a Moms Demand Action supporter, I sincerely hope you'll enact these evidenced-based proposals to keep our communities safe and to prevent gun violence. Please ACT to help save the lives of those you are elected to represent. We cannot afford any more lives lost, and we know these measures work.

Thank you,
Karen Crossan
Oviedo, FL 32765

September 15, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee,

As the Infrastructure and Security Committee focuses on ways to address gun violence and hate crimes during its September meeting(s), my family and I are asking you to consider these priorities:

1. Require background checks on every firearm purchased in the State of Florida-Over 90% of Americans support requiring background checks on all gun sales. An investigation found that in 2018 alone, there were nearly 1.2 million firearm ads on an online gun marketplace called Armslist.com for gun sales where no background check was legally required. And research shows that prohibited people seek guns in those unlicensed gun sales at a disproportionate rate.
2. Require the timely reporting of criminal and mental health records to NICS-Hundreds of thousands of prohibiting criminal and mental health records are missing from the NICS background check system, potentially enabling prohibited people to pass a background check. This is a critical fail that is required to be fixed in order to make background check legislation effective. Legislation to make this reporting mandatory will make us safer.
3. Require gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement-From 20017-2017, at least 82,000 guns were reported stoken and never found in Florida. Not knowing a gun is stolen hinders criminal investigations and law enforcement's ability to track gun-trafficking networks. Stolen gun reports also serve as a deterrent to inter-state gun trafficking. This is a simple measure of accountability that assists law enforcement do its job.

These three (3) proposals would have a positive effect in making Florida safer and would not diminish Florida residents' rights under the 2nd Amendment. Its's a win-win for all of us. Please give them strong consideration.

Thank you for helping to keep us safe.

Sincerely,
Sara Bernardin
10113 Seageape Way
Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33418

September 12, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair
Florida Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee
418 Senate Building
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Senator Lee:

As you lead the effort to consider legislation this session to prevent gun violence, including mass shootings, I write to express my support for passing a state law to require criminal background checks on all gun sales. Florida state law currently does not require background checks on unlicensed gun sales,leaving a massive loophole in place that makes it far too easy for criminals, people prohibited from having guns because of mental illness, and others with dangerous histories to get their hands on guns through private, online or gun show sales. Fifteenstates have passed laws to require background checks on all gun sales. Background check laws —by point-of-sale check and/or permit— are associated with lower rates of firearm homicide, suicide and firearm trafficking. The Florida Legislature should build upon the important gun violence legislation passed following the Parkland mass shooting and pass a comprehensive background check law.

Sincerely,

Margaret Hamer
Concerned Parent
4440 SW Archer Road 404
Gainesville, FL 32608
MargaretHamerFL@gmail.com
352-256-6666

September 11th, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee;

I understand that the Infrastructure and Security Committee will be focusing on ways to address gun violence and hate crimes during its September meeting. While the recent wave of mass shootings has served to focus our attention on this topic, in reality, one hundred Americans lose their lives to gun violence in their own neighborhoods daily. Obviously, this is a vitally important topic, and I thank you for spearheading this discussion.

As you move forward with the discussion, particularly as it relates to hate crimes, it is my hope that you will consider revisions to the existing Stand Your Ground Law. Under the current law, the burden of proof falls to the plaintiff and requires that the state disprove the defense which is difficult, if not impossible, for prosecutors to overcome. Additionally, the existing law is flawed and serves to exacerbate hate crimes in that it provides latitude to initiate a confrontation, then respond with deadly force. This can be corrected by placing the burden of proof for a stand your ground defense on the defendant.

Again, my thanks for spearheading the discussion and for your dedication to preserving the health, safety and welfare of us all.

Jesus Gabriel Chacin

3352 W 105th Terrace

Hialeah FL 33018

September 11th, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee;

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Again, my thanks for spearheading the discussion and for your dedication to preserving the health, safety and welfare of us all.

Lilian Balcazar

7839 NW 110 Ave

Doral FL 33178

Sen. Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee,

I really appreciate your willingness to address gun violence in Florida. Seven years ago, on the 27th of this month, my best friend's father and five other men were killed in a workplace shooting, two more were injured. He died fighting a gunman that day. It's why I've made it my mission to honor his life with action. From that tragedy, I've learned that we need to stop gun violence before it starts. These are just some of the laws we can enact that can prevent tragedies like the one that happened to my friend's dad.

Strengthen Florida's Red Flag Law: Since this law has passed, it has been used more than 2,000 times. Currently, only law enforcement is allowed to petition a court for an extreme risk protection order to temporarily remove guns from people who are a threat to themselves or others. Loved ones are often the first to notice warning signs. In the case of the shooting at my friend's dad's workplace, the parents of the gunman believed their son was in crisis, and were in the process of trying to get him help—but it was too late. Unfortunately, he was legally able to buy guns and bulk ammunition. Sadly, for many families, this instance is far too common. Strengthening Florida's red flag law to give families the tools to intervene when their loved one is in crisis could save even more lives.

Background Checks on All Gun Sales: 93 percent of Americans support this, including 89 percent of Republicans and 87 percent of gun owners. In 2018 alone, there were nearly 1.2 million gun ads on an online gun marketplace called Armslist.com for gun sales where no background check was legally required. In order for a red flag law to be effective, we need to close these loopholes, so those same people can't easily buy a gun through an unlicensed seller.

Ban on assault weapons and high capacity magazines: These put the 'mass' in mass shooting. I've spoken with doctors who have told me the damage these weapons do to a body—much different than your standard rifle or handgun. The August 2019 Dayton, Ohio shooter used a rifle equipped with a high-capacity drum magazine capable of holding 100 rounds. Though law enforcement stopped the shooting in about 30 seconds, the shooter fired dozens of shots—killing 9 people—largely because of the magazine capacity.

As someone who has personally seen how devastating gun violence is to families, I am urging you to act on preventative policies. Too many have died, and we cannot wait to take action. The time is NOW. You have the opportunity to save lives in Florida.

Sincerely,
Crystal Wimperis
Fort Myers, Florida

September 14, 2019

Sen. Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee,

I am a Florida resident and am extremely concerned about gun violence in our communities, our state and this nation. I am 100% certain that there is legislation you can pass that will help to protect our citizens and address this enormous public safety and health issue of gun violence. CEOs of some of the largest retail chains in our nation are even saying enough is enough, protecting their businesses and their customers by enacting gun safety policies. It's time for our elected officials to do the same because ENOUGH IS ENOUGH, not one more mass shooting or victim of every day gun violence is acceptable to me, is it acceptable to you? You have the power and the ability to do something, anything to start turning around the very dangerous gun laws/policies that are not protecting our citizens.

We know that the background check system works — and has stopped over 3.5 million illegal gun sales in the last 20 years. Research shows that just one online firearms marketplace had over 1 million ads for firearm sales posted by unlicensed sellers in states where no background check was required. Troublingly, an investigation showed that 1 in 9 prospective online buyers would not have passed a background check. PLEASE CLOSE THESE LOOPHOLES ON ALL POINTS OF PURCHASE BY MANDATORY BACKGROUND CHECKS ON ALL GUN SALES.

Ban assault weapons and high capacity magazines. In the last 3 years, 2 shootings in in our own State, Orlando and Parkland, inflicted maximum damage in mere minutes by use and access to these types of weapons and ammo.The August 2019 Dayton, Ohio shooter used a rifle equipped with a high-capacity drum magazine capable of holding 100 rounds. Though law enforcement stopped the shooting in 30 seconds, the shooter was able to fire dozens of shots, kill 9 people, largely because of magazine capacity. PLEASE BAN ASSUALT WEAPONS AND HIGH CAPACITY MAGAZINES.

Gun buyers should be educated on firearm safety, including safe storage. Every year almost 350 children shoot themselves or someone else unintentionally. Most of these shootings take place inside a home where a gun was not present. We require that all drivers take a test to get a learners permit and a driving license, and to spend a time learning how to drive, then proving they know how to drive, yet we have no requirement for gun safety training, learning how to properly use and store a gun. Pass legislation to REQUIRE SAFTEY TRAINING PRIOR TO PURCHASING A FIREARM.

Will you initiate and enact legislation to begin to stop the proliferation of everyday gun violence, mass shootings, accidental shootings, suicides and more. You have the power, you are our voice, we elected you and I will vote with my voice on the issue of gun safety, one of the most critical public health and safety issues facing our State and Nation. You have the power to make this change, use that power to keep our children, communities and State safe.

Thank you for your service and for being my voice by initiating and enacting common sense gun safety legislation such as the above suggestions. I ask that you join me in doing better and doing more to stop gun violence, protect our children and all citizens. Together we can make a difference.

Sincerely,

Leslie Steinberg

Leslie Steinberg
Delray Beach, FL 33444

September 11th, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee;

I understand that the Infrastructure and Security Committee will be focusing on ways to address gun violence and hate crimes during its September meeting. While the recent wave of mass shootings has served to focus our attention on this topic, in reality, one hundred Americans lose their lives to gun violence in their own neighborhoods daily. Obviously, this is a vitally important topic, and I thank you for spearheading this discussion.

As you move forward with the discussion, particularly as it relates to hate crimes, it is my hope that you will consider revisions to the existing Stand Your Ground Law. Under the current law, the burden of proof falls to the plaintiff and requires that the state disprove the defense which is difficult, if not impossible, for prosecutors to overcome. Additionally, the existing law is flawed and serves to exacerbate hate crimes in that it provides latitude to initiate a confrontation, then respond with deadly force. This can be corrected by placing the burden of proof for a stand your ground defense on the defendant.

Again, my thanks for spearheading the discussion and for your dedication to preserving the health, safety and welfare of us all.

Aitor Garrogerrikaetxeberria

5600 NW 107 Ave. Apt. 1403

Doral FL 33178

September 11th, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee;

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Again, my thanks for spearheading the discussion and for your dedication to preserving the health, safety and welfare of us all.

Miren Begoña Ruiz de Azua

5600 NW 107 Ave. Apt. 1403

Doral FL 33178

September 11th, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee;

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Again, my thanks for spearheading the discussion and for your dedication to preserving the health, safety and welfare of us all.

Claudia Zuluaga

11500 NW 48th Terrace

Doral FL 33178

September 11th, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee;

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Again, my thanks for spearheading the discussion and for your dedication to preserving the health, safety and welfare of us all.

Sebastian Prada

11500 NW 48th Terrace

Doral FL 33178

September 11th, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

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Again, my thanks for spearheading the discussion and for your dedication to preserving the health, safety and welfare of us all.

Hernan Prada

11500 NW 48th Terrace

Doral FL 33178

September, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair
Florida Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee
418 Senate Building
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Senator Lee:

As you lead the effort to consider legislation this session to prevent gun violence, including mass shootings, I write to express my support for passing a state law to require criminal background checks on all gun sales. Florida state law currently does not require background checks on unlicensed gun sales, leaving a massive loophole in place that makes it far too easy for criminals, people prohibited from having guns because of mental illness, and others with dangerous histories to get their hands on guns through private, online or gun show sales. Fifteen states have passed laws to require background checks on all gun sales. Background check laws —by point-of-sale check and/or permit— are associated with lower rates of firearm homicide, suicide and firearm trafficking. The Florida Legislature should build upon the important gun violence legislation passed following the Parkland mass shooting and pass a comprehensive background check law.

Sincerely,

Aurora Gonzalez
Gainesville, FL

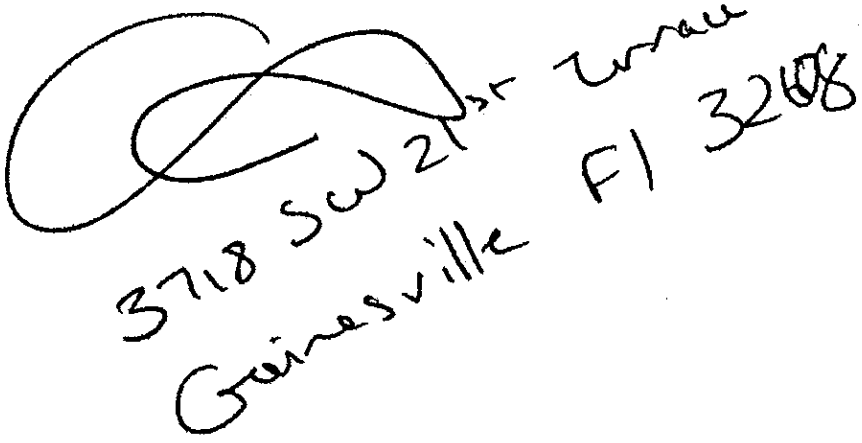
September, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair
Florida Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee
418 Senate Building
Tallahassee, FL 32399

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Sincerely,



Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Infrastructure and Security Committee:

I am writing to thank you for your work on gun violence and to ask you to support the commonsense gun reform so **desperately** needed in our state. Based on the experiences here in Miami Dade County, I believe the following changes would be the most impactful in preventing gun violence:

1. Background checks on all gun sales

Most Florida voters support requiring background checks on all gun sales, including 89 percent of Republicans and 87 percent of gun owners. We still have not closed the unlicensed gun sale loophole which means that prohibited buyers can take advantage of this loophole and get armed illegally in person and via internet. This loophole guts the public safety impact of <u>all</u> our laws. Criminals, underage buyers and people subject to Extreme Risk Orders can simply circumvent the law and purchase a firearm from an unlicensed seller and skip a background check altogether. It is like going to TSA, skipping the line and being allowed through a side door. Crazy!

2. Ban on high capacity magazines

The August 2019 Dayton, Ohio shooter used a rifle equipped with a high-capacity drum magazine capable of holding 100 rounds. Though law enforcement stopped the shooting in about 30 seconds, the shooter was able to fire dozens of shots—and kill 9 people—largely because of the magazine capacity. Over the past decade, **the four deadliest mass shootings in America involved the use of high-capacity magazines. In fact, 58 percent of mass shootings between 2009 and 2017 were committed with firearms equipped with high-capacity magazines.** Limiting magazine capacity would make <u>ALL</u> guns less lethal.

3. Require firearms dealers to notify law enforcement when a customer fails a background check

Failed attempts to purchase guns can foreshadow future criminal activity. People who fail background checks are 28 percent more likely to be arrested in the five years following the denial than in the five years before it. Law enforcement wants to know and should know when prohibited individuals are attempting to purchase guns.

4. Expansion of red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders

When a person is in crisis, loved ones are often the first to see signs that they pose a threat to themselves or others. An Extreme Risk law allows them to petition a court for an order to temporarily remove guns from dangerous situations and prohibit the purchase or possession of firearms while the order is in effect.

The bottom line is that **too** many Floridians are killed with guns. I know the devastating impact because my son and his best friend were taken in 2012. My son was shot 4 times and his best friend was shot once in the head. Both boys were expecting fathers. The impact of this violence is heartbreaking I ask that you focus on the above priorities to save lives and that you don't wait.

Thank you for your time and attention,

Sincerely,

Denise Brown
975 NW 199 Street
Miami Fl 33169

Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Infrastructure and Security Committee:

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Thank you for your time and attention,

Sincerely,

Garret Brown
975 NW 199 Street
Miami Fl 33169

Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

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2. Ban on high capacity magazines

The August 2019 Dayton, Ohio shooter used a rifle equipped with a high-capacity drum magazine capable of holding 100 rounds. Though law enforcement stopped the shooting in about 30 seconds, the shooter was able to fire dozens of shots—and kill 9 people—largely because of the magazine capacity. Over the past decade, **the four deadliest mass shootings in America involved the use of high-capacity magazines. In fact, 58 percent of mass shootings between 2009 and 2017 were committed with firearms equipped with high-capacity magazines.** Limiting magazine capacity would make **ALL** guns less lethal.

3. Require firearms dealers to notify law enforcement when a customer fails a background check

Failed attempts to purchase guns can foreshadow future criminal activity. People who fail background checks are 28 percent more likely to be arrested in the five years following the denial than in the five years before it. Law enforcement wants to know and should know when prohibited individuals are attempting to purchase guns.

4. Expansion of red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders

When a person is in crisis, loved ones are often the first to see signs that they pose a threat to themselves or others. An Extreme Risk law allows them to petition a court for an order to temporarily remove guns from dangerous situations and prohibit the purchase or possession of firearms while the order is in effect.

The bottom line is that **too** many Floridians are killed with guns. I know the devastating impact because my Nephew and his best friend were taken in 2012. The impact of this violence is heartbreaking I ask that you focus on the above priorities to save lives and that you don't wait.

Thank you for your time and attention,

Sincerely,

Vivian Dean
1565 NW 121 Street
Miami Fl 33167

September 14, 2019

Senator Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee:

I understand you have been charged with developing common sense gun legislation for the upcoming Senate session.

I would request you consider at the very minimum state licensing which includes a background check on every single gun sale. I believe we also need a ban on assault weapons, specifically the AR-15 and AK-47 type guns. My son is in the US Military and I know those type of weapons would never be used for hunting so there is seemingly zero need for them in a home. I request that anyone who has ever had a domestic violence charge or other misdemeanor hate crimes from possessing a gun.

If we believe in pro-life, then this is a step in the right direction. Our children need this legislation. Our country needs it.

Thank you,

Angelia M Brown (electronic signature)

Angelia M Brown
15903 Country Farm Place
Tampa, FL 33624

September 13, 2019

Sen. Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee,

It is not often that I contact Florida Senators or Representatives to advocate for new or updated laws that affect me, my family and community. However, working every day on an open campus of a community outreach agency, with hundreds of people seeking assistance each week, the thought of gun violence often crosses my mind. With the shooting of a dear young man – a close friend of our family, killed on Christmas a few years back – the possibilities became far too real. As a mother, and now a grandmother of three little girls who attend local preschools and soon public schools, the thoughts of another shooting, such as that at Marjorie Stoneman Douglas, leaves me scared and saddened by the fact that children can no longer attend school without concern of losing their lives due to gun violence.

Senator Lee, I am asking you to lead the way for your Committee in amending background check laws, especially in closing loopholes in Florida that allow non-licensed "dealers" and gun manufacturing sites to legally sell guns and rifle "kits" without a background check for buyers. The Pew Research Center statistics reflect that 75% of gun owners approve of background checks on all gun sales. In addition, 90% of the general public, including gun owners want universal background checks.

In addition, I urge you to amend Florida's Red Flag Laws to allow family members to report to law enforcement if they suspect or directly learn of a planned/potential shooting by someone within the household. I'm sure you are aware that the current Red Flag Laws in Florida are used 5 times every day. Had Red Flag Laws extended the ability to petition the court to family members and cohabitators (romantic or otherwise) when the 21-year-old young man was killed, the gunman's roommate would have been allowed to act and more lives would've been saved. (This is one gun tragedy among many: the shooter attempted to kill four young people – in addition to our friend, two young ladies escaped, another young man was shot and left for dead but did survive, and then the shooter took his own life.)

Senator Lee, the State of Florida cannot afford to wait any longer to take common sense steps to lower the incidences of gun violence – too many lives are at stake! Thank you for taking the time to seriously consider solutions to gun violence in our State.

Regards,

Nancy Dougherty

Richard G. Hathaway, Esq.

115 Oceanforest Drive North
Atlantic Beach, FL 32233
Email: richardghathaway@gmail.com
Telephone: (904) 613-9972

Sept 12, 2019

Sen. Aaron Bean
The Florida Senate
405 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Bean,

As a resident of Atlantic Beach and one of your constituents, I wish to express my support of reasonable gun control. I expect your support also.

The laws which Florida should promulgate and which you should sponsor and support are:

- Universal, expanded, effective, comprehensive background checks, applicable throughout our State and accessing the records of the other 49 states;
- Outlawing handgun possession for anyone committing a crime- including misdemeanors
- No possession of handguns by anyone under the age of 21
- Effective Red Flag laws;
- Banning sale and/or possession of military assault weapons;
- Banning sale and/or possession of large capacity magazines;
- Grant police discretion on whether or not to issue concealed gun permits..

I am well aware of your past position and your support of the NRA. Should you fail to act to protect Florida's citizens, I will actively support your opposition in the next election—with significant financial backing.

Sincerely,

Richard G. Hathaway, Esq.

4001 S. Westshore Blvd., Unit 605
Tampa, FL 33611

September 11, 2019

Senator Tom Lee, Chair
Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee,

Do something!

I am almost 25 years old and mass shootings are something that aren't out of the ordinary for me. I've been hearing about them for as long as I can remember. I was student at Florida State University when there was a shooting at the library. After I graduated there was a shooting at the yoga studio where my sister received her yoga teacher training and that I was a frequent student at. Please, do something. One of my mother's frequent (and super annoying) quotes was "when you do nothing, nothing happens". Please don't do nothing.

First and foremost, Congress' top priority should be to pass legislation requiring background checks on all gun sales. They are the backbone of any gun violence prevention policy and can reduce rates of homicide, suicide and gun trafficking. It's unconscionable to think that, due to the unlicensed seller's loophole, a person can be released from jail and go directly to a gun show, a private seller, or online and legally purchase a gun, no questions asked. It really defies logic.

Ban assault weapons and high capacity magazines. These have no place on the street as they cause the greatest amount of harm in the smallest amount of time. High-capacity magazines are the method of choice in mass shootings and should be banned.

Expand red flag laws to allow family members and others close to a person to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders. People closest to a person in crisis are often the first to see signs that a potential threat exists. Indeed, we've seen time and again instances where loved ones called authorities prior to a shooting to no avail. How many of these tragedies could have been avoided had they been able to petition for an Extreme Risk Protection Order?

Require people convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence to surrender firearms. In an average month, at least 52 American women are shot and killed by an intimate partner, and many more are injured.

Require safety training prior to purchasing a firearm. Gun buyers should be educated on firearm safety, including gun storage. Every year almost 350 children shoot themselves or someone else unintentionally. Most of these shootings take place inside a home where a gun was not properly secured.

Senator Lee, these are just a few of the many things that can be implemented to begin to end the epidemic of gun violence in America. I urge you, please, to do what your constituents want and start working toward all of our safety by passing common sense gun laws!

Sincerely,
Sarah King

Susan E. Foley, M.D.

1004 Grand Isle Way, Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33418

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 S Monroe St.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100
September 13, 2019

Dear Senator Lee,

The Infrastructure and Security Committee has an important opportunity this September to make Florida a safer place for children. Please start to enact common sense firearm safety legislation (which is supported by the American Academy of Pediatrics and many other medical societies):

1. Require background checks on every firearm sold in Florida. The chain is only as strong as its weakest link, and allowing exceptions to background checks gives those who should not have guns a place to obtain them. Please close the loopholes for background checks. Of course the people who should not have guns know where they can get them.

2. Require timely reporting of criminal and mental health records to NICS. Common sense.

3. Require lost or stolen guns be reported to law enforcement. This is for the benefit of police and in turn for the benefit of all of us.

4. Protect victims of domestic violence by requiring the convicted perpetrators to surrender their firearms. As you know, domestic violence escalates. The most dangerous time for a victim is when she tries to leave. The violence also spills over to the children. Doesn't it make sense to take lethal weapons out of the hands of those convicted?

Senator Lee, I know that I don't need to give you statistics (which are readily available) or long explanations. The above are all common sense protections. Please help protect all the citizens of Florida, especially the children.

Sincerely,



Susan Foley, M.D.

Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Infrastructure and Security Committee:

I am writing to thank you for your work on gun violence and to ask you to support the commonsense gun reform so **desperately** needed in our state. Based on the experiences here in Miami Dade County, I believe the following changes would be the most impactful in preventing gun violence:

1. Background checks on all gun sales

Most Florida voters support requiring background checks on all gun sales, including 89 percent of Republicans and 87 percent of gun owners. We still have not closed the unlicensed gun sale loophole which means that prohibited buyers can take advantage of this loophole and get armed illegally in person and via internet. This loophole guts the public safety impact of **all** our laws. Criminals, underage buyers and people subject to Extreme Risk Orders can simply circumvent the law and purchase a firearm from an unlicensed seller and skip a background check altogether. It is like going to TSA, skipping the line and being allowed through a side door. Crazy!

2. Ban on high capacity magazines

The August 2019 Dayton, Ohio shooter used a rifle equipped with a high-capacity drum magazine capable of holding 100 rounds. Though law enforcement stopped the shooting in about 30 seconds, the shooter was able to fire dozens of shots—and kill 9 people—largely because of the magazine capacity. Over the past decade, **the four deadliest mass shootings in America involved the use of high-capacity magazines. In fact, 58 percent of mass shootings between 2009 and 2017 were committed with firearms equipped with high-capacity magazines**. Limiting magazine capacity would make **ALL** guns less lethal.

3. Require firearms dealers to notify law enforcement when a customer fails a background check

Failed attempts to purchase guns can foreshadow future criminal activity. People who fail background checks are 28 percent more likely to be arrested in the five years following the denial than in the five years before it. Law enforcement wants to know and should know when prohibited individuals are attempting to purchase guns.

4. Expansion of red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders

When a person is in crisis, loved ones are often the first to see signs that they pose a threat to themselves or others. An Extreme Risk law allows them to petition a court for an order to temporarily remove guns from dangerous situations and prohibit the purchase or possession of firearms while the order is in effect.

The bottom line is that too many Floridians are killed with guns. I know the devastating impact because my grandson and his best friend were taken in 2012. The impact of this violence is heartbreaking I ask that you focus on the above priorities to save lives and that you don't wait.

Thank you for your time and attention,

Sincerely,

Claudia Thornton

Claudia Thornton
975 NW 199 Street
Miami Fl 33169

Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Infrastructure and Security Committee:

I am writing to thank you for your work on gun violence and to ask you to support the commonsense gun reform so **desperately** needed in our state. Based on the experiences here in Miami Dade County, I believe the following changes would be the most impactful in preventing gun violence:

1. Background checks on all gun sales

Most Florida voters support requiring background checks on all gun sales, including 89 percent of Republicans and 87 percent of gun owners. We still have not closed the unlicensed gun sale loophole which means that prohibited buyers can take advantage of this loophole and get armed illegally in person and via internet. This loophole guts the public safety impact of **all** our laws. Criminals, underage buyers and people subject to Extreme Risk Orders can simply circumvent the law and purchase a firearm from an unlicensed seller and skip a background check altogether. It is like going to TSA, skipping the line and being allowed through a side door. Crazy!

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3. Require firearms dealers to notify law enforcement when a customer fails a background check

Failed attempts to purchase guns can foreshadow future criminal activity. People who fail background checks are 28 percent more likely to be arrested in the five years following the denial than in the five years before it. Law enforcement wants to know and should know when prohibited individuals are attempting to purchase guns.

4. Expansion of red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders

When a person is in crisis, loved ones are often the first to see signs that they pose a threat to themselves or others. An Extreme Risk law allows them to petition a court for an order to temporarily remove guns from dangerous situations and prohibit the purchase or possession of firearms while the order is in effect.

The bottom line is that **too** many Floridians are killed with guns. I know the devastating impact because my brother and his best friend were taken in 2012 The impact of this violence is heartbreaking I ask that you focus on the above priorities to save lives and that you don't wait.

Thank you for your time and attention,

Sincerely,

David Bradley

David Bradley
975 NW 199 Street
Miami Fl 33169

September 12, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair
Florida Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee
418 Senate Building
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Senator Lee:

My name is Jill Martinez and I'm writing to support your efforts to consider gun violence prevention legislation. As a practicing psychiatrist, I see the impact of gun violence in my work commonly. Whether it be domestic violence, assault and trauma, or suicides, all aspects of my work are impacted by gun violence. I'm incredibly grateful for the passage of Extreme Risk Protection Orders, which I can use to keep people safe when I see a risk of possible gun violence, but I also urge you and your committee to expand this to requiring criminal back group checks on all gun sales.

As you lead the effort to consider legislation this session to prevent gun violence, including mass shootings, I write to express my support for passing a state law to require criminal background checks on all gun sales. Fifteen states have passed laws to require background checks on all gun sales. Background check laws —by point-of-sale check and/or permit— are associated with lower rates of firearm homicide, suicide and firearm trafficking. The Florida Legislature should build upon the important gun violence legislation passed following the Parkland mass shooting and pass a comprehensive background check law.

Sincerely,

Jill Husson Martinez, MD
Board Certified Psychiatrist
Fort Myers, FL

September 11, 2019

Senator Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee:

As you consider possible legislation this upcoming session in September regarding gun safety, as a resident of Florida, I am requesting that you support and promote common sense gun laws that will help make us safer.

At a minimum, I'd like you to talk about the following items:

1. Background Checks on all gun sales. Ninety-three percent of American voters support requiring background checks on all gun sales, including 89 percent of Republicans and 87 percent of gun owners. An investigation found that in 2018 alone, there were nearly 1.2 million gun ads on an online gun marketplace called Armslist.com for gun sales where no background check was legally required. And research shows that prohibited people seek guns in those unlicensed gun sales at a disproportionate rate. Does it make any sense that a person not legally eligible to buy a gun at a gun store, because they cannot pass a background check, should be able to buy a gun online or at a gun show without a background check?

2. Expansion of red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders. When a person is in crisis, loved ones and law enforcement are often the first to see signs that they pose a threat. An Extreme Risk law allows them to petition a court for an extreme risk protection order to temporarily remove guns from dangerous situations and prohibit the purchase or possession of firearms while the order is in effect.

3. Ban on assault weapons and high capacity magazines. The August 2019 Dayton, Ohio shooter used a rifle equipped with a high-capacity drum magazine capable of holding 100 rounds. Though law enforcement stopped the shooting in about 30 seconds, the shooter was able to fire dozens of shots—and kill 9 people—largely because of the magazine capacity. Over the past decade, the four deadliest mass shootings in America involved the use of high-capacity magazines. In fact, 58 percent of mass shootings between 2009 and 2017 were committed with firearms equipped with high-capacity magazines.

Over 100 Americans die from gun violence every day. Unfortunately, we often treat it as if its normal, but it's not. It can't be, we are better than this. No other country in this world puts up with this. We owe it to our loved ones and our communities to implement common sense gun laws like universal background checks and red flag laws. We owe it to them to ban military style assault weapons and high capacity magazines. We owe it to them to hold the gun industry accountable.

This cannot be the new norm, we are better than this. Please support enacting new common sense gun laws in Florida.

Thank you for your consideration and service and I can be reached at cinspaid56@icloud.com if you have any questions or would like to discuss.

Sincerely,

Cindee Spaid

201 Mission Trace Drive

Saint Augustine, Florida 32084

September 8, 2019

Senator Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee:

As you consider possible legislation this upcoming session in September regarding gun safety, as a resident of Florida, a gun owner, and a grandfather, I am requesting that you support and promote common sense gun laws that will help make us safer.

At a minimum, I'd like you to talk about the following items:

1. Background Checks on all gun sales. Ninety-three percent of American voters support requiring background checks on all gun sales, including 89 percent of Republicans and 87 percent of gun owners. An investigation found that in 2018 alone, there were nearly 1.2 million gun ads on an online gun marketplace called Armslist.com for gun sales where no background check was legally required. And research shows that prohibited people seek guns in those unlicensed gun sales at a disproportionate rate. Does it make any sense that a person not legally eligible to buy a gun at a gun store, because they cannot pass a background check, should be able to buy a gun online or at a gun show without a background check?

2. Expansion of red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders. When a person is in crisis, loved ones and law enforcement are often the first to see signs that they pose a threat. An Extreme Risk law allows them to petition a court for an extreme risk protection order to temporarily remove guns from dangerous situations and prohibit the purchase or possession of firearms while the order is in effect.

3. Ban on assault weapons and high capacity magazines. The August 2019 Dayton, Ohio shooter used a rifle equipped with a high-capacity drum magazine capable of holding 100 rounds. Though law enforcement stopped the shooting in about 30 seconds, the shooter was able to fire dozens of shots—and kill 9 people—largely because of the magazine capacity. Over the past decade, the four deadliest mass shootings in America involved the use of high-capacity magazines. In fact, 58 percent of mass shootings between 2009 and 2017 were committed with firearms equipped with high-capacity magazines.

Over 100 Americans die from gun violence every day. Unfortunately, we often treat it as if its normal, but it's not. It can't be, we are better than this. No other country in this world puts up with this. We owe it to our loved ones and our communities to implement common sense gun laws like universal background checks and red flag laws. We owe it to them to ban military style assault weapons and high capacity magazines. We owe it to them to establish a nationwide gun licensing system; it shouldn't be easier to buy and use a gun than to drive and own a car. We owe it to them to hold the gun industry accountable.

This cannot be the new norm, we are better than this. Please support enacting new common sense gun laws in Florida.

Thank you for your service and I can be reached at mspaid1960@icloud.com or (904)806-7060 if you have any questions or would like to discuss.

Sincerely,

Mike Spaid

201 Mission Trace Drive

Saint Augustine, Florida 32084

September 11th, 2019

Dear Tom,

My name is Megan Koch, and I live in Boca Raton. My husband Kelly Koch and I have three children in the public elementary school system here. Our kids are currently involved in gymnastics, safety patrol, and art classes.

I am asking specifically for a handful of items. The first being a repeal of arming teachers. Every teacher I have spoken to about this issue has expressed horror at the idea of being armed, or next door to an armed teacher. More guns inside of our schools cannot possibly be the answer here.

Another item I feel strongly about is comprehensive background checks and red flags laws. We should require firearms dealers to report failed background checks to law enforcement. Convicted domestic abusers should never be allowed to own guns.

We should also require safety training and licensing prior to the purchase of a gun. To me, this is common sense. Why would we require this for the use of motor vehicles but not deadly weapons?

There are many items to discuss, but these are at the top of the list for my family. Please take into consideration that there are millions of families in Florida who send their children to school, drop them off at practice, and live their lives with them in public places every single day. None of us should be afraid of gun violence on a daily basis.

Thank you for your time,

Megan Koch

Sen Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 S. Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

September 11, 2019

Sen. Lee:

As a mother of two young children, the number of school shootings has given me nightmares. I, like most Americans want to ensure the safety of my children in every location in which they find themselves. I am listing policies and legislation that I feel will better protect my family and the families of all Floridians.

I feel that there should be laws requiring more stringent background checks for all gun sales. Of paramount importance should be a ban on assault weapons and high capacity magazines. An expansion of the red flag laws to allow family members to request Extreme Risk Protection Orders would make it easier to identify and remove guns from the possession of individuals at risk of committing a violent crime. In addition, I feel the concealed carry license permits should be reformed to allow the Department of Agriculture more leeway in denying licenses to individuals who pose a threat to public safety. The thought of my children attending a school wherein the staff is armed is horrifying. As a former teacher, I can foresee a multitude of disastrous results from this trend.

Thank you for your attention to my concerns.

Sincerely,

Ansley Parfitt
12842 Quincy Bay Drive
Jacksonville, FL. 32224

Sen Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 S. Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

September 11, 2019

Sen. Lee:

As a grandmother of four young children, the number of school shootings has given me nightmares. I, like most Americans want to ensure the safety of my grandchildren in every location in which they find themselves. I am listing policies and legislation that I feel will better protect my family and the families of all Floridians.

I feel that there should be laws requiring more stringent background checks for all gun sales. Of paramount importance should be a ban on assault weapons and high capacity magazines. An expansion of the red flag laws to allow family members to request Extreme Risk Protection Orders would make it easier to identify and remove guns from the possession of individuals at risk of committing a violent crime. In addition, I feel the concealed carry license permits should be reformed to allow the Department of Agriculture more leeway in denying licenses to individuals who pose a threat to public safety. The thought of my grandchildren attending a school wherein the staff is armed is horrifying. As a former teacher, I can foresee a multitude of disastrous results from this trend.

Thank you for your attention to my concerns.

Sincerely,

Dora Wright
951 Oakwood Rd.
Orange City, Fl. 32763

Walter D. Houle

113 Hirth Rd. Apt 1806

Amelia Island, FL 32034

Hon. Tom Lee

Chair Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee

Dear Mr. Lee,

The mounting gun violence in this country and particularly in Nassau County, Florid has reached the point of crisis. The clear wishes of the vast majority should Floridians have been ignored for too long.

Unfortunately the huge presence of small hand guns is probably impossible to reverse. However we can and must take action to restrict military weapons. These have no function outside of war. Ownership , sale, transport should be banned, outright .

The arming of teachers is so ludicrous its not worth a comment. As is the "Stand Your Ground Law and the carrying , open or otherwise of firearms in public places.

Revision of the private property laws as to ownership of firearms is long over due.

I wish you all the luck in the world in making some changes, however small.

Best regards,

Walter Houle

Keep your head down.

Senator Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee,

I have been a registered Republican in Collier County Florida since 1977. I am a mother and a grandmother. I always believed that if I worked hard, paid my taxes, voted, raised my children to be good people, and did my part to give back to my community that I could trust my elected officials to do the right thing. That naïve belief was shattered in 2016 when, after the Pulse nightclub shooting, Congress could not even pass a "no-fly, no-buy" gun bill. It became apparent to me that the ugly reality is that the gun lobby has more influence on congress than the safety of the American public. I became angry and determined to change this. Since then have dedicated a great deal of my time, energy and money, along with almost 6 million Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America volunteers across the country to work to end this senseless epidemic of gun violence in our country. I worry and my daughter worries when she drops her sweet little boy off at school. I met a man last night who had tears in his eyes as he told me that his wife bought a bullet proof shield to put in their son's backpack as he attends middle school. We do not have to live this way. We will not give up. This problem is solvable.

There are several common sense measures which would save lives. Poll after poll show that the majority of Americans want this:

1. Require a background check on all gun sales. Almost one quarter of gun sales occur with no background check because of a loophole in existing law that does not require a check on sales between private parties. In 2018 alone, there were nearly 1.2 million gun ads on Armslist.com where no background check was legally required. In the 20 states that do require a background check on al gun sales, there is high compliance and gun homicides and gun suicides decreased.
2. Prohibit high capacity magazines. Shootings involving high-capacity magazines result in more fatalities and injuries than those that do not involve them. States that have restricted high capacity magazines have seen a significant decrease in mass shootings.
3. Expand Red Flag Laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders: When a person is in crisis and considering harming themselves or others, family members and law enforcement are often the first people to see the warning signs.

Please, as your committee meets on September 16, consider these solutions. Let's make Florida a leader in sensible gun legislation.

Respectfully,

Susan Cone
Local Group Lead, Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America
Naples, FL 34103

To Whom it may Concern:

My name is Randy Thompson and I live and work in Pensacola Florida as a lawyer. I write to ask for gun control legislation. I am focused mostly on getting assault style weapons and high capacity magazines out of the hands of civilians. Other legislation is needed as well such as closing the loop holes in gun shows and private sales, but please take some action that will help save lives!!

Sincerely

Randle D. Thompson.

September 11, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

Dear Senator Lee,

Thank you for working toward keeping Floridians safe from gun violence. As the committee moves forward, I ask you to please consider the following.

I am a mother of a Marjory Stoneman Douglas student who hid in the back of his classroom in a crowded closet on February 14, 2018. My greatest concerns are access to unsecured firearms and access to military-style assault weapons.

Unsecured firearms fuel gun violence both inside and outside the home. So far in 2019, at least 163 unintentional shootings by children have resulted in 59 deaths and 112 injuries. The victim totals rise every single day. We must create and enforce policy and education measures to assure Florida gun owners properly store their firearms.

We have seen a drastic increase in deaths associated with mass shootings since the retirement of the federal assault weapons ban in 1994. It is a fact that more deaths occur per mass shooting incident when assault weapons are involved. The Dayton Ohio shooter was able to kill or injure 29 people in just 30 seconds. **Assault rifles are able to kill or injure at a rate of one victim per second**. A ban on assault rifle sales in Florida would certainly reduce the number of injuries and deaths in our state.

Thank you for your dedication to the safety of all Floridians.

Sincerely,
Angela Weber
6015 NW 118th Drive
Coral Springs, Florida 33076

September 11th, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee;

I understand that the Infrastructure and Security Committee will be focusing on ways to address gun violence and hate crimes during its September meeting. While the recent wave of mass shootings has served to focus our attention on this topic, in reality, one hundred Americans lose their lives to gun violence in their own neighborhoods daily. Obviously, this is a vitally important topic, and I thank you for spearheading this discussion.

As you move forward with the discussion, particularly as it relates to hate crimes, it is my hope that you will consider revisions to the existing Stand Your Ground Law. Under the current law, the burden of proof falls to the plaintiff and requires that the state disprove the defense which is difficult, if not impossible, for prosecutors to overcome. Additionally, the existing law is flawed and serves to exacerbate hate crimes in that it provides latitude to initiate a confrontation, then respond with deadly force. This can be corrected by placing the burden of proof for a stand your ground defense on the defendant.

Again, my thanks for spearheading the discussion and for your dedication to preserving the health, safety and welfare of us all.

Mario Guevara

10159 NW 43rd Terrace

Doral FL 33178

September 11th, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee;

I understand that the Infrastructure and Security Committee will be focusing on ways to address gun violence and hate crimes during its September meeting. While the recent wave of mass shootings has served to focus our attention on this topic, in reality, one hundred Americans lose their lives to gun violence in their own neighborhoods daily. Obviously, this is a vitally important topic, and I thank you for spearheading this discussion.

As you move forward with the discussion, particularly as it relates to hate crimes, it is my hope that you will consider revisions to the existing Stand Your Ground Law. Under the current law, the burden of proof falls to the plaintiff and requires that the state disprove the defense which is difficult, if not impossible, for prosecutors to overcome. Additionally, the existing law is flawed and serves to exacerbate hate crimes in that it provides latitude to initiate a confrontation, then respond with deadly force. This can be corrected by placing the burden of proof for a stand your ground defense on the defendant.

Again, my thanks for spearheading the discussion and for your dedication to preserving the health, safety and welfare of us all.

Tayrel Castro

10159 NW 43rd Terrace

Doral FL 33178

September 11th, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
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Sally Rubio

10577 NW 51st Street

Doral FL 33178

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Marcelo Zapata

10577 NW 51st Street

Doral FL 33178

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Elieussa Kadur

5212 nw 103th Ave.

Doral FL 33178

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Gustavo Guzman

9805 NW 52nd St. apt. 404

Doral FL 33178

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Maria Carolina Sucre

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Guilherme R Carreiro

9956 NW 43rd Terrace

Doral FL 33178

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Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
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Belkis M. Carreiro

9956 NW 43rd Terrace

Doral FL 33178

Infrastructure and Security Committee

The Florida Senate 418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street Tallahassee, FL
32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee:

I am resident of Miami Florida since 1962. I am a mother, a grandmother a former Miami- Dade Public Schools Volunteer, a Former PTA President and EESAC board member of more schools than I can list. In the last 4 years my family and I have experienced the following: **1.** My next door neighbor Pepe was shot and killed by a mentally ill neighbor because Pepe's dog stepped on this man'slawn.Hewasliving in our neighborhood becausehehadtoomany restraining orders for aggressivebehaviorinhis old neighborhood, so his son moved him into ours and no on took his gun away.**2.** Iwasvisitingmy son in Orlando the night ofthePulsemassacre. Hishomewaslessthana mile away, we heard the horrors and the sirens and saw the lights and helicopters. **3.** My pregnantdaughterwasat Merrick Park leaving a maternityshopwhen she sawagroupofhalfnaked people running towards herscreamingshooter,8 months pregnantsheran in terror to her car. **4.** On February 14, 2018 my husband was stuck in traffic on an expressway when policemen in riot gear and riffles jumped through and over traffic, hiscartogettoParkland high school. **5.** My husbandwalkedintoour hometofindourtileman Carlos with a red dot on his chest and an armed intruderpointingagunat him. These experiences and the gun related deaths of approximately 35,000 Americans annually are why I am writing you.

I am writing to you in the hopesofletting you know what issues I would like the Florida legislature to focus on next year in terms of gun violence prevention. My priorities are as follows:

1. Background checks on all gunsales

   93 percent of American voters support requiring background checks on all gun sales, including 89 percent of Republicans and 87 percent of gun owners. Florida has not closed the unlicensed sale loophole which means that felons, domestic abusers and other prohibited people cans skip a background check and get armed simply by seeking an unlicensed seller online or even at a gun show. It is like if you went to TSA to board a plane and just asked to skip the line and you were ALLOWED! It just makes no sense. An investigation found that in 2018 alone, therewerenearly1.2 milliongunadsonan online

gun marketplace called Armslist.com for gun sales. No background check was legally required. Research shows that prohibited people seek guns in those unlicensed gun sales at a disproportionate rate.

1. Expansion of red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders

When a person is in crisis, loved ones are usually the first to see signs that they pose a threat.

2. Require firearms dealers to notify law enforcement when a customer fails a background check

Failed attempts to purchase guns can foreshadow future criminal activity.
People who fail background checks are 28 percent more likely to be arrested in the five years following the denial than in the five years before it. Law enforcement should know and WANTS to know when prohibited individuals are attempting to purchase guns.

3. Reform the concealed carry license process to give the Department of Agriculture greater discretion to deny licenses to those individuals who present a public safety threat

The legislature practically apologizes to gun owners for requiring a license to concealed carry: "The Legislature does not delegate to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services the authority to regulate or restrict the issuing of licenses provided for in this section, beyond those provisions contained in this section. Subjective or arbitrary actions or rules which encumber the issuing process by placing burdens on the applicant beyond those sworn statements and specified documents detailed in this section or which create restrictions beyond those specified in this section are in conflict with the intent of this section and are prohibited. This section shall be liberally construed to carry out the constitutional right to bear arms for self-defense. This section is supplemental and additional to existing rights to bear arms, and nothing in this section shall impair or diminish such rights." Fla.Stat.790.06(15).

4. Require gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement

From 2007 to 2017, at

least 82,000 guns were reported stolen and never found in Florida. Requiring safe storage in vehicles would go a long way to reducing these numbers. On behalf of my family, I urge youasaleaderand stewardofFlorida,totake action on this issue of gun reform. We cannot risk another young life because of our inaction. thank you for taking the time to read thisletter.

Sincerely,

Charmaine Sforza- Flick
9715 SW 104Court
Miami, Florida 33176
305 216-9436

Nicole Wass

3137 Watermark Drive

Wesley Chapel, FL 33544

September 9th, 2019

Sen. Tom Lee

Chair, Infrastructure and Security The Florida Senate

418 Senate Building

404 South Monroe Street Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee,

My name is Nicole Wass and I am a constituent living in your district in Wesley Chapel, Florida. As the Chair of the Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee, I urge you to represent my voice as I demand better gun violence legislation. I am a wife and mother to two teenagers and work as a speech-language pathologist in a large Tampa hospital. I am increasingly concerned about gun violence and recently joined Moms Demand Action in Pasco County.

When my children are at school, I should not have to worry about them being shot. When I walk into my place of employment, I should not have to worry about being shot. I should not have to worry about my colleagues and patients being shot. When I go to my local movie theater, I should not have to worry about being shot yet each time I go there, I am reminded that a father named Chad Oulson was shot and killed in 2014 over an argument over texting. A police officers gun accidentally discharged in May of 2019 at one of our local middle schools (Weightman) and later that month, an unsecured gun in a purse discharged in Publix off Collier Blvd in Land O' Lakes striking the woman's husband.

Gun violence is an epidemic and I have not even touched on suicides. The time is now for you and your colleagues to make real change as people are becoming more informed and engaged. Please consider common sense legislation including the following:

-Background checks on all gun sales and close loopholes like gun shows and private sales.

-Ban on assault weapons and high capacity magazines. Nobody besides our police and military should have access to these weapons.

-Expansion of red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders.

-Reinstate the language in §30.15 that prohibited classroom teachers from serving as school guardians. Teachers should not by carrying weapons period. More guns in schools simply increase the risk of someone being shot.

-Require those convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence to surrender firearms.

-Require firearms dealers to notify law enforcement when a customer fails a background check.

-Prohibit concealed carry licensees from carrying firearms in additional sensitive places, such as daycares, public playgrounds, and at public demonstrations.

-Require safe storage of guns in vehicles and Require gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement.

-Require safety training prior to purchasing a firearm.

-Require the timely reporting of criminal and mental health records to NICS.

-Repeal preemption.

-Return the burden of proof for stand your ground defense to the defendant.

-Prohibit the printing of 3D guns.

I appreciate your attention to my letter and urge you and your colleagues to make effective change to protect all of us.

Sincerely,

Nicole Wass

nrwass@gmail.com

September 12, 2019

Dear Senator Lee,

I am writing to urge you to support comprehensive background checks, a ban on assault weapons and high capacity magazines, and repeal the legislation authorizing the arming teachers.

As a retired teacher in Tallahassee, I cannot imagine the fear that young families are having to bear when sending their young children to schools where teachers may be carrying guns. In all of our lives, we now suffer fear of mass shootings not only in schools, but in places of worship, in shopping centers, in movies, and, increasingly, anywhere people gather.

Please do all you can to find a sensible solution to these problems that does not involve bowing to the pressures of the NRA.

As a native Floridian, I am asking you to make Florida our a leader in gun sense legislation.

Thank you,

Jan Keshen
Tallahassee, Florida

September 15, 2019

Senator Travis Huston
4875 Palm Coast Parkway, NW

Palm Coast, FL 32137

Dear Senator Huston:

I am writing as a resident of the State of Florida and member of Moms Demand Action to express my appreciation for your support of legislation that will address hate crimes and gun violence.

I ask that you work with other Florida Senators to support:

1) Background checks on all gun sales,
2) Ban on assault weapons and high capacity magazines,
3) Expand red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders,
4) Require firearms dealers to notify law enforcement when a customer fails a background check, and
5) Require safety training prior to purchasing a firearm.

Your leadership in promptly acting on legislation with the above provisions will save lives! Thank you in advance.

Respectfully,

Christine Heshmati
(954) 684-5030

September 15, 2019

Senator Janet Cruz
210A S. MacDill Avenue
Tampa, FL 33609

Dear Senator Cruz:

I am writing as a resident of the State of Florida and member of Moms Demand Action to express my appreciation for your support of legislation that will address hate crimes and gun violence.

I ask that you work with other Florida Senators to support:

1) Background checks on all gun sales,
2) Ban on assault weapons and high capacity magazines,
3) Expand red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders,
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Christine Heshmati
(954) 684-5030

September 15, 2019

Senator Linda Stewart
1726 South Bumby Avenue
Orlando, FL 32806

Dear Senator Stewart:

I am writing as a resident of the State of Florida and member of Moms Demand Action to express my appreciation for your support of legislation that will address hate crimes and gun violence.

I ask that you work with other Florida Senators to support:

1) Background checks on all gun sales,
2) Ban on assault weapons and high capacity magazines,
3) Expand red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders,
4) Require firearms dealers to notify law enforcement when a customer fails a background check, and
5) Require safety training prior to purchasing a firearm.

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Respectfully,

Christine Heshmati
(954) 684-5030

September 15, 2019

Senator Annette Taddeo
10689 N. Kendall Drive
Suite 212
Miami, FL 33176

Dear Senator Taddeo:

I am writing as a resident of the State of Florida and member of Moms Demand Action to express my appreciation for your support of legislation that will address hate crimes and gun violence.

I ask that you work with other Florida Senators to support:

1) Background checks on all gun sales,
2) Ban on assault weapons and high capacity magazines,
3) Expand red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders,
4) Firearms dealers' requirement to notify law enforcement when a customer fails a background check, and
5) Safety training requirement for buyers prior to purchasing a firearm.

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Respectfully,

C

Christine Heshmati
(954) 684-5030

Sen. Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Sen. Lee,

I am writing in support of certain gun control measures and sensible safeguards so that we do not need to experience another Parkland School (or Dayton, or San Jose, etc.) ever again. I implore you to consider these points carefully. No one wants to take rights away from law abiding citizens. But just as no one is entitled to a drivers license without certain safeguards, no one should be able to indiscriminately purchase a 100-round magazine equipped rifle and endanger all of us. Thank you for your time and consideration. Koi

93 percent of American voters support requiring background checks on all gun sales, including 89 percent of Republicans and 87 percent of gun owners. An investigation found that in 2018 alone, there were nearly 1.2 million gun ads on an online gun marketplace called Armslist.com for gun sales where no background check was legally required. And research shows that prohibited people seek guns in those unlicensed gun sales at a disproportionate rate.

Ban on assault weapons and high capacity magazines1
The August 2019 Dayton, Ohio shooter used a rifle equipped with a high-capacity drum magazine capable of holding 100 rounds. Though law enforcement stopped the shooting in about 30 seconds, the shooter was able to fire dozens of shots—and kill 9 people—largely because of the magazine capacity. Over the past decade, the four deadliest mass shootings in America involved the use of high-capacity magazines. In fact, 58 percent of mass shootings between 2009 and 2017 were committed with firearms equipped with high-capacity magazines.5
Expansion of red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders2
When a person is in crisis, loved ones and law enforcement are often the first to see signs that they pose a threat. An Extreme Risk law allows them to petition a court for an extreme risk protection order to temporarily remove guns from dangerous situations and prohibit the purchase or possession of firearms while the order is in effect.

Reinstate the language in §30.15 that prohibited classroom teachers from serving as school guardians3

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[1] https://everytown.org/learn/h-r-1186-prohibiting-high-capacity-magazines-would-reduce-the-devastation-of-gun-violence/
[2] https://everytownresearch.org/extreme-risk-laws/
[3] https://everytownresearch.org/arming-teachers-introduces-new-risks-into-schools/

A March 2018 survey of almost 500 U.S. teachers found that 73 percent oppose proposals to arm school staff. Another survey found that 63 percent of parents of elementary, middle, and high school students oppose arming teachers.

Reform the concealed carry license process to give the Department of Agriculture greater discretion to deny licenses to those individuals who present a public safety threat4

The legislature practically apologizes to gun owners for requiring a license to concealed carry: "The Legislature does not delegate to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services the authority to regulate or restrict the issuing of licenses provided for in this section, beyond those provisions contained in this section. Subjective or arbitrary actions or rules which encumber the issuing process by placing burdens on the applicant beyond those sworn statements and specified documents detailed in this section or which create restrictions beyond those specified in this section are in conflict with the intent of this section and are prohibited. This section shall be liberally construed to carry out the constitutional right to bear arms for self-defense. This section is supplemental and additional to existing rights to bear arms, and nothing in this section shall impair or diminish such rights." Fla. Stat. 790.06(15).

Require those convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence to surrender firearms5

In an average month, at least 52 American women are shot and killed by an intimate partner, and many more are injured.

Require firearms dealers to notify law enforcement when a customer fails a background check6

Failed attempts to purchase guns can foreshadow future criminal activity. People who fail background checks are 28 percent more likely to be arrested in the five years following the denial than in the five years before it. Law enforcement should know when prohibited individuals are attempting to purchase guns.

Prohibit concealed carry licensees from carrying firearms in additional sensitive places, such as daycares, public playgrounds, and at public demonstrations7

Florida's list of "sensitive" places is fairly small, and despite the NRA talking point, data from 2009-2016 shows that only 10 percent of the 156 mass shootings during that period happened in a "gun free zone."

Require safe storage of guns in vehicles and Require gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement8

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[4] https://www.freshfromflorida.com/Consumer-Resources/Concealed-Weapon-License/Applying-for-a-Concealed-Weapon-License/Eligibility-Requirements

[5] https://everytownresearch.org/reports/guns-violence-women-americas-uniquely-lethal-domestic-violence-problem/

[6] https://www.thetrace.org/2018/03/florida-lie-and-try-loophole-background-check-denials/

[7] https://www.freshfromflorida.com/Consumer-Resources/Concealed-Weapon-License/Possession-Restrictions

[8] https://projects.tampabay.com/projects/2017/special-report/unlocked-loaded/stolen-guns/

From 2007 to 2017, at least 82,000 guns were reported stolen and never found in Florida.

Require safety training prior to purchasing a firearm9

Gun buyers should be educated on firearm safety, including safe storage. Every year almost 350 children shoot themselves or someone else unintentionally. Most of these shootings take place inside a home where a gun was not properly secured.

Require the timely reporting of criminal and mental health records to NICS10

Hundreds of thousands of prohibiting mental health records are missing from the NICS background check system, potentially enabling prohibited people to pass a background check.

Repeal preemption11

Efforts by municipalities to regulate where guns can be carried and fired have been struck down on the basis of Florida's preemption statute.

Return the burden of proof for stand your ground defense to the defendant12

Florida's Stand Your Ground defense, which requires the state to disprove the defense before trial, is very difficult for prosecutors to overcome.

Prohibit the printing of 3D guns13

3d Printed guns provide another way for individuals prohibited by law from purchasing a gun to obtain one without a background check.

Sincerely,

Cathy Kleinknecht

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[9] https://everytownresearch.org/secure-storage/
[10] https://everytownresearch.org/reports/fatal-gaps-mental-health-records/
[11] https://everytownresearch.org/fact-sheet-preemption-laws/
[12] https://slate.com/news-and-politics/2019/01/florida-stand-your-ground-law-just-got-way-worse.html
[13] https://www.npr.org/2019/02/14/694641578/texas-man-with-3d-printed-gun-and-hit-list-of-lawmakers-sentenced-to-8-years

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Require firearms dealers to notify law enforcement when a customer fails a background check6

Failed attempts to purchase guns can foreshadow future criminal activity. People who fail background checks are 28 percent more likely to be arrested in the five years following the denial than in the five years before it. Law enforcement should know when prohibited individuals are attempting to purchase guns.

Prohibit concealed carry licensees from carrying firearms in additional sensitive places, such as daycares, public playgrounds, and at public demonstrations7

Florida's list of "sensitive" places is fairly small, and despite the NRA talking point, data from 2009-2016 shows that only 10 percent of the 156 mass shootings during that period happened in a "gun free zone."

Require safe storage of guns in vehicles and Require gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement8

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[4] https://www.freshfromflorida.com/Consumer-Resources/Concealed-Weapon-License/Applying-for-a-Concealed-Weapon-License/Eligibility-Requirements

[5] https://everytownresearch.org/reports/guns-violence-women-americas-uniquely-lethal-domestic-violence-problem/

[6] https://www.thetrace.org/2018/03/florida-lie-and-try-loophole-background-check-denials/

[7] https://www.freshfromflorida.com/Consumer-Resources/Concealed-Weapon-License/Possession-Restrictions

[8] https://projects.tampabay.com/projects/2017/special-report/unlocked-loaded/stolen-guns/

From 2007 to 2017, at least 82,000 guns were reported stolen and never found in Florida.

Require safety training prior to purchasing a firearm9

Gun buyers should be educated on firearm safety, including safe storage. Every year almost 350 children shoot themselves or someone else unintentionally. Most of these shootings take place inside a home where a gun was not properly secured.

Require the timely reporting of criminal and mental health records to NICS10

Hundreds of thousands of prohibiting mental health records are missing from the NICS background check system, potentially enabling prohibited people to pass a background check.

Repeal preemption11

Efforts by municipalities to regulate where guns can be carried and fired have been struck down on the basis of Florida's preemption statute.

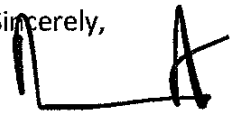
Return the burden of proof for stand your ground defense to the defendant12

Florida's Stand Your Ground defense, which requires the state to disprove the defense before trial, is very difficult for prosecutors to overcome.

Prohibit the printing of 3D guns13

3d Printed guns provide another way for individuals prohibited by law from purchasing a gun to obtain one without a background check.

Sincerely,



Robert Kleinknecht

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[9] https://everytownresearch.org/secure-storage/

[10] https://everytownresearch.org/reports/fatal-gaps-mental-health-records/

[11] https://everytownresearch.org/fact-sheet-preemption-laws/

[12] https://slate.com/news-and-politics/2019/01/florida-stand-your-ground-law-just-got-way-worse.html

[13] https://www.npr.org/2019/02/14/694641578/texas-man-with-3d-printed-gun-and-hit-list-of-lawmakers-sentenced-to-8-years

September 11th, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee;

I understand that the Infrastructure and Security Committee will be focusing on ways to address gun violence and hate crimes during its September meeting. While the recent wave of mass shootings has served to focus our attention on this topic, in reality, one hundred Americans lose their lives to gun violence in their own neighborhoods daily. Obviously, this is a vitally important topic, and I thank you for spearheading this discussion.

As you move forward with the discussion, particularly as it relates to hate crimes, it is my hope that you will consider revisions to the existing Stand Your Ground Law. Under the current law, the burden of proof falls to the plaintiff and requires that the state disprove the defense which is difficult, if not impossible, for prosecutors to overcome. Additionally, the existing law is flawed and serves to exacerbate hate crimes in that it provides latitude to initiate a confrontation, then respond with deadly force. This can be corrected by placing the burden of proof for a stand your ground defense on the defendant.

Again, my thanks for spearheading the discussion and for your dedication to preserving the health, safety and welfare of us all.

David Arce

4480 NW 102 Pl.

Doral FL 33178

September 11th, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

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Again, my thanks for spearheading the discussion and for your dedication to preserving the health, safety and welfare of us all.

Daniel Arce

4480 NW 102 Pl. Doral FL 33178

September 11th, 2019

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Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

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Again, my thanks for spearheading the discussion and for your dedication to preserving the health, safety and welfare of us all.

Violeta Penaranda

4480 NW 102 Pl.

Doral FL 33178

September 11th, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

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Again, my thanks for spearheading the discussion and for your dedication to preserving the health, safety and welfare of us all.

Rosa Martinez

5558 NW 102 PL

Doral FL 33178

September 11th, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee;

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Again, my thanks for spearheading the discussion and for your dedication to preserving the health, safety and welfare of us all.

Bertha Soriano

5558 NW 102 PL

Doral FL 33178

September 14, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee,

As the Infrastructure and Security Committee focuses on ways to address gun violence and hate crimes during its September meeting(s), I'm asking you to consider these priorities:

1.) Require background checks on every firearm purchase in the State of Florida – Over 90% of Americans support requiring background checks on all gun sales. An investigation found that in 2018 alone, there were nearly 1.2 million firearm ads on an online gun marketplace called Armslist.com for gun sales where no background check was legally required. And research shows that prohibited people seek guns in those unlicensed gun sales at a disproportionate rate.

2.) Require the timely reporting of criminal and mental health records to NICS - Hundreds of thousands of prohibiting criminal and mental health records are missing from the NICS background check system, potentially enabling prohibited people to pass a background check. This is a critical fail that is required to be fixed in order to make background check legislation effective. Legislation to make this reporting mandatory will make us safer.

3.) Require gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement - From 2007 to 2017, at least 82,000 guns were reported stolen and never found in Florida. Not knowing a gun is stolen hinders criminal investigations and law enforcement's ability to track gun-trafficking networks. Stolen gun reports also serve as a deterrent to interstate gun-trafficking. This is a simple measure of accountability that assists law enforcement do its job.

These three (3) proposals would have a positive effect in making Florida safer and would not diminish Florida residents' rights under the 2nd Amendment. It's a win-win for all of us. Please give them strong consideration.

Thank you for helping to keep us safe.

Sincerely,

John Harris

2401 Willow Springs Drive
Boca Raton, FL 33496
(561) 870-5422

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair
Florida Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee
418 Senate Building
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Senator Lee:

First I'd like to thank you for leading the effort to bring about meaningful discussion on ways to keep Florida safe from gun violence. I am a resident of Jupiter, Florida, and am worried about the scurge of gun violence that affects our state daily. I urge you to focus on the following:

Comprehensive background checks on all guns sales, including private and internet sales. This is something that over 90% of Americans want and which will help keep guns out of the hands of people who are criminals or mentally unstable.

A ban on assault weapons and high capacity magazines. No one needs an assault weapon of war. These were meant to do such bodily harm that the person is rendered incapable of surviving and should not be available to the public. High capacity magazines make it possible to kill multiple people within seconds. As seen in Dayton, Ohio, even when the police are there within 30 seconds, the high capacity magazine that the shooter used made it possible to kill 9 people and wound many more during that time.

Expansion of red flag laws so that family members can appeal for Extreme Risk Protection orders if someone senses a loved one is in crisis or acting dangerously. Also, removing guns and prohibiting the purchase of guns to anyone who is convicted of a misdeamor of domestic violence. This will help protect the 52 women a month who are gunned down by their spouse or significant other.

There are many more ways to protect citizens with common sense gun laws, and we hope that a very meaningul and productive discussion will bring about the results that the majority of the constituents want to promote violence prevention.

Sincerely,

Bernie Friel
Jupiter, Florida

Senator Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee,

I am writing today to respectfully ask that your committee address the appalling amount of gun violence in Florida.

I have lived in Florida since 1945 (except for a few years in the 60's). During that time, I have witnessed our state drifting ever closer to anarchy. I feel like I'm living in the old wild west, where the only thing missing is the gunfight at high noon! The reason? Every day more and more guns are owned by more and more people. It's pretty scary out there, and the people who tout the second amendment as their excuse to "exercise their freedom" are neglecting to consider MY freedom to feel safe from fear.

This does not mean that I want to see guns eliminated. My husband and I own rifles. Two of my very good friends have handguns, keep them handy, and are trained to use them. I have no reason to think they would not use their firearms responsibly. But please note that my friends do not carry assault weapons! Assault weapons do have a place on the battlefield against our enemies, but certainly not in the hands of the public. I can't fathom why Mr. John Q. Public would even want one, considering they can't be used for hunting. Imagine what an assault weapon would do to the tissues of a deer or a hog or a bird. Would it still be edible? And why the need to fire off multiple rounds so quickly?

Enough with the silly half measures! I will take them, better than nothing, but my goal is to see assault weapons banned from Mr. Public, and as soon as possible. We are not talking about muskets here, which is all American's founders knew about. Yes, absolutely the public may someday need to be protected from the government, but I think there are plenty of guns around already to accomplish that goal. In the meantime, please consider the protection of people like myself from the fear of these killing machines. The idea of escalating the problem of guns with more guns is ludicrous, a fallacy promulgated by the gun industry.

Thank you for your time,

Carolyn W. DiSalvo

Carolyn DiSalvo
1508 Oldfield Drive
Tallahassee, FL 32308

Sen. Tom Lee

Chair, Infrastructure and Security

The Florida Senate

418 Senate Building

404 South Monroe Street

Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee,

First, I would like to thank you and all members of this Committee for addressing this devastating epidemic that affects many Floridian and American lives everyday. It's reach its seen and replicated in many more ways and places than the most publicized mass shootings are, and require immediate action from all of us as a society, but especially from those who represent us and have the ability to create effective means to alleviate its consequences and prevent its causes.

I would like to share with this Committee my personal experience as someone that has always been a proud American living most of my life abroad. You see, I was born in this country while both my Venezuelan parents attended college with Fulbright Scholarships in Washington DC, and shortly after they finished their studies returned to Venezuela where I was raised. I've also been fortunate to live in more than 7 countries, many of which also granted the right to bear arms.

I can confidently say I've experienced gun violence in different instances: I've been robbed at gunpoint, my family was kidnapped by five armed men in our home for over four hours, and I also lived in countries under the constant threat of war and a society riddled by impunity, but have never felt so vulnerable and afraid for my life, and most importantly, my now 8 year-old son's as after events like Sandy Hook and Parkland.

Events like those opened my eyes and lead me to volunteer for the last five years in the gun violence prevention movement, because there is no other choice for a mother but to act and protect those she loves the most.

Since 2015 I've many more mothers whose children have died from random events involving guns (random shootings, mass shootings, accidental shootings) than I ever thought existed, I've had conversations with survivors of shootings, not only in the streets, but by those shot by family members or partners/spouses. I've met families devastated by the unfortunate misplaced gun in the hands of an inexperienced child and the aftermath of easy access to a gun by someone going through depression or tough times. But most importantly, I've been able to experience the devastation it is causing to us as a society, the fear to walk around certain areas, the constant devastation in inner city communities such as Goulds and Miami Gardens that get to bury one resident every other day, young people sitting at strategic point in their class because they might be able to avoid the reach of a shooter, mothers avoiding play dates because someone might have a gun and terrified toddlers when they hear any alarm.

These are many of my reasons to urge to, to ask you to consider taking on the experience after Parkland and pass legislation requiring **background checks in all gun sales.** This, if anything,

is a non-controversial place to build upon, since 93 percent of American voters support requiring background checks on all gun sales, including 89 percent of Republicans and 87 percent of gun owners.

Many responsible gun owners I've met ignore that most criminals and dangerous people obtain their guns **without background checks through Internet.** All while an investigation found that in 2018 alone, there were nearly 1.2 million gun ads on an online gun marketplace called Armslist.com for gun sales where no background check was legally required. And research shows that prohibited people seek guns in those unlicensed gun sales at a disproportionate rate.

Let's work together and make Florida a safer place!

Gabriela P. Loewenstein

Miami, Florida

680 8th Ave S.
Naples, FL 34102

September 9, 2019

Senator Tom Lee, Chair
Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee,

Today, more than ever, it is imperative that the state of Florida be a leader in the fight to end gun violence. The majority of Americans believe in common sense gun laws and it's time our Florida leaders recognize this and implement them.

First and foremost, Congress' top priority should be to pass legislation requiring background checks on all gun sales. They are the backbone of any gun violence prevention policy and can reduce rates of homicide, suicide and gun trafficking. It's unconscionable to think that, due to the unlicensed seller's loophole, a person can be released from jail and go directly to a gun show, a private seller, or online and legally purchase a gun, no questions asked. It really defies logic.

Ban assault weapons and high capacity magazines. These have no place on the street as they cause the greatest amount of harm in the smallest amount of time. High-capacity magazines are the method of choice in mass shootings and should be banned.

Expand red flag laws to allow family members and others close to a person to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders. People closest to a person in crisis are often the first to see signs that a potential threat exists. Indeed, we've seen time and again instances where loved ones called authorities prior to a shooting to no avail. How many of these tragedies could have been avoided had they been able to petition for an Extreme Risk Protection Order?

Require people convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence to surrender firearms. In an average month, at least 52 American women are shot and killed by an intimate partner, and many more are injured.

Require safety training prior to purchasing a firearm. Gun buyers should be educated on firearm safety, including gun storage. Every year almost 350 children shoot themselves or someone else unintentionally. Most of these shootings take place inside a home where a gun was not properly secured.

Senator Lee, these are just a few of the many things that can be implemented to begin to end the epidemic of gun violence in America. I urge you, please, to do what your constituents want and start working toward all of our safety by passing common sense gun laws!

Sincerely,
Robynne King

September 13, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee,

I am a mom of three children living in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida. I have a 4th grader, 6th grader and a high school freshman. As the Infrastructure and Security Committee focuses on ways to address gun violence and hate crimes during its September meeting(s), my family and I are asking you to consider these priorities:

1.) **Require a background checks on every firearm purchase in the State of Florida** – Over 90% of Americans support requiring background checks on all gun sales. An investigation found that in 2018 alone, there were nearly 1.2 million firearm ads on an online gun marketplace called Armslist.com for gun sales where no background check was legally required. And research shows that prohibited people seek guns in those unlicensed gun sales at a disproportionate rate.

2.) **Require the timely reporting of criminal and mental health records to NICS** - Hundreds of thousands of prohibiting criminal and mental health records are missing from the NICS background check system, potentially enabling prohibited people to pass a background check. This is a critical fail that is required to be fixed in order to make background check legislation effective. Legislation to make this reporting mandatory will make us safer.

3.) **Require gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement** - From 2007 to 2017, at least 82,000 guns were reported stolen and never found in Florida. Not knowing a gun is stolen hinders criminal investigations and law enforcement's ability to track gun-trafficking networks. Stolen gun reports also serve as a deterrent to inter-state gun-trafficking. This is a simple measure of accountability that assists law enforcement do its job.

These three (3) proposals would have a positive effect in making Florida safer and would not diminish Florida residents' rights under the 2nd Amendment. It's a win-win for all of us. Please give them strong consideration.

Please do the right thing! Thank you for helping to keep us safe.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Ruyack

Jennifer Ruyack

161 Sedona Way, Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33418

September 14, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair
Florida Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee
418 Senate Building
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Senator Lee:

First I'd like to thank you for leading the effort to bring about meaningful discussion on ways to keep Florida safe from gun violence. As a grandmother and resident of Jupiter, Florida, I am worried about the scurge of gun violence that affects our state daily. I urge you to focus on the following:

Comprehensive background checks on all guns sales, including private and internet sales. This is something that over 90% of Americans want and which will help keep guns out of the hands of people who are criminals or mentally unstable.

A ban on assault weapons and high capacity magazines. No one needs an assault weapon of war. These were meant to do such bodily harm that the person is rendered incapable of surviving and should not be available to the public. High capacity magazines make it possible to kill multiple people within seconds. As seen in Dayton, Ohio, even when the police are there within 30 seconds, the high capacity magazine that the shooter used made it possible to kill 9 people and wound many more during that time.

Expansion of red flag laws so that family members can appeal for Extreme Risk Protection orders if someone senses a loved one is in crisis or acting dangerously. Also, removing guns and prohibiting the purchase of guns to anyone who is convicted of a misdeamor of domestic violence. This will help protect the 52 women a month who are gunned down by their spouse or significant other.

There are many more ways to protect citizens with common sense gun laws, and we hope that a very meaningul and productive discussion will bring about the results that the majority of the constituents want to promote violence prevention.

Sincerely,

Lois Friel
Jupiter, Florida

Senator Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Senator Lee,

On February 14 of last year, my niece Cara was murdered in the mass shooting at Marjorie Stoneman Douglas High School. The morning after the massacre, I had to sit my young children down and explain to them that they would never see their cousin again, that in an instant, in what should be the safest place for a child to be, her light was snuffed out, and that their lives would be forever changed. My 8-year-old looked me in the eyes and pleaded with me to promise her that nothing like that could ever happen at her school. So I did what we as parents sometimes must do- I reassured her, I comforted her, and I lied to her. I told her that what happened at Cara's school was exceedingly rare and that something like that would probably never happen again. Since the shooting at Parkland, there have been 566 more mass shootings in our country, including two in a single weekend that resulted in 31 deaths in El Paso and Dayton. By now, my children have figured out the truth for themselves- that the shooting at Cara's school was far from the last one that this country would witness.

I am pleased and relieved about the first wave of new gun laws passed in Florida. The age restrictions on purchases, expansion of mental health services, and additional funds for school security are all measures that could have stopped Nikolas Cruz and could help prevent another such tragedy. But I implore you not to stop there. Please ban assault rifles and high capacity magazines, and tighten the laws regarding background checks, fixing NICS and eliminating the "gun show loop hole."

Cara's future was bright. She thought about being a teacher, spending her adulthood working with children and helping others. All of us touched by her life owe it to Cara to carry her precious beauty in to the world, to serve as her voice. She would not want her younger cousins to live in fear. I promised my kids that I would do everything I can to be sure something like this can't happen at their school, and even though I'm only one voice, maybe with your help I can be a voice that can make a difference.

Sincerely,

Lindsay E. Fontana

Lindsay Fontana
16632 Caravaggio Loop
Montverde, FL 34756
lindsay@tyfystudios.com

Senator Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Senator Lee:

As a resident of Florida and a leader in Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America, I am well aware that we have a gun violence problem, not only in Florida, but in this country.

With the 2020 legislative session coming up, we can and must pass a law requiring background checks on all gun sales. 93% of American voters support requiring background checks on all gun sales, including 89% of Republicans and 87% of gun owners.

In the wake of the shooting at Parkland, former Governor Rick Scott signed a Red Flag bill that included the ability for law enforcement to petition a court to temporarily remove firearms from someone showing a risk to themselves or others. Expanding this law to include family members, who are the most likely to see the first signs of threat, would save lives.

As a parent of two children who have attended Florida public schools, and a volunteer who has mentored in classrooms for over 14 years, I implore you as a leader to repeal the portion of the Marjorie Stoneman Douglas act that allows teachers to be armed. Time and time again, we've seen reports about guns being left in the restroom, unsecured in the classroom, etc. where children have found them. We are placing a great burden on teachers already. If more guns in more places made us safer, we would be the safest country in the world. We can and must do better for our citizens.

It is past time to listen to the majority. This committee has the power to help save lives. Please act now.

Sincerely,

Lee Ann Kilby
32303

Senator Tom Lee, Chairperson
Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

September 10, 2019

Re: Gun Violence in Florida

Dear Senator Lee:

My grandchildren are growing up in Parkland and have been traumatized by the shooting there. I want to tell them how much our government cares and will now immediatly change our laws to protect everyone.
Please make it mandatory to have background checks on all gun sales-
Please make assault weapons and large capacity magazines illegal.
Please have a strong Red Flag law in place to remove weapons from unstable individuals.
Please have anyone convicted of any violence have to turn in their firearms-
Please protect us all from the terrible gun violence in our country. Please assure our children that we all care and that this will all be changing. So much suffering has taken place due to gun violence-

Sincerely,

Name	Address	City, State, Zip
Leslie Hardy	654 Lake Pointe N. Lane	Deerfield Beach, Fl 33442

Senator Tom Lee, Chairperson
Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

September 10, 2019

Re: Gun Violence in Florida

Dear Senator Lee:

I write to ask that your committee takes specific, pragmatic, and immediate gun control measures to vote. Particularly, as a mother, a teaching assistant who is constatly in the classroom, I ask the reinstatement of the language in § 30.15 that prohibited classroom teachers from serving as schod guardians. I can assure you that neither I nor my colleagues can entere a school or other public space in which guns are carried by non-law enforcement agents and fell safe. More importantly, I believe that it is crucial that educators focus on their jobs and not on reactions that may cause further harm.

Thanks you.
R. Bozzetto

Sincerely,

Renata Bozzetto 9497 Boca Gardens Cir S # A
Boca Raton, FL 33496

September 13, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair
Florida Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee
418 Senate Building
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Thank you for taking the time to address the gun violence epidemic in the state of Florida. As a research scientist, I believe in evidence-based solutions to problems. While more research on this issue is desperately needed in our country, we have enough evidence to support several common sense solutions to gun violence.

First, I urge you and the committee to consider the requirement of background checks on all gun sales. Research has shown that access to a firearm triples the risk of death by suicide and doubles the risk of death by homicide. As you know, our background check system is flawed in that several loopholes allow people who would not have otherwise been allowed to purchase a firearm to do so. A 2019 analysis found that states with laws requiring background checks for all gun sales are associated with 10 percent lower homicide rates. No one should be able to avoid a background check by purchasing a firearm through an unlicensed seller. In addition, the majority of American voters (93%) support requiring background checks on all gun sales, including 89 percent of Republicans and 87 percent of gun owners. I urge you and the committee to close background check loopholes in Florida.

Knowing that access to a weapon is a risk factor for both homicide and suicide, I would also like to ask that the legislature consider expanding our existing Red Flag Laws to allow family members to petition for ERPOs. Family members are the ones that know the most in times of crisis, and it is extremely important that we give them power in this situation. Two-thirds of gun deaths are suicides, and having access to a firearm triples one's risk of death by suicide. In Florida, an the Extreme Risk law passed in 2018 has been invoked in multiple cases of potential school violence, including in the case of a student who was accused of stalking an ex-girlfriend and threatening to kill himself and in another in which a potential school shooter said killing people would be "addicting." We also know that the Parkland shooting could have been prevented if law enforcement was able to act on the mother's warnings.

As a parent of two elementary school aged boys, I would also urge the legislature to repeal the portion of the Marjorie Stoneman Douglas act that allows classroom teachers to be armed. We are failing our children. There is absolutely no scientific evidence to indicate that arming teachers works. In fact, there is plenty of evidence to the contrary. We know that the idea of a "good guy with a gun" is a myth. In addition, there have been too many incidents of students gaining access to an unsecured firearm on school grounds. This provision of the MSD act is a tragedy waiting to happen.

Yet another common sense, evidence-based solution to our gun violence crisis is to ban assault weapons and high capacity magazines. The August 2019 Dayton, Ohio shooter used a rifle equipped with a high-capacity drum magazine capable of holding 100 rounds. Though law enforcement stopped the shooting in about 30 seconds, the shooter was able to fire dozens of shots—and kill 9 people—largely because of the magazine capacity. Over the past decade, the four deadliest mass shootings in America involved the use of high-capacity magazines. I cannot imagine why any individual needs these kinds of weapons for personal use and "entertainment."

I appreciate your time and your consideration on this issue. It is an urgent matter, given that 100 lives are lost to gun violence every day in this country. Gun violence is leading cause of death among black youth and the second leading cause of death for children overall in the United States. In the state of Florida, a child is shot every 17 hours. We have the chance to be proactive and make change that will save countless lives. Please urge the committee and the legislature to act now.

Sincerely,
Kristin Bell Gerke (Tampa, FL)

Ketih & Patricia Roberson
2105 High Road
Tallahassee, FL 32303

September 14, 2019

Sen. Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee and Members of the Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee:

We are writing to ask that the committee will hear our concerns on September 16th when the committee meets for the workshop on gun safety legislation. As citizens who are distressed over the crisis of gun violence in our country, state, and local community, we are appreciative that our lawmakers are prioritizing this urgent need and are optimistic that the committee will explore common sense evidence backed solutions.

Specially, we request that the members give serious and thoughtful consideration to the following legislation that is proven to make an impact: comprehensive background checks, fixing our red flag laws to include family members, banning of assault weapons and high capacity magazines, and repealing the of arming teachers and "Stand Your Ground."

Thank you,

Keith & Patricia Roberson

September 14, 2019

Senator Tom Lee
Chair, Florida Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee
418 Senate Building
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Senator Lee:

As you lead the effort to consider legislation this session to prevent gun violence. Gun-related injuries are the second leading cause of death for US American children and teens. And every year over 36,000 Americans lose their lives to guns. These numbers are a uniquely an American problem. But these numbers don't account for the countless Americans who are injured, or experience the trauma and grief associated with losing a loved one.

As a licensed psychologist working with children, teens, and adults. I have recently worked with a teen overwhelmed with worry that she will be slaughtered in her classroom. I have worked with a child whose mother used the family's firearm to commit suicide as she slept in the next room. And I have worked with a teen contemplating using a firearm to commit suicide. I personally, lost a beloved uncle to gun violence in November 1999 at the age of 14, approximately 6 months after I watched kids like me on television run out of the high school where their peers were slaughtered.

There are a number of evidence-based solutions to combating gun violence. I will keep my recommendations short, but I would be delighted to discuss them in further detail with you.

I write to express my **support for passing a state law to require criminal background checks on all gun sales**. Florida state law currently does not require background checks on unlicensed gun sales, leaving a massive loophole in place that makes it far too easy for criminals, people prohibited from having guns because of mental illness, and others with dangerous histories to get their hands on guns through private, online or gun show sales. In fact, they have blocked more than 3.5 million sales of prohibited purchases since 1994. But criminals exploit the unlicensed sales loophole. When Connecticut passed a law requiring background checks for a purchase permit, and at the point of sale, the state experienced a 40% reduction in gun homicides, and a 15% reduction in the gun suicide rate. The Florida Legislature should build upon the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Public Safety Act and pass a comprehensive background check law.

Reinstate the language in §30.15 that prohibited classroom teachers from serving as school guardians. Access to firearms, regardless of an individual's age, triples the risk of death by suicide and doubles the risk of death by homicide. In addition, a study evaluating the New York City Police Department's firearm training, between 1998 and 2006, found the average hit rate during gunfights was only 18%, and improved to only 30% when suspects did not return fire. Undoubtedly arming teachers, who may not be psychologically equipped to shoot one of their students, will be detrimental to the safety of students in a crowded school.

The best predictor of future behavior is past behavior. **Require those convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence to surrender firearms**. In an average month, at least 52 American women are shot and killed by an intimate partner, and many more are injured.

Sincerely,

Amanda Thalji-Raitano, Ph.D.
Amanda.Thalji@ gmail.com
(727)543-3235
518 33rd Ave. N.
Saint Petersburg, FL 33704

15 September 2019

Sen. Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee,

Thank you for this opportunity to contribute to the ideas that you consider when you put forth legislation to keep us, the citizens of Florida, safe from gun violence. I am a native Floridian of 61 years, a former teacher at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, a current college professor, a mother and grandmother with a grandson in a Florida public school, an executive board member of the Girl Scouts of Gulfcoast Florida, and the education lead for our local chapter of Moms Demand Action. I also lost my brother last year, who suffered most of his life with schizophrenia, and so I have a fairly comprehensive picture of the challenges we face in ending the current plague of gun violence.

I am so angered and frustrated with the lack of action being taken to tackle this problem and the subsequent increase in divisiveness and hate rhetoric that rises from the darkest fissures in society to further push us away from enacting common sense gun safety legislation. I have written many letters and made many phone calls to my representatives at every level, only to get form letter responses that do not acknowledge my concerns with any level of action. I have gone to town hall meetings and spoken directly with my representatives, only receiving lip service.

I will try again, however, to communicate my concerns and suggestions to you, and hope for your sincerity and leadership in creating and passing legislation in an effort to keep us safe from gun violence.

These are my suggestions: background checks on ALL gun sales; expanding the extreme risk protection order to allow family members to petition; banning assault weapons and high capacity magazines; prohibiting those convicted of misdemeanor hate crimes from possessing guns; and greater requirements for safe storage.

You do not have to do this work on your own. I will help you. Just tell me what to do. I don't want to hear "thoughts and prayers" again in the aftermath of a mass shooting – I want to be part of the solution that PREVENTS any more mass shootings.

Most sincerely,
Christina Ottman
491 8th Street SE
Naples, Florida 34117

J David Hayes
4824 16th St
Zephyrhills, FL 33542

September 14, 2019

Florida Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee
418 Senate Building
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Senator/Chair Tom Lee:

I am a gun owner and have been shooting since I was 6 years old. I am a gun owner that thinks the gun laws (or lack of them) in the USA is a direct cause of the gun violence that we see every day.

I am writing to express my support for passing a state law to require criminal background checks on all gun sales. ALL sales, public and private.

Florida state law leaves a massive loophole in place that makes it far too easy for criminals, people prohibited from having guns because of mental illness, and others with dangerous histories to get their hands on guns through private, online or gun show sales.

Fifteen states have passed laws to require background checks on all gun sales. Background check laws —by point-of-sale check and/or permit— are associated with lower rates of firearm homicide, suicide and firearm trafficking. The Florida Legislature should build upon the important gun violence legislation passed following the Parkland mass shooting and pass a comprehensive background check law.

This is something that the vast majority of citizens in Florida and across the country demand. Please work towards the passing of said background check laws, and lets do something to curb the current rampant gun violence in the country.

Sincerely,

J David Hayes
813-598-6981

September 13, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair
Florida Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee
418 Senate Building
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Senator Lee:

As you lead the effort to consider legislation this session to prevent gun violence, including mass shootings, I write to express my support for passing a state law to require criminal background checks on all gun sales. Florida state law currently does not require background checks on unlicensed gun sales, leaving a massive loophole in place that makes it far too easy for criminals, people prohibited from having guns because of mental illness, and others with dangerous histories to get their hands on guns through private, online or gun show sales. Fifteen states have passed laws to require background checks on all gun sales. Background check laws —by point-of-sale check and/or permit— are associated with lower rates of firearm homicide, suicide and firearm trafficking. The Florida Legislature should build upon the important gun violence legislation passed following the Parkland mass shooting and pass a comprehensive background check law.

Sincerely,

David Bell
Leesburg, FL

September 13, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair
Florida Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee
418 Senate Building
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Senator Lee:

As you lead the effort to consider legislation this session to prevent gun violence, including mass shootings, I write to express my support for passing a state law to require criminal background checks on all gun sales. Florida state law currently does not require background checks on unlicensed gun sales, leaving a massive loophole in place that makes it far too easy for criminals, people prohibited from having guns because of mental illness, and others with dangerous histories to get their hands on guns through private, online or gun show sales. Fifteen states have passed laws to require background checks on all gun sales. Background check laws —by point-of-sale check and/or permit— are associated with lower rates of firearm homicide, suicide and firearm trafficking. The Florida Legislature should build upon the important gun violence legislation passed following the Parkland mass shooting and pass a comprehensive background check law.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Bell
Tampa, FL

September 13, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair
Florida Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee
418 Senate Building
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Senator Lee:

As you lead the effort to consider legislation this session to prevent gun violence, including mass shootings, I write to express my support for passing a state law to require criminal background checks on all gun sales. Florida state law currently does not require background checks on unlicensed gun sales, leaving a massive loophole in place that makes it far too easy for criminals, people prohibited from having guns because of mental illness, and others with dangerous histories to get their hands on guns through private, online or gun show sales. Fifteen states have passed laws to require background checks on all gun sales. Background check laws —by point-of-sale check and/or permit— are associated with lower rates of firearm homicide, suicide and firearm trafficking. The Florida Legislature should build upon the important gun violence legislation passed following the Parkland mass shooting and pass a comprehensive background check law.

Sincerely,

Travis Gerke
Tampa, FL

9/13/19

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee,

As the Infrastructure and Security Committee focuses on ways to address gun violence and hate crimes during its September meeting(s), my family and I are asking you to consider these priorities:

1.) **Require a background checks on every firearm purchase in the State of Florida** – Over 90% of Americans support requiring background checks on all gun sales. An investigation found that in 2018 alone, there were nearly 1.2 million firearm ads on an online gun marketplace called Armslist.com for gun sales where no background check was legally required. And research shows that prohibited people seek guns in those unlicensed gun sales at a disproportionate rate.

2.) **Require the timely reporting of criminal and mental health records to NICS** - Hundreds of thousands of prohibiting criminal and mental health records are missing from the NICS background check system, potentially enabling prohibited people to pass a background check. This is a critical fail that is required to be fixed in order to make background check legislation effective. Legislation to make this reporting mandatory will make us safer.

3.) **Require gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement** - From 2007 to 2017, at least 82,000 guns were reported stolen and never found in Florida. Not knowing a gun is stolen hinders criminal investigations and law enforcement's ability to track gun-trafficking networks. Stolen gun reports also serve as a deterrent to inter-state gun-trafficking. This is a simple measure of accountability that assists law enforcement do its job.

These three (3) proposals would have a positive effect in making Florida safer and would not diminish Florida residents' rights under the 2nd Amendment. It's a win-win for all of us. Please give them strong consideration.

Thank you for helping to keep us safe.

Sincerely,

Amy Newbery
6172 NW 108th Way
Parkland, FL 33076

September, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee,

As the Infrastructure and Security Committee focuses on ways to address gun violence and hate crimes during its September meeting(s), I am asking you to consider these priorities:

1.) **Require a background checks on every firearm purchase in the State of Florida** – Over 90% of Americans support requiring background checks on all gun sales. An investigation found that in 2018 alone, there were nearly 1.2 million firearm ads on an online gun marketplace called Armslist.com for gun sales where no background check was legally required. And research shows that prohibited people seek guns in those unlicensed gun sales at a disproportionate rate.

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These three (3) proposals would have a positive effect in making Florida safer and would not diminish Florida residents' rights under the 2nd Amendment. It's a win-win for all of us. Please give them strong consideration.

Thank you for helping to keep us safe.

Sincerely,

Paula Meyerson
2933 SW Brighton Way
Palm City, Florida 34990
772-631-6005

Senator Tom Lee, Chairperson
Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

September 10, 2019

Re: Gun Violence in Florida

Dear Senator Lee:

I am a mom and voter from Boca Raton. I urge you to take action to address gun violence! The FL senate should take action this year by:

- Requiring background checks on ALL & any gun sales
- Ban assault weapons and/or high capacity magazines.
- Require firearm dealers to notify law enforcement when a customer fails a background check.

As a mom of young children, and a "neighbor" of Parkland, I was moved to action to do anything within my power to stop gun violence directed at schoolchildren and the general population. Gun violence is an epidemic in the US and very little has been done so far by the legislature to protect our lives. As citizens and people we have the right to live free of fear from gun violence!

Sincerely,

Lee Rotter 20606 Carousel Cir W, Boca Raton, FL 33434

Senator Tom Lee, Chairperson
Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

September 10, 2019

Re: Gun Violence in Florida

Dear Senator Lee:

I live in Boca Raton, Florida. As a mom I was horrified to sit at home on Feb 14, 2018 waiting to hear from my son - a Parkland, FL teacher, who was in lockdown for over 3 hours while a gunman killed 17 people. That was a helpless feeling not being able to help my son and not knowing if he was alive. I urge you to require background checks on all gun sales, expand red flag laws and ban assault weapons. We need to do all we can to make our children and teachers safer while at school and everywhere in our community.

Sincerely, Mary K. Hood

MARY K. HOOD 12853 Hyland Circle BOCA RATON, FL 33428

Name Address City, State, Zip

Senator Tom Lee, Chairperson
Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

September 10, 2019

Re: Gun Violence in Florida

Dear Senator Lee:

I am a voter from Boca Raton and urge you to take action to address gun violence. The FL Senate should take action this year by requiring background checks for ALL gun sales, banning assault weapons and expanding red flag laws to allow family members to petition for extreme risk protection orders.

Most Americans support the three actions above. Research shows that prohibited people often seek guns in unlicensed gun sales at a disproportionate rate. Assault weapons and high-capacity magazines have no place in civilian life. There is no need for an American to be able to kill a mass of people in such a short amount of time. And when a person is in crisis, we need to make sure there is an ability to remove their guns to keep that person and others safe from harm.

Thank you for your help.

Sincerely,

Kara Baldino 17690 Concord Court Boca Raton, FL 33496

Name Address City, State, Zip

Senator Tom Lee, Chairperson
Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

September 10, 2019

Re: Gun Violence in Florida

Dear Senator Lee:

I am a voter in Miami-Dade, and I urge you to take action to address gun violence. The FL Senate should take action this year by:

1) requiring like drivers' licenses training, course, testing, probation period + renewals of all guns

2) ban all assault weapons and/or high capacity magazines

3) require firearm dealers to notify law enforcement when customer fails a background check

Sincerely,

Seda Musis 1155 Brickell Bay Dr #2305 Miami, FL 33131

Name Address City, State, Zip

Senator Tom Lee, Chairperson
Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

September 10, 2019

Re: Gun Violence in Florida

Dear Senator Lee:

I am a mom, former teacher and voter from Boca Raton and I urge you to take action to address gun violence. The Florida Senate should take action this year by:

1. Ban assult weapons and/or high capacity magazines.
2. Require background checks on ALL gun sales.
3. Reinstate language to prohibit teachers from serving as school guardians / AKA no armed classroom teachers in Floridas schools.

I had a family member's son and a close friend's son in the Majory Stroneman Douglas high school shooting. They are both trying to mentally deal with that tragic day. I am sure it will be a lifetime of horrible memories for them. Please pass new laws so we never have to have another school shooting.

Sincerely,

Sheila Millard 121 SW 11th Ct. Boca Raton FL. 33486

Name Address City, State, Zip

Senator Tom Lee, Chairperson
Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

September 10, 2019

Re: Gun Violence in Florida

Dear Senator Lee:

I am both a teacher and a mother and I currently live in Boca Raton Florida, but I grew up in Canada.

I really feel unsafe here because of the increased gun violence that is happening in this country.

I urge you to ban assault weapons and high capacity magazines. Over the past decade, the four deadliest mass shootings in America involved the use of high-capacity magazines.

Also as a teacher I do not think we should be put into the position of saving lives by the use of a gun. We are in the business of educating our children.

I wish for a much safer America.

Sincerely,

Mindy Martenfeld 3111 Clint Moore Rd FL. 33496
#107

Name Address City, State, Zip

Senator Tom Lee, Chairperson
Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

September 10, 2019

Re: Gun Violence in Florida

Dear Senator Lee:

I am a mom and voter in Boca Raton, as well as a therapist in Coral Springs that has worked with Parkland survivors, and I urge you to take action to address gun violence! Lets not wait until another child, another women in a D.V. relationship, another innocent bystander of a hateful person is lost due to gun violence. The Florida Senate should take action this year by:

- Require background checks on ALL gun sales.
- Ban assault weapons and high capacity magazines.
- Expand red flag laws to allow family members to apply for extreme risk protection orders for people who may harm themselves or others.
- Reinstate language to prohibit classroom teachers from serving as school guardians in FL's schools.
- Require anyone convicted of D.V. to surrender guns.
- Prohibit concealed weapons in places like daycares + playgrounds.
- Require gun dealers to notify law enforcement when someone fails a background check.

Sincerely,

Natalie Jimenez 21380 Woodchuck Ln. Boca Raton, FL 33428

Name Address City, State, Zip

Senator Tom Lee, Chairperson
Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

September 10, 2019

Re: Gun Violence in Florida

Dear Senator Lee:

I am an attorney, a mother, and a voter living in Boca Raton, Florida (33498). I'm urging the Florida Senate to reinstate language prohibiting classroom teachers from serving as school "guardians." Our teachers have enough they are burded with. The fact is, trained law enforcement officers & SROs have accidental shootings all the time or shootings that are due to LEO's being "in fear." It is only a matter of time before ① a teacher accidently kills a student ② an unsecured classroom firearm is stolen/taken as a weapon outalized improperly or ③ a teacher unfoundedly shoots a student/staff member. This is liability & a disaster waiting to happen. I implore the Senate to reconsider.

Sincerely,

Alyssa Salman 19705 Dinner Key Drive, Boca Raton FL 33498.

Name Address City, State, Zip

Lisa Wolcott
2717 NW 32nd St
Gainesville FL 32605

September 14, 2019

Senator Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security
The Florida Senate, 418 Senate Building
404 S. Monroe St.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Mr. Lee,

Thank you for addressing the significant problem of gun violence and hatred-fueled violence in Florida. I am a constituent in Gainesville, Florida, a small business owner, and a mother of 2 young teens. I am also a mental health specialist.

Florida can and must be a role model for common-sense gun laws and that in doing so, we can provide leadership to the entire country.

We need background checks on all gun sales. We must to close the loopholes that allow anyone to get a gun. We need to repeal the portion of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Act allowing classroom teachers to be armed. And we need Red Flag laws that will curtail a person with a known history of violence and instability toward themselves or others from obtaining a gun. I ask that you work toward these goals with your colleagues who represent all the people of Florida and are charged with protecting even those who cannot yet have a voice at the ballot box: children.

My daughter just got her learner's permit. We now enter a year of practice before she can obtain a driver's license to drive a car. Yet we don't have common sense safeguards like a basic background check for gun buyers. Over 90% of Americans support requiring background checks on ALL gun sales! In 2018, there were nearly 1.2 million firearm ads on Armslist.com -- where no background checks are required. This is dangerous, unnecessary, and inconsistent with our values as a democracy.

It's not been proven (in fact the *opposite* is proven) that more guns = more safety. We know having guns in homes dramatically increases accidental deaths, and also increases the chance of murder of a partner by a partner. We know that the vast majority of mass shooters have violence against a woman partner in their history. As a mental health provider, and a mother, I am on the front lines of witnessing the immense anxiety and fear that active shooter drills cause in children. We are raising a generation of anxious, fearful, reactionary children. How do we think that's going to look when they are adults?

WE must be the adults now. We need to instill our values of safety, reasoned decisions, calm and strength in our children. Arming teachers is the absolute opposite of this from a mental health perspective, a safety perspective, and a societal perspective. Let's make decisions based on the research, our values and our maturity -- not on political points and not from a place of fear and anxiety.

Thank you for the work you are doing. Thank you for your sincere consideration of my perspective.

Sincerely,

Lisa Wolcott

September 14, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee;

As a former teacher it breaks my heart to see schools turned into fortresses and classrooms turned into a combat zone where teachers as well as their students have to be ready for "combat". Every week they have to practice for the worst possible scenario. What does that do to our children that they have to live with a constant death threat? How long do we, the responsible adults stand by and allow this to happen time and again? Why are we not doing everything we can to protect what is ultimately the most precious to us – our children?

The noblest task of an elected official is to listen to and act on the will of the people, and right now in America a significant majority of all voters are in favor of stricter gun laws, so please, Senator Lee, consider the following initiatives:

Expansion of background checks to include ALL gun sales and expansion of the red flag laws.

These initiatives will take us part of the way to keep our citizens safer.

As you and your committee consider the safety of our citizens, please also keep in mind that **assault weapons and high capacity magazines** have enabled shooters to kill an inordinate amount of children or adults in such short time that even a ready law enforcement official would not be able to prevent deaths. This must stop! Weapons of war should not be readily available to civilians!

My thanks in advance for your efforts on behalf of all Floridians.

Sincerely,

Aase Zori
1754 NW 61 ter.
Gainesville, FL 32605

September 9, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee;

I understand that the Infrastructure and Security Committee will be focusing on ways to address gun violence and hate crimes during its September meeting. While the recent wave of mass shootings has served to focus our attention on this topic, in reality, one hundred Americans lose their lives to gun violence in their own neighborhoods daily. Obviously, this is a vitally important topic, and I thank you for spearheading this discussion.

As you move forward with the discussion, particularly as it relates to hate crimes, it is my hope that you will consider revisions to the existing Stand Your Ground Law. Under the current law, the burden of proof falls to the plaintiff and requires that the state disprove the defense which is difficult, if not impossible, for prosecutors to overcome. Additionally, the existing law is flawed and serves to exacerbate hate crimes in that it provides latitude to initiate a confrontation, then respond with deadly force. This can be corrected by placing the burden of proof for a stand your ground defense on the defendant.

I recently volunteered my two teenage sons to go door to door delivering flyers about our neighborhood events. It occurred to me afterwards, that I put them in tremendous danger because someone could have attacked them using a Stand Your Ground defense. Self defense is our right, but attacking an assailant (or possibly an innocent person) puts everyone in danger. The safest thing to do for self defense is to run or hide, not attack. The Stand Your Ground law makes us all much less safe, because people feel they can use deadly force more freely without repercussions. Situations can get escalated, and result in avoidable tragedies. If someone is truly acting in self-defense, and their only option is to use deadly force, then they don't need "Stand Your Ground" to do it. But their actions should be accountable and defendable without hiding behind a blanket protection for committing violence.

Again, my thanks for spearheading the discussion and for your dedication to preserving the health, safety and welfare of us all.

Sincerely,
Signed
Name: Betty Wolpert
Address: 6315 Lucerne St. Jupiter, FL 33458

Sept. 14, 2019

The Florida Senate

418 Senate Building

404 South Monroe Street

Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Atten: Sen. Tom Lee - Chair, Infrastructure and Security

Dear Senator Lee,

There are so many things Florida state legislators can do in the upcoming session to help prevent gun violence and promote safer communities. It is my hope that you and other state leaders will consider legislation in 2020 that will encourage meaningful change in the way firearms are regulated here in Florida.

Among the changes I would strongly recommend, are:

1) Requiring some sort of safety training prior to purchasing a gun.

Firearms are the second leading cause of death for American children and teens, second only to motor vehicle accidents (Motor vehicles, 3,669 vs. Firearms, 3,330 – 2017 CDC statistics.)

My own teen-age son recently completed a drug and alcohol awareness test online and had to pass a 50-question test about driving and rules of the road prior to obtaining his Florida Learner's Permit for driving.

If we demand our citizens know how to property operate a vehicle before getting on the road, why don't we require the same of gun buyers? Gun buyers should be required to learn about gun safety, including proper storage of firearms, as a condition of purchasing a firearm.

2) Expand existing Red Flag laws to allow relatives and friends to directly petition the court for an extreme risk protection order when they believe a gun owner may hurt themselves or others.

Research shows that access to a gun more than TRIPLES the risk of death from suicide. We also know that gun suicides are concentrated in states with high gun ownership and that white men represent 74-percent of gun suicide victims in the U.S.

And finally, I would suggest that:

3) Enact a ban on the sale of assault weapons and high-capacity magazines.

We have seen, with too much frequency, the carnage that a shooter can inflict on a group of people in just a short period of time with these weapons of war. There is no logical reason that average citizens need access to these kinds of firearms.

Think how different the outcomes of mass shootings – like those in Parkland, FL and El Paso, TX – could have been if the number of bullets in the gun's magazines were severely limited.

A Reuter's poll earlier this year confirmed that most Americans want tougher gun laws, but had little confidence their elected officials would take meaningful action.

The poll of more than 6,800 adults underscored frustration with state and federal lawmakers after decades of mass shootings in the U.S.

According to the poll, 69 percent of Americans, including 85 percent of Democrats and 57 percent of Republicans, said they wanted strong or moderate restrictions placed on firearms. To stop gun violence, 55 percent said they wanted policies that make it tougher to own guns.

This is your chance to show your constituents that you are listening and to make Florida a leader in gun violence prevention measures in the process.

I sincerely hope that 2020 is the year that Florida will be out in front when it comes to passage of sensible gun laws.

Respectfully,

Ellen Moses

5697 32nd Ave. N.

St. Petersburg, FL 33710

District 69

Lori Holcomb
1668 Brush Hill Road
Tallahassee, FL 32309

Sen. Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-11OO

Re: Gun Legislation

Dear Senator Lee:

As a resident of Tallahassee I have seen an increase in gun violence the past couple of years. While I was very happy to see the steps Florida took after the tragic Parkland shooting mire needs to be done. As a mom who votes I urge you to expand the red flag law to include family members and to pass comprehensive background check legislation. I hope these measures and others will be discussed at the workshop on Monday.

Sincerely,

Lori Holcomb

9/13/2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee,

As the Infrastructure and Security Committee focuses on ways to address gun violence and hate crimes during its September meeting(s), my family and I are asking you to consider these priorities:

1.) Require a background checks on every firearm purchase in the State of Florida – Over 90% of Americans support requiring background checks on all gun sales. An investigation found that in 2018 alone, there were nearly 1.2 million firearm ads on an online gun marketplace called Armslist.com for gun sales where no background check was legally required. And research shows that prohibited people seek guns in those unlicensed gun sales at a disproportionate rate.

2.) Require the timely reporting of criminal and mental health records to NICS - Hundreds of thousands of prohibiting criminal and mental health records are missing from the NICS background check system, potentially enabling prohibited people to pass a background check. This is a critical fail that is required to be fixed in order to make background check legislation effective. Legislation to make this reporting mandatory will make us safer.

3.) Require gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement - From 2007 to 2017, at least 82,000 guns were reported stolen and never found in Florida. Not knowing a gun is stolen hinders criminal investigations and law enforcement's ability to track gun-trafficking networks. Stolen gun reports also serve as a deterrent to inter-state gun-trafficking. This is a simple measure of accountability that assists law enforcement do its job.

These three (3) proposals would have a positive effect in making Florida safer and would not diminish Florida residents' rights under the 2nd Amendment. It's a win-win for all of us. Please give them strong consideration.

Thank you for helping to keep us safe.

Sincerely,

Lisa V. Calberg

8684 SE Water Oak Pl
Tequesta, FL 33469

September 13, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee

Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee

The Florida Senate

418 Senate Building

404 South Monroe Street

Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee;

I am a Florida resident who is very concerned about my own safety and that of my family and friends. As a mother, grandmother and retired early childhood teacher, I have always been concerned about safety but never more than in these times. It is my understanding that you and your Committee have been tasked with reviewing hate crimes and gun violence and introducing legislation in the next session to address your findings.

Please consider the expansion of red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders. When a person is in crisis, their loved ones, not law enforcement, are often the first to see signs that they pose a threat. An expanded Extreme Risk law would allow family members to petition a court for an extreme risk protection order to temporarily remove guns from dangerous situations and prohibit the purchase or possession of firearms while the order is in effect. The law passed last year that allows law enforcement to petition the court has helped but it is not enough. Allowing family members who are more familiar with threats and dangers to petition the court directly would make all of us safer, whether we are Florida residents or visitors to our state.

Also, please consider crafting legislation that requires those convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence to surrender firearms temporarily under the same requirements as under ERPOs. In an average month, at least 52 American women are shot and killed by an intimate partner, and many more are injured. And often, the children are either harmed or also killed, and/or suffer the trauma of witnessing these events or losing both parents simultaneously. We must do more to prevent these tragedies.

These simple expanded protections will surely save the lives of many Floridians. I ask you to consider these as we attempt to be safer in our homes and communities throughout the state.

My thanks in advance for your efforts on behalf of all Floridians.

Sincerely,

Signed: *Mary Helen D. Miller*

Name: Mary Helen D. Miller

Full Address: 4184 N.W. 2nd Court

Boca Raton, FL 33431

Sen. Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee,

I am writing to strongly urge you to recommend the Florida legislature take gun sense legislative action during the upcoming session.

In my former career, I am a retired naval officer who graduated from the Naval Academy and served for 20 years around the world. In my current career, I am a 7th grade Civics teacher at a Title I middle school, and a 2019 Teacher of the Year Finalist for Hillsborough County Public Schools.

I would like to illustrate my support for background checks, expansion of red flag laws, prohibiting guns in the classroom, requiring safe storage of guns, requiring safety training before purchasing a firearm, and any gun sense policy using my experience in the Navy.

In 2007, I spent much of the year deployed in places such as Kuwait, Iraq, Kyrgyzstan, and Afghanistan as the second-in-command of 450 Sailors. Our role was not combat, but we lived, worked, and moved around in a designated combat zone. There were multiple cases of "bad guys" attacking servicemembers on the bases where we were stationed. *Yet even though I was the second-in-command, had just received extensive firearms training and qualified as an Expert pistol shot, and worked in a combat zone, I was NOT allowed to carry my sidearm with me routinely, unless I was traveling off base.*

When traveling off base, I had to pick up my sidearm from the armory, where my weapon was kept under lock and key and 24 hour watch. I had to show my ID and sign for the weapon, even though the Sailors at the armory knew me by sight. Of course, I had undergone extensive background checks and mental health screenings for my security clearance, as do all servicemembers, and if I had been a domestic abuser, the Lautenberg Amendment would have prevented my access to the weapon.

Once I had my sidearm, I was required to keep it unloaded with the magazine ejected. And as I travelled around base, before entering a building I had to walk to and point my weapon into the clearing barrel (a device designed to "catch" accidental discharges), and find a partner to verify the following actions: gun safety was on, the magazine was ejected, the chamber was empty, and again that the safety was on. This was for a gun that was NOT loaded!

NONE of these safety precautions for trained military servicemembers serving in a combat zone are in place for civilian teachers carrying a weapon in school around curious children, which is why I urge you to repeal the legislation that allowed teachers to carry guns in the classroom, as well as enacting other gun sense legislation.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter!

Sincerely,

//s//

Scott Hottenstein
15948 Fishhawk View Dr.
Lithia, FL 33547

September 13, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee,

As a resident of the State of Florida for 27 years, as the sister of a gun violence survivor and as a mother of 3 I find myself worrying more and more frequently about the personal safety of myself and that of my family. I am glad to see security in places where there never was before, but I am sorry that it has to be that way. I am sad that my children are growing up during a time when Code Red Drills are necessary. Code Red Drills are routine for them, yet they were absent from my childhood. I am appalled that gun manufacturers garner more protection from the federal and state governments than individuals, and I think you should be appalled as well. As the Infrastructure and Security Committee focuses on ways to address gun violence and hate crimes during its September meeting(s), my family and I are asking you to consider these priorities:

1.) **Require a background checks on every firearm purchase in the State of Florida** – Over 90% of Americans support requiring background checks on all gun sales. An investigation found that in 2018 alone, there were nearly 1.2 million firearm ads on an online gun marketplace called Armslist.com for gun sales where no background check was legally required. And research shows that prohibited people seek guns in those unlicensed gun sales at a disproportionate rate.
2.) **Require the timely reporting of criminal and mental health records to NICS** – Hundreds of thousands of prohibiting criminal and mental health records are missing from the NICS background check system, potentially enabling prohibited people to pass a background check. This is a critical fail that is required to be fixed in order to make background check legislation effective. Legislation to make this reporting mandatory will make us safer.
3.) **Require gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement** – From 2007 to 2017, at least 82,000 guns were reported stolen and never found in Florida. Not knowing a gun is stolen hinders criminal investigations and law enforcement's ability to track gun-trafficking networks. Stolen gun reports also serve as a deterrent to inter-state gun-trafficking. This is a simple measure of accountability that assists law enforcement do its job.

These three (3) proposals would have a positive effect in making Florida safer and would not diminish Florida residents' rights under the 2nd Amendment. It's a win-win for all of us. Please give them strong consideration.

Thank you for helping to keep us safe.

Sincerely,

Jessica Kennedy
4060 Palmetto Trail
Weston, FL 33331

September, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair
Florida Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee
418 Senate Building
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Senator Lee:

As you lead the effort to consider legislation this session to prevent gun violence, including mass shootings, I write to express my support for passing a state law to require criminal background checks on all gun sales. Florida state law currently does not require background checks on unlicensed gun sales, leaving a massive loophole in place that makes it far too easy for criminals, people prohibited from having guns because of mental illness, and others with dangerous histories to get their hands on guns through private, online or gun show sales. Fifteen states have passed laws to require background checks on all gun sales. Background check laws —by point-of-sale check and/or permit— are associated with lower rates of firearm homicide, suicide and firearm trafficking. The Florida Legislature should build upon the important gun violence legislation passed following the Parkland mass shooting and pass a comprehensive background check law.

Sincerely,

Gainesville, FL

September, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair
Florida Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee
418 Senate Building
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Senator Lee:

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Sincerely,

Gainesville, FL 32609

September, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair
Florida Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee
418 Senate Building
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Senator Lee:

As you lead the effort to consider legislation this session to prevent gun violence, including mass shootings, I write to express my support for passing a state law to require criminal background checks on all gun sales. Florida state law currently does not require background checks on unlicensed gun sales, leaving a massive loophole in place that makes it far too easy for criminals, people prohibited from having guns because of mental illness, and others with dangerous histories to get their hands on guns through private, online or gun show sales. Fifteen states have passed laws to require background checks on all gun sales. Background check laws —by point-of-sale check and/or permit— are associated with lower rates of firearm homicide, suicide and firearm trafficking. The Florida Legislature should build upon the important gun violence legislation passed following the Parkland mass shooting and pass a comprehensive background check law.

Sincerely,

Melissa Justus

Gainesville, FL 32607

September, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair
Florida Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee
418 Senate Building
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Senator Lee:

As you lead the effort to consider legislation this session to prevent gun violence, including mass shootings, I write to express my support for passing a state law to require criminal background checks on all gun sales. Florida state law currently does not require background checks on unlicensed gun sales, leaving a massive loophole in place that makes it far too easy for criminals, people prohibited from having guns because of mental illness, and others with dangerous histories to get their hands on guns through private, online or gun show sales. Fifteen states have passed laws to require background checks on all gun sales. Background check laws —by point-of-sale check and/or permit— are associated with lower rates of firearm homicide, suicide and firearm trafficking. The Florida Legislature should build upon the important gun violence legislation passed following the Parkland mass shooting and pass a comprehensive background check law.

Sincerely,

Alachua, FL

September, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair
Florida Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee
418 Senate Building
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Senator Lee:

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Sincerely,

Sara Webber

Sara Webber 32605

September, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair
Florida Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee
418 Senate Building
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Senator Lee:

As you lead the effort to consider legislation this session to prevent gun violence, including mass shootings, I write to express my support for passing a state law to require criminal background checks on all gun sales. Florida state law currently does not require backgrour checks on unlicensed gun sales, leaving a massive loophole in place that makes it far too for criminals, people prohibited from having guns because of mental illness, and others wit dangerous histories to get their hands on guns through private, online or gun show sales. Fifteen states have passed laws to require background checks on all gun sales. Backgrou check laws —by point-of-sale check and/or permit— are associated with lower rates of fir homicide, suicide and firearm trafficking. The Florida Legislature should build upon the important gun violence legislation passed following the Parkland mass shooting and pass comprehensive background check law.

Sincerely,

Matt Webber

32605

September, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair
Florida Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee
418 Senate Building
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Senator Lee:

As you lead the effort to consider legislation this session to prevent gun violence, including mass shootings, I write to express my support for passing a state law to require criminal background checks on all gun sales. Florida state law currently does not require background checks on unlicensed gun sales, leaving a massive loophole in place that makes it far too easy for criminals, people prohibited from having guns because of mental illness, and others with dangerous histories to get their hands on guns through private, online or gun show sales. Fifteen states have passed laws to require background checks on all gun sales. Background check laws —by point-of-sale check and/or permit— are associated with lower rates of firearm homicide, suicide and firearm trafficking. The Florida Legislature should build upon the important gun violence legislation passed following the Parkland mass shooting and pass a comprehensive background check law.

Sincerely,

Anna Black

September 13, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee,

As the Infrastructure and Security Committee focuses on ways to address gun violence and hate crimes during its September meeting(s), my family and I are asking you to consider these priorities:

1.) Require a background checks on every firearm purchase in the State of Florida – Over 90% of Americans support requiring background checks on all gun sales. An investigation found that in 2018 alone, there were nearly 1.2 million firearm ads on an online gun marketplace called Armslist.com for gun sales where no background check was legally required. And research shows that prohibited people seek guns in those unlicensed gun sales at a disproportionate rate.

2.) Require the timely reporting of criminal and mental health records to NICS - Hundreds of thousands of prohibiting criminal and mental health records are missing from the NICS background check system, potentially enabling prohibited people to pass a background check. This is a critical fail that is required to be fixed in order to make background check legislation effective. Legislation to make this reporting mandatory will make us safer.

3.) Require gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement - From 2007 to 2017, at least 82,000 guns were reported stolen and never found in Florida. Not knowing a gun is stolen hinders criminal investigations and law enforcement's ability to track gun-trafficking networks. Stolen gun reports also serve as a deterrent to inter-state gun-trafficking. This is a simple measure of accountability that assists law enforcement do its job.

These three (3) proposals would have a positive effect in making Florida safer and would not diminish Florida residents' rights under the 2nd Amendment. It's a win-win for all of us. Please give them strong consideration.

As a father, I am concerned for my children's safety every day. The gun violence is out of control, and inaction is not a solution. Thank you for helping to keep us safe.

Sincerely,
Signed:
Name: Robert M. Wolpert
Full Address: 6315 Lucerne St., Jupiter, FL 33458

September 13, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee,

I am a Florida resident who is very concerned about my own safety and that of my family and friends. It is my understanding that you and your Committee have been tasked with reviewing hate crimes and gun violence and introducing legislation in the next session to address your findings.
Please consider the expansion of red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders. When a person is in crisis, their loved ones, not law enforcement, are often the first to see signs that they pose a threat. An expanded Extreme Risk law would allow family members to petition a court for an extreme risk protection order to temporarily remove guns from dangerous situations and prohibit the purchase or possession of firearms while the order is in effect. The law passed last year that allows law enforcement to petition the court has helped but it is not enough. Allowing family members who are more familiar with threats and dangers to petition the court directly would make all of us safer, whether we are Florida residents or visitors to our state.

As a student, I am forced to think about the possibility of a person in crisis attempting to use firearms to hurt other students. My brother and I both had code-red drills the first week of school.

Also, please consider crafting legislation that requires those convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence to surrender firearms temporarily under the same requirements as under ERPOs. In an average month, at least 52 American women are shot and killed by an intimate partner, and many more are injured. And often, the children are either harmed or also killed, and/or suffer the trauma of witnessing these events or losing both parents simultaneously. We must do more to prevent these tragedies. These simple expanded protections will surely save the lives of many Floridians. I ask you to consider these as we attempt to be safer in our homes and communities throughout the state.

My thanks in advance for your efforts on behalf of all Floridians.

Sincerely,
Signed:
Name: John B. Wolpert
Full Address: 6315 Lucerne St. Jupiter, FL 33458

September 12, 2019

Dear Mr. Tom Lee,

My name is Joshua Somerset, I am a father of 3 and live in Tallahassee, Florida. I strongly support more legislation to eliminate gun violence in Florida. I am disgusted at the lack of action on this epidemic. How many more times do we have to watch this happen before we try some sensible steps to protect people?

I think the majority of our population strongly supports universal background checks. It makes no sense to have loop holes where a person can be denied on a background check put legally purchase a gun from a private gun sale. Second, I am not a gun owner and admittedly know very little about assault rifles, bump stock ect. I think we should approach this from our police perspective. If there is an active shooter and he has a pistol, the police have a much less chance of dying than if the shooter has an AR-15 style gun. There are always going to be people with bad intentions who get guns, some styles of guns will exponentially multiple the casualty rates.

I believe these are common sense gun reform plans. If someone wants to hunt or have a gun at home for self-protection, these laws should not impact the vast majority of people. We need to make changes to try to keep our communities safer. Clearly, there is no perfect plan. But doing nothing is not an option.

Lastly, to add insult to injury, following every major shooting tragedy, plaintiff attorneys have sued the business owner of the location of the shooting. This should not be an option. Stoney Douglas High School, Pulse Night Club, and Tallahassee Hot Yoga could not stop these attack and should not be financially responsible.

Thank you for your time.

Joshua Somerset
1400 Constitution Place E
Tallahassee, FL 32308

Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Infrastructure and Security Committee:

I am writing to thank you for your work on gun violence and to ask you to support the commonsense gun reform so **desperately** needed in our state. Based on the experiences here in Miami Dade County, I believe the following changes would be the most impactful in preventing gun violence:

1. Background checks on all gun sales

Most Florida voters support requiring background checks on all gun sales, including 89 percent of Republicans and 87 percent of gun owners. We still have not closed the unlicensed gun sale loophole which means that prohibited buyers can take advantage of this loophole and get armed illegally in person and via internet. This loophole guts the public safety impact of **all** our laws. Criminals, underage buyers and people subject to Extreme Risk Orders can simply circumvent the law and purchase a firearm from an unlicensed seller and skip a background check altogether. It is like going to TSA, skipping the line and being allowed through a side door. Crazy!

2. Ban on high capacity magazines

The August 2019 Dayton, Ohio shooter used a rifle equipped with a high-capacity drum magazine capable of holding 100 rounds. Though law enforcement stopped the shooting in about 30 seconds, the shooter was able to fire dozens of shots—and kill 9 people—largely because of the magazine capacity. Over the past decade, **the four deadliest mass shootings in America involved the use of high-capacity magazines. In fact, 58 percent of mass shootings between 2009 and 2017 were committed with firearms equipped with high-capacity magazines.** Limiting magazine capacity would make **ALL** guns less lethal.

3. Require firearms dealers to notify law enforcement when a customer fails a background check

Failed attempts to purchase guns can foreshadow future criminal activity. People who fail background checks are 28 percent more likely to be arrested in the five years following the denial than in the five years before it. Law enforcement wants to know and should know when prohibited individuals are attempting to purchase guns.

4. Expansion of red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders

When a person is in crisis, loved ones are often the first to see signs that they pose a threat to themselves or others. An Extreme Risk law allows them to petition a court for an order to temporarily remove guns from dangerous situations and prohibit the purchase or possession of firearms while the order is in effect.

The bottom line is that **too** many Floridians are killed with guns. I know the devastating impact because my brother and his best friend were taken in 2012 The impact of this violence is heartbreaking I ask that you focus on the above priorities to save lives and that you don't wait.

Thank you for your time and attention,

Sincerely,
Paris Hooper

Paris Hooper
975 NW 199 Street
Miami Fl 33169

September, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair
Florida Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee
418 Senate Building
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Senator Lee:

As you lead the effort to consider legislation this session to prevent gun violence, including mass shootings, I write to express my support for passing a state law to require criminal background checks on all gun sales. Florida state law currently does not require background checks on unlicensed gun sales, leaving a massive loophole in place that makes it far too easy for criminals, people prohibited from having guns because of mental illness, and others with dangerous histories to get their hands on guns through private, online or gun show sales. Fifteen states have passed laws to require background checks on all gun sales. Background check laws —by point-of-sale check and/or permit— are associated with lower rates of firearm homicide, suicide and firearm trafficking. The Florida Legislature should build upon the important gun violence legislation passed following the Parkland mass shooting and pass a comprehensive background check law.

Sincerely,

(Mario Bisutti)
32653

September, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair
Florida Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee
418 Senate Building
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Senator Lee:

As you lead the effort to consider legislation this session to prevent gun violence, including mass shootings, I write to express my support for passing a state law to require criminal background checks on all gun sales. Florida state law currently does not require background checks on unlicensed gun sales, leaving a massive loophole in place that makes it far too easy for criminals, people prohibited from having guns because of mental illness, and others with dangerous histories to get their hands on guns through private, online or gun show sales. Fifteen states have passed laws to require background checks on all gun sales. Background check laws —by point-of-sale check and/or permit— are associated with lower rates of firearm homicide, suicide and firearm trafficking. The Florida Legislature should build upon the important gun violence legislation passed following the Parkland mass shooting and pass a comprehensive background check law.

Sincerely,

Gainesville, FL 32605

September, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair
Florida Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee
418 Senate Building
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Senator Lee:

As you lead the effort to consider legislation this session to prevent gun violence, including mass shootings, I write to express my support for passing a state law to require criminal background checks on all gun sales. Florida state law currently does not require background checks on unlicensed gun sales, leaving a massive loophole in place that makes it far too easy for criminals, people prohibited from having guns because of mental illness, and others with dangerous histories to get their hands on guns through private, online or gun show sales. Fifteen states have passed laws to require background checks on all gun sales. Background check laws —by point-of-sale check and/or permit— are associated with lower rates of firearm homicide, suicide and firearm trafficking. The Florida Legislature should build upon the important gun violence legislation passed following the Parkland mass shooting and pass a comprehensive background check law.

Sincerely,

Gainesville, FL 32605

September, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair
Florida Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee
418 Senate Building
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Senator Lee:

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Sincerely,

Salaroma Bosch
Alachua, FL 32615

September, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair
Florida Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee
418 Senate Building
Tallahassee, FL 32399

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Sincerely,

Melina Covarrubias
Clermont, FL

September, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair
Florida Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee
418 Senate Building
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Senator Lee:

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Sincerely,

Jorge Delgado

Gainesville 32608

September, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair
Florida Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee
418 Senate Building
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Senator Lee:

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Sincerely,

Lara Motrone
Gainesville, FL

September 15, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee;
I am a Florida resident who is very concerned about my own safety and that of my family and friends. It is my understanding that you and your Committee have been tasked with reviewing hate crimes and gun violence and introducing legislation in the next session to address your findings.

Please consider the expansion of red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders. When a person is in crisis, their loved ones, not law enforcement, are often the first to see signs that they pose a threat. An expanded Extreme Risk law would allow family members to petition a court for an extreme risk protection order to temporarily remove guns from dangerous situations and prohibit the purchase or possession of firearms while the order is in effect. The law passed last year that allows law enforcement to petition the court has helped but it is not enough. Allowing family members who are more familiar with threats and dangers to petition the court directly would make all of us safer, whether we are Florida residents or visitors to our state.

Also, please consider crafting legislation that requires those convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence to surrender firearms temporarily under the same requirements as under ERPOs. In an average month, at least 52 American women are shot and killed by an intimate partner, and many more are injured. And often, the children are either harmed or also killed, and/or suffer the trauma of witnessing these events or losing both parents simultaneously. We must do more to prevent these tragedies.

These simple expanded protections will surely save the lives of many Floridians. I ask you to consider these as we attempt to be safer in our homes and communities throughout the state. My thanks in advance for your efforts on behalf of all Floridians.

Sincerely,
Rachel Tamari Chesler

Rachel Tamari Chesler
945 Mill Creek Drive
Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410

September 15, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee;

Thank you for your work and ongoing concern for the health and safety of all Floridians. As a parent I am so saddened by my now normal practice of taking a mental note of what my children are wearing each day so that if I have to describe them later in the day following a mass shooting I will remember what they were wearing. As you and the Committee move forward with discussion and creation of legislation that will address hate crimes and gun violence, please consider the following.

Since retirement of the federal ban on assault weapons in 1994, we have seen a drastic increase in the number of deaths associated with mass shootings. While we cannot presume that the rise in incidents can be attributed to assault weapons, we can say with all certainty that more deaths occur per incident when assault weapons are involved. Most recently, the Dayton Ohio shooter used a high-capacity drum magazine holding 100 rounds. Although law enforcement quickly intervened to stop the shooting, within 30 seconds 9 people had been shot and killed, largely due to the magazine capacity. Thus, while a ban on assault weapons may not impact the frequency of mass shootings, it would certainly help to decrease the number of deaths.

In the area of gun safety, please improve the safety standards associated with the training that is required prior to the purchase of a firearm. From 2014 through today, across America, 1,296 children have been killed or injured by guns. Many of these incidents result from accidents associated with the failure of the owner to safely store a weapon. While today's reality may require that we as parents ask whether there is a gun in the house each time we organize a play date, it's imperative that we be assured that those guns are safely stored.

As always, my thanks for your consideration and dedication to safeguarding all Floridians.

Sincerely,
Naomi Hoffman
Naomi Hoffman
112 Casa Grande Ct.
Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33418

September 15, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee,

I am a parent of 3 children. I am horrified at the daily news of shootings taking place in our country and state. I do believe there are concrete steps we can take to reduce the number of lives being taken away from gun violence. As the Infrastructure and Security Committee focuses on ways to address gun violence and hate crimes during its September meeting(s), my family and I are asking you to consider these priorities:

1.) Require a background checks on every firearm purchase in the State of Florida – Over 90% of Americans support requiring background checks on all gun sales. An investigation found that in 2018 alone, there were nearly 1.2 million firearm ads on an online gun marketplace called Armslist.com for gun sales where no background check was legally required. And research shows that prohibited people seek guns in those unlicensed gun sales at a disproportionate rate.

2.) Require the timely reporting of criminal and mental health records to NICS - Hundreds of thousands of prohibiting criminal and mental health records are missing from the NICS background check system, potentially enabling prohibited people to pass a background check. This is a critical fail that is required to be fixed in order to make background check legislation effective. Legislation to make this reporting mandatory will make us safer.

3.) Require gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement - From 2007 to 2017, at least 82,000 guns were reported stolen and never found in Florida. Not knowing a gun is stolen hinders criminal investigations and law enforcement's ability to track gun-trafficking networks. Stolen gun reports also serve as a deterrent to inter-state gun-trafficking. This is a simple measure of accountability that assists law enforcement do its job.

These three (3) proposals would have a positive effect in making Florida safer and would not diminish Florida residents' rights under the 2nd Amendment. It's a win-win for all of us. Please give them strong consideration.

Thank you for helping to keep us safe.

Sincerely,
Erin Forster

Erin Forster
62 Cayman Place
Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33418

September 15, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee;

I understand that the Infrastructure and Security Committee will be focusing on ways to address gun violence and hate crimes during its September meeting. While the recent wave of mass shootings has served to focus our attention on this topic, in reality, one hundred Americans lose their lives to gun violence in their own neighborhoods daily. Obviously, this is a vitally important topic, and I thank you for spearheading this discussion.

As you move forward with the discussion, particularly as it relates to hate crimes, it is my hope that you will consider revisions to the existing Stand Your Ground Law. Under the current law, the burden of proof falls to the plaintiff and requires that the state disprove the defense which is difficult, if not impossible, for prosecutors to overcome. Additionally, the existing law is flawed and serves to exacerbate hate crimes in that it provides latitude to initiate a confrontation, then respond with deadly force. This can be corrected by placing the burden of proof for a stand your ground defense on the defendant.

Again, my thanks for spearheading the discussion and for your dedication to preserving the health, safety and welfare of us all.

Sincerely,
Ron Hoffman

Ron Hoffman
5956 Fountains Dr. South
Lake Worth, FL 33467

September 15, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee;

Thank you for your work and ongoing concern for the health and safety of all Floridians. I am a grandmother and it makes me sick that my grandchildren are growing up in this environment of gun culture. It is not ok for them to have to do Active Shooter Drills at school. This should not be normal. I believe there are steps we can take to prevent more mass shootings. As you and the Committee move forward with discussion and creation of legislation that will address hate crimes and gun violence, please consider the following.

Since retirement of the federal ban on assault weapons in 1994, we have seen a drastic increase in the number of deaths associated with mass shootings. While we cannot presume that the rise in incidents can be attributed to assault weapons, we can say with all certainty that more deaths occur per incident when assault weapons are involved. Most recently, the Dayton Ohio shooter used a high-capacity drum magazine holding 100 rounds. Although law enforcement quickly intervened to stop the shooting, within 30 seconds 9 people had been shot and killed, largely due to the magazine capacity. Thus, while a ban on assault weapons may not impact the frequency of mass shootings, it would certainly help to decrease the number of deaths.

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As always, my thanks for your consideration and dedication to safeguarding all Floridians.

Sincerely,
Toby Hoffman
Toby Hoffman
5956 Fountains Drive South
Lake Worth, FL 33467

September 15, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee;

Thank you for your work and ongoing concern for the health and safety of all Floridians. I am a grandmother and I have 2 grandchildren on college campuses in our state. I am afraid for their safety. I never imagined myself being afraid that my grandchildren would be killed in mass shooting. This should not be the new normal. I believe there are steps we can take to prevent more mass shootings. As you and the Committee move forward with discussion and creation of legislation that will address hate crimes and gun violence, please consider the following.

Since retirement of the federal ban on assault weapons in 1994, we have seen a drastic increase in the number of deaths associated with mass shootings. While we cannot presume that the rise in incidents can be attributed to assault weapons, we can say with all certainty that more deaths occur per incident when assault weapons are involved. Most recently, the Dayton Ohio shooter used a high-capacity drum magazine holding 100 rounds. Although law enforcement quickly intervened to stop the shooting, within 30 seconds 9 people had been shot and killed, largely due to the magazine capacity. Thus, while a ban on assault weapons may not impact the frequency of mass shootings, it would certainly help to decrease the number of deaths.

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As always, my thanks for your consideration and dedication to safeguarding all Floridians.

Sincerely,

Mary Lou Putnam

Mary Lou Putnam
110 Casa Grande Ct.
Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33418

September 15, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee;

Thank you for your work and ongoing concern for the health and safety of all Floridians. As you and the Committee move forward with discussion and creation of legislation that will address hate crimes and gun violence, please consider the following.

Since retirement of the federal ban on assault weapons in 1994, we have seen a drastic increase in the number of deaths associated with mass shootings. While we cannot presume that the rise in incidents can be attributed to assault weapons, we can say with all certainty that more deaths occur per incident when assault weapons are involved. Most recently, the Dayton Ohio shooter used a high-capacity drum magazine holding 100 rounds. Although law enforcement quickly intervened to stop the shooting, within 30 seconds 9 people had been shot and killed, largely due to the magazine capacity. Thus, while a ban on assault weapons may not impact the frequency of mass shootings, it would certainly help to decrease the number of deaths. As a teacher working in the classroom, I would rather give my students a chance at life after being shot by a plain old bullet as opposed to their insides being shredded by an assault weapon meant for the battlefield. Don't you agree?

In the area of gun safety, please improve the safety standards associated with the training that is required prior to the purchase of a firearm. From 2014 through today, across America, 1,296 children have been killed or injured by guns. Many of these incidents result from accidents associated with the failure of the owner to safely store a weapon. While today's reality may require that we as parents ask whether there is a gun in the house each time we organize a play date, it's imperative that we be assured that those guns are safely stored.

As always, my thanks for your consideration and dedication to safeguarding all Floridians.

Sincerely,
Ami Steinbock

Ami Steinbock
110 Villa Nueva
Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33418

September 15, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee;

I understand that the Infrastructure and Security Committee will be focusing on ways to address gun violence and hate crimes during its September meeting. While the recent wave of mass shootings has served to focus our attention on this topic, in reality, one hundred Americans lose their lives to gun violence in their own neighborhoods daily. Obviously, this is a vitally important topic, and I thank you for spearheading this discussion.

As you move forward with the discussion, particularly as it relates to hate crimes, it is my hope that you will consider revisions to the existing Stand Your Ground Law. Under the current law, the burden of proof falls to the plaintiff and requires that the state disprove the defense which is difficult, if not impossible, for prosecutors to overcome. Additionally, the existing law is flawed and serves to exacerbate hate crimes in that it provides latitude to initiate a confrontation, then respond with deadly force. This can be corrected by placing the burden of proof for a stand your ground defense on the defendant.

Again, my thanks for spearheading the discussion and for your dedication to preserving the health, safety and welfare of us all.

Sincerely,
Henry Steinbock

Henry Steinbock
110 Villa Nueva
Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33418

September 15, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee,

I am a student in a Florida public high school. It is frustrating to me that I do not yet have a voice to vote on issues that are important to me. I am disappointed in the adults who are generations ahead of me and the laws that they accepted as being ok. I am growing up in a state where I feel unsafe. It isn't fair. As the Infrastructure and Security Committee focuses on ways to address gun violence and hate crimes during its September meeting(s), my family and I are asking you to consider these priorities:

1.) Require a background checks on every firearm purchase in the State of Florida – Over 90% of Americans support requiring background checks on all gun sales. An investigation found that in 2018 alone, there were nearly 1.2 million firearm ads on an online gun marketplace called Armslist.com for gun sales where no background check was legally required. And research shows that prohibited people seek guns in those unlicensed gun sales at a disproportionate rate.

2.) Require the timely reporting of criminal and mental health records to NICS - Hundreds of thousands of prohibiting criminal and mental health records are missing from the NICS background check system, potentially enabling prohibited people to pass a background check. This is a critical fail that is required to be fixed in order to make background check legislation effective. Legislation to make this reporting mandatory will make us safer.

3.) Require gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement - From 2007 to 2017, at least 82,000 guns were reported stolen and never found in Florida. Not knowing a gun is stolen hinders criminal investigations and law enforcement's ability to track gun-trafficking networks. Stolen gun reports also serve as a deterrent to inter-state gun-trafficking. This is a simple measure of accountability that assists law enforcement do its job.

These three (3) proposals would have a positive effect in making Florida safer and would not diminish Florida residents' rights under the 2nd Amendment. It's a win-win for all of us. Please give them strong consideration.

Thank you for helping to keep us safe.

Sincerely,

Mollie Hoffman

Mollie Hoffman
112 Casa Grande Ct.
Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33418

September 15, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee;
I am a Florida resident who is very concerned about my own safety and that of my family and friends. It is my understanding that you and your Committee have been tasked with reviewing hate crimes and gun violence and introducing legislation in the next session to address your findings.

Please consider the expansion of red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders. When a person is in crisis, their loved ones, not law enforcement, are often the first to see signs that they pose a threat. An expanded Extreme Risk law would allow family members to petition a court for an extreme risk protection order to temporarily remove guns from dangerous situations and prohibit the purchase or possession of firearms while the order is in effect. The law passed last year that allows law enforcement to petition the court has helped but it is not enough. Allowing family members who are more familiar with threats and dangers to petition the court directly would make all of us safer, whether we are Florida residents or visitors to our state.

Also, please consider crafting legislation that requires those convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence to surrender firearms temporarily under the same requirements as under ERPOs. In an average month, at least 52 American women are shot and killed by an intimate partner, and many more are injured. And often, the children are either harmed or also killed, and/or suffer the trauma of witnessing these events or losing both parents simultaneously. We must do more to prevent these tragedies.

These simple expanded protections will surely save the lives of many Floridians. I ask you to consider these as we attempt to be safer in our homes and communities throughout the state. My thanks in advance for your efforts on behalf of all Floridians.

Sincerely,
Michael Hoffman
Michael Hoffman
112 Casa Grande Ct.
Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33418

Sen. Tom Lee Chair,
Infrastructure and Security
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Senator Lee:

My name is Jacqueline Ghosh, I am the Moms Demand Action Educator Campaign Lead for the State of Florida. I am a Nurse Practitioner, a wife and a mother of three young children. I began volunteering with Moms Demand action after a fire alarm went off at our mall, and my friend and I grabbed our children and evacuated the building. We were both afraid that it was a shooter, not a fire. I then began researching an action plan of how to survive a mass shooting with small children.

I have a printout of this, it's much like an ALICE drill, run, hide, fight. I have a word I have trained my children to respond to, and if I say it they know to come to me immediately and listen to instructions. I have an escape route planned for everywhere we go. When fireworks go off at Disney World, I don't enjoy them. I look around to make sure there aren't people dropping to the ground. This is how I deal with the constant anxiety of living in a society where gun violence is so prevalent. This isn't how I want my children to live. I have joined Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America to change this culture and laws to make our country will be a better place for all children.

My oldest daughter is in first grade. During kindergarten orientation, Officer PJ, the SRO at her school, explained their ID policy to us. Everyone has to check in with the office and have their ID run before being able to come on to campus. Every time, even if the staff knows you. He said this is necessary because last week, everything may have been fine, but they don't know what happened last night. Last night, he said, you may have been in an altercation and you are no longer deemed safe to be on school grounds. So they run everyone's ID, every time. It shouldn't be harder for me to have lunch with my daughter than it is to buy a gun.

Right now, if someone purchases a gun from a licensed gun dealer, they have to have a background check. If they fail a background check, or know they are a prohibited buyer, they can simply go to a gun show, a garage sale or look on Facebook and purchase a weapon there. The seller is under no legal obligation to make sure the deadly weapon they sold is being purchased by someone who isn't a killer. Bob may have beat up his wife last night, and he wouldn't be allowed into the school to have lunch with his kid, but he can buy a gun.

Please move to pass background checks on all gun sales. We also need red flag laws that can be petitioned for by family and friends. Currently, only law enforcement can ask a judge to remove weapons from someone they deem dangerous. This is a problem in many communities because there is a fear that the individual in question will have a record if ERPOs are used against them. Red flag laws are also under utilized in black communities because of a distrust of law enforcement. If family was able to petition directly, many of these concerns would be absolved.

Red flag laws are most effective when used in conjunction with comprehensive background checks. Since the person who's weapons are removed can simply go on

Facebook and purchase another one. We need comprehensive background checks to stop dangerous people from obtaining weapons.

We also need to pass safe storage laws. Firearms are the second leading cause of death among children and teens in America. If weapons were required to be properly locked and stored, we would have far less unintentional shootings and gun thefts. Many teens who shoot others, or themselves, are too young to purchase weapons. They take the weapons they use from their parents or somewhere else they have easy access to them. If gun owners were held responsible for safe gun storage, less guns would be available for teenagers to access. This would decrease homicides and teen suicide.

I am asking for legislative change to make sure people who own guns are responsible, non-violent people. Please help me in making this dream of a safe world for Floridian children a reality. If you would like to discuss any of this further, please feel free to contact me. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jacqueline Ghosh
8165 SW 77th Avenue
Gainesville, FL 32608

CDR Connie M. Rooke, USCG(Ret)
1019 Spanish Wells Drive
Melbourne, FL 32940

Senator Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee,

I was pleased to hear that the Infrastructure and Security Committee would begin hearings on gun safety in Florida. It is a critical issue that is so very important to many, many Floridians.

Your committee is in a key position to craft and put forward valuable legislation that will save lives and keep us safe. I ask you to keep one thing in mind: **It is possible to support the Second Amendment and still recognize that there some people in our communities that should not have access to a gun.**

Who should not have access to guns? People that are at violent domestic abusers, convicted felons, and individuals who present a clear threat to their families or people in the community. Yet, those people can easily buy guns online in Florida. But our current law does not cover sales by any non-dealers ("unlicensed sellers"), enabling criminals and other prohibited people to buy guns from unlicensed sellers with no background checks and no questions asked—even from strangers they meet online.

It happens in our communities every day. The gun purchase loop holes that exist in Florida must be addressed and they must be closed. 93 percent of American voters support requiring background checks on all gun sales, including 89 percent of Republicans and 87 percent of gun owners. Comprehensive Background Checks will save lives.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

CMRooke

C. M. Rooke

September 15, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee;

I understand that the Infrastructure and Security Committee will be focusing on ways to address gun violence and hate crimes during its September meeting. While the recent wave of mass shootings has served to focus our attention on this topic, in reality, one hundred Americans lose their lives to gun violence in their own neighborhoods daily. Obviously, this is a vitally important topic, and I thank you for spearheading this discussion.

As you move forward with the discussion, particularly as it relates to hate crimes, it is my hope that you will consider revisions to the existing Stand Your Ground Law. Under the current law, the burden of proof falls to the plaintiff and requires that the state disprove the defense which is difficult, if not impossible, for prosecutors to overcome. Additionally, the existing law is flawed and serves to exacerbate hate crimes in that it provides latitude to initiate a confrontation, then respond with deadly force. This can be corrected by placing the burden of proof for a stand your ground defense on the defendant.

Again, my thanks for spearheading the discussion and for your dedication to preserving the health, safety and welfare of us all.

Sincerely,
Luis Rodriguez

Luis Rodriguez
945 Mill Creek Drive
Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410

(Date) 9-14-19

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee;

Thank you for your work and ongoing concern for the health and safety of all Floridians. As you and the Committee move forward with discussion and creation of legislation that will address hate crimes and gun violence, please consider the following.

Since retirement of the federal ban on assault weapons in 1994, we have seen a drastic increase in the number of deaths associated with mass shootings. While we cannot presume that the rise in incidents can be attributed to assault weapons, we can say with all certainty that more deaths occur per incident when assault weapons are involved. Most recently, the Dayton Ohio shooter used a high-capacity drum magazine holding 100 rounds. Although law enforcement quickly intervened to stop the shooting, within 30 seconds 9 people had been shot and killed, largely due to the magazine capacity. Thus, while a ban on assault weapons may not impact the frequency of mass shootings, it would certainly help to decrease the number of deaths.

In the area of gun safety, please improve the safety standards associated with the training that is required prior to the purchase of a firearm. From 2014 through today, across America, 1,296 children have been killed or injured by guns. Many of these incidents result from accidents associated with the failure of the owner to safely store a weapon. While today's reality may require that we as parents ask whether there is a gun in the house each time we organize a play date, it's imperative that we be assured that those guns are safely stored.

As always, my thanks for your consideration dedication to safeguarding all Floridians.

Sincerely,
Signed
Name: (typed or printed)
Address:

Colleen M. Ferren
11301 Port Street
Cooper City, FL 33026

Colleen Ferren 9-14-19

(Date) 9-14-19

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

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As always, my thanks for your consideration dedication to safeguarding all Floridians.

Sincerely,
Signed Marie A. Dougherty
Name: (typed or printed)
Address:

Marie A. Dougherty
11301 Port Street
Cooper City, FL 33026

(Date) 9-14-19

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

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As always, my thanks for your consideration dedication to safeguarding all Floridians.

Sincerely,
Signed
Name: (typed or printed)
Address:

Amanda Marie Ferren
11301 Port Street
Cooper City, FL 33026
Amanda Ferren

(Date) 9-14-19

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee;

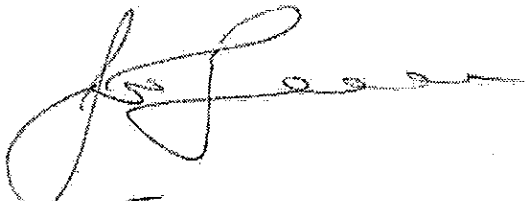
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As always, my thanks for your consideration dedication to safeguarding all Floridians.

Sincerely,
Signed
Name: (typed or printed)
Address:



Jonathan Ferren
11301 Port Street
Cooper City, FL 33026

Senator Lee,

As a former law enforcement trainer for the Florida Council Against Sexual Violence, I can attest to the destructive and unnecessary violence perpetrated on our young. I was training at the criminal justice training center in Gainesville, Florida when I received a phone call from a co-trainer, Captain Schentrup, whose niece had just been murdered at Parkland. The trauma on the family and the death of a young pre-med student convince me that assault weapons have no place in our society. I urge you to support common sense restrictions on deadly weapons. If it were your child, what would you do?

Sincerely,

James R Jolley

3605 Houston Road

Tallahassee, FL 32304

850-576-4999

September 15, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee,

I am a grandparent of two kids on college campuses in our state. I am horrified at the daily news of shootings taking place in our country and state. I do believe there are concrete steps we can take to reduce the number of lives being taken away from gun violence. As the Infrastructure and Security Committee focuses on ways to address gun violence and hate crimes during its September meeting(s), my family and I are asking you to consider these priorities:

1.) Require a background checks on every firearm purchase in the State of Florida – Over 90% of Americans support requiring background checks on all gun sales. An investigation found that in 2018 alone, there were nearly 1.2 million firearm ads on an online gun marketplace called Armslist.com for gun sales where no background check was legally required. And research shows that prohibited people seek guns in those unlicensed gun sales at a disproportionate rate.

2.) Require the timely reporting of criminal and mental health records to NICS - Hundreds of thousands of prohibiting criminal and mental health records are missing from the NICS background check system, potentially enabling prohibited people to pass a background check. This is a critical fail that is required to be fixed in order to make background check legislation effective. Legislation to make this reporting mandatory will make us safer.

3.) Require gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement - From 2007 to 2017, at least 82,000 guns were reported stolen and never found in Florida. Not knowing a gun is stolen hinders criminal investigations and law enforcement's ability to track gun-trafficking networks. Stolen gun reports also serve as a deterrent to inter-state gun-trafficking. This is a simple measure of accountability that assists law enforcement do its job.

These three (3) proposals would have a positive effect in making Florida safer and would not diminish Florida residents' rights under the 2nd Amendment. It's a win-win for all of us. Please give them strong consideration.

Thank you for helping to keep us safe.

Sincerely,

David Putnam

David Putnam
110 Casa Grande Ct.
Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33418

September 15, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee,

I am only in middle school. But I want you to know that I am afraid sometimes to go to the movies or to the mall because of people with guns. I hope you can make some changes to make our community safer. I copied and pasted the rest of this letter because I could never write all of this on my own. Please do something! As the Infrastructure and Security Committee focuses on ways to address gun violence and hate crimes during its September meeting(s), my family and I are asking you to consider these priorities:

1.) Require a background checks on every firearm purchase in the State of Florida – Over 90% of Americans support requiring background checks on all gun sales. An investigation found that in 2018 alone, there were nearly 1.2 million firearm ads on an online gun marketplace called Armslist.com for gun sales where no background check was legally required. And research shows that prohibited people seek guns in those unlicensed gun sales at a disproportionate rate.

2.) Require the timely reporting of criminal and mental health records to NICS - Hundreds of thousands of prohibiting criminal and mental health records are missing from the NICS background check system, potentially enabling prohibited people to pass a background check. This is a critical fail that is required to be fixed in order to make background check legislation effective. Legislation to make this reporting mandatory will make us safer.

3.) Require gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement - From 2007 to 2017, at least 82,000 guns were reported stolen and never found in Florida. Not knowing a gun is stolen hinders criminal investigations and law enforcement's ability to track gun-trafficking networks. Stolen gun reports also serve as a deterrent to inter-state gun-trafficking. This is a simple measure of accountability that assists law enforcement do its job.

These three (3) proposals would have a positive effect in making Florida safer and would not diminish Florida residents' rights under the 2nd Amendment. It's a win-win for all of us. Please give them strong consideration.

Thank you for helping to keep us safe.

Sincerely,

Jonah Hoffman

Jonah Hoffman
112 Casa Grande Ct.
Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33418

Mail body: Please Print

Peter W. Broderson
608 Fulton Rd.
Tallahassee Fl. 32312
850-877-5737

Re: 07/09/19 Lease Termination Regarding 13 , Dura Circle, Tallahassee Fl 32304 Tenant:

Notice of Termination of "Month to Month" Lease **not** to be
Renewed for , 2019

This letter is to notify you pursuant to your lease that your month-to-month lease shall not be renewed, and you must vacate the property by the end of 2019.
A "month to month" lease can be terminated by either the landlord or the tenant with a 15 day notice. Your lease additionally provides that the lease can be voided by either party with a two week notice. This letter is the notice of termination of your lease under your lease and under all applicable law.

Landlord:

date
Peter W. Broderson

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee;

Thank you for your work and ongoing concern for the health and safety of all Floridians. As you and the Committee move forward with discussion and creation of legislation that will address hate crimes and gun violence, please consider the following.

Since retirement of the federal ban on assault weapons in 1994, we have seen a drastic increase in the number of deaths associated with mass shootings. While we cannot presume that the rise in incidents can be attributed to assault weapons, we can say with all certainty that more deaths occur per incident when assault weapons are involved. Most recently, the Dayton, Ohio, shooter used a high-capacity drum magazine holding 100 rounds. Although law enforcement quickly intervened to stop the shooting, within 30 seconds 9 people had been shot and killed, largely due to the magazine's capacity. Thus, while a ban on assault weapons may not impact the frequency of mass shootings, it would certainly help to decrease the number of deaths.

In the area of gun safety, please improve the safety standards associated with the training that is required prior to the purchase of a firearm. From 2014 through today, across America, 1,296 children have been killed or injured by guns. Many of these incidents result from accidents associated with the failure of the owner to safely store a weapon.

As always, my thanks for your consideration and dedication to safeguarding all Floridians.

Sincerely,

Susan Nelson
3534 NW 40th St
Gainesville FL 32606

September 15, 2019
1101 Cherokee Drive
Tallahassee, FL 32301

Sen. Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee:

It is time to align Florida with the 93 percent of American voters supporting background checks and licensing on all gun sales. Law enforcement should be notified when a background check fails. I implore you to make comprehensive background checks and notification of failure to pass the check a priority in your workshop meetings on gun violence legislation.

> A search this morning on Armslist Firearms Marketplace, returned 5208 firearms for sale by private sellers in Florida. Research shows that people who cannot pass background checks seek will seek out sellers, as did the shooter in Odessa, TX, where there will be no background check.
>
> We require hunting licenses for hunting, fishing, driving, boating, and hundreds of other activities. Without comprehensive or mandatory background checks Florida leaves the perfect loophole for ownership and operation of the most deadly weapons, including those designed for war theaters.

There is much to consider and do about the massive and lightly regulated number of guns in Florida. I do no envy you this task and need to spend at least a part of each day weighing the wishes of a relatively small vocal, emphatic and well-financed pro-gun community against the wishes of the majority of Floridians. For too long influence, money and illogical, emotional arguments have held sway and we have reached a point where a fear of shooting has become a reasonable concern in most places peaceful citizens gather.

Floridians deserve to be free of this reasonable fear. Your committee has much to consider and multiple ways to address this problem. Comprehensive background checks would be a good first step, to be followed by other steps such as banning assault weapons with a buy-back program, banning magazines with capacity in excess of 10 rounds, closing the boyfriend loophole, storage requirements, and more.

Evidence shows that gun control legislation actually works and reduces gun related deaths[1]. While this is hardly surprising, it is frequently ignored. Please lead your committee to reasonable and sensible gun reforms for all Floridians.

Sincerely,

Susan Campbell

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[1] https://www.vox.com/2016/2/29/11120184/gun-control-study-international-evidence

September 16, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee, Chair
Florida Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee
418 Senate Building
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Senator Lee:

Thank you for leading the effort this session to deliberate on legislation to prevent gun violence in Florida. I left Florida to attend graduate school and returned after 10 years, three years ago, with a family that includes three young children. In the time that I have been back, I grew alarmed by the frequency of mass shootings in our state, and concerned by the many loopholes to purchase guns by people who clearly should not have them. These issues make me reconsider our decision to relocate our family to Florida! I write to express my support for several approaches to greatly reduce gun violence in our state.

First and foremost: Background Checks. Unlike the 15 states that require background checks and where a marked reduction in gun violence is proven, Florida law does not require background checks on unlicensed gun sales. This makes it too feasible for criminals, people with dangerous histories, and those who should not possess guns to purchase them privately, online, or at gun show sales. Background check laws – by point-of-sale check and/or permit – are associated with lower rates of firearm homicide, suicide and firearm trafficking.

Second: Assault Weapons. The AR-15, in particular, seems to be the weapon of choice for perpetrators of mass shootings. I understand the argument that guns do not kill, people kill, or that if it were not the AR-15 used, then another gun or weapon would be used. However, very few other weapons have the ability to take as many lives and as little time as the AR-15. This is a weapon designed for the battlefield and has no place in the streets, schools, and suburbs of our daily civilian lives. Please support a ban on the ownership of assault weapons by civilians in our state.

Third: Expansion of Red Flag Laws. I urge your committee to expand red flag laws to permit family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders. Family members are often the first to see that someone they care about is in crisis, and together with law enforcement, could petition a court to temporarily remove guns from a dangerous situation. Additionally, such a protection order prevents a person in crisis from purchasing or owning a firearm while the order is in effect.

Finally, with two school aged children in Florida public schools I must share my growing unease about our state's plan to ensure school safety. My eldest child began elementary school a few months after the shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. My second child started Kindergarten this year, months after our state legislature voted to allow school districts to arm

teachers. Just as I would not allow my children to be in a home in which a gun is present and not secured, I am equally terrified of entrusting both the responsibility of a gun and students to a classroom teacher. Please, let us find another way to ensure our children's safety while in school.

Again, thank you for leading discussions on gun violence. I hope that your committee will consider and support the thousands of Floridians who already support the actions I outlined above.

Respectfully,
Chrystal Rambarath
Lake Worth, Florida

September 15, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee

418 Senate Building

404 South Monroe Street

Tallahassee FL 33511

Dear Senator Lee,

This is your moment. You have the opportunity to stand on the right side of history regarding gun violence prevention legislation.

At this juncture in the gun violence debate, the very LEAST that can be done with a strong majority support from all Americans is Comprehensive Background Checks and fixing Red Flag Laws to include family members. .

I believe the majority of us also support banning assault weapons with high capacity magazines which are meant to ravage and destroy a human body. As a Floridian, we are still mourning the horrors of Parkland and Pulse. Arming teachers is not the solution. Active shooter drills that psychologically harm our children are not the solution. The Stand Your Ground Law is unnecessary. Common sense gun safety legislation is a baby step in the right direction and should, by now, after all of the carnage, be easy to enact. We are counting on you to do the right thing.

Sincerely,

Peggy Klimek

6402 Spyglass Lane

Bradenton, FL 34202

September 15, 2019

Tom Lee

Chair, Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee

Florida Senate

Dear Mr. Lee:

My name is George Kelly Tipps, and I am a resident of Temple Terrace, Florida where I am a registered voter. I am deeply disturbed by the massacre with assault weapons of so many people both in our state and elsewhere in the country. The distortion of second amendment rights employed to allow the sort of military weapons which indirectly leads to these domestic massacres is a disgrace to all of us.

The following suggestions, if adopted, could help enormously to put an end to this:

1. Universal background checks which allow no exceptions.
2. A total ban of military assault weapons and the high-capacity ammunition employed with them
3. Repeal of stand your ground
4. An absolute ban of teachers carrying weapons in schools
5. Universal application of Red Flag laws
6. Rejection of campus carry

My sincere thanks for your attention to these issues, and to the need for sensible gun control in the United States.

Regards,

George Kelly Tipps

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee,

As the Infrastructure and Security Committee focuses on ways to address gun violence and hate crimes during its September meeting(s), my family and I are asking you to consider these priorities:

1.) **Require a background checks on every firearm purchase in the State of Florida –** Over 90% of Americans support requiring background checks on all gun sales. An investigation found that in 2018 alone, there were nearly 1.2 million firearm ads on an online gun marketplace called Armslist.com for gun sales where no background check was legally required. And research shows that prohibited people seek guns in those unlicensed gun sales at a disproportionate rate.

2.) **Require the timely reporting of criminal and mental health records to NICS** - Hundreds of thousands of prohibiting criminal and mental health records are missing from the NICS background check system, potentially enabling prohibited people to pass a background check. This is a critical fail that must be fixed in order to make background-check legislation effective. Legislation to make this reporting mandatory will make us safer.

3.) **Require gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement** - From 2007 to 2017, at least 82,000 guns were reported stolen and never found in Florida. Not knowing a gun is stolen hinders criminal investigations and law enforcement's ability to track gun-trafficking networks. Stolen gun reports also serve as a deterrent to interstate gun-trafficking. This is a simple measure of accountability that assists law enforcement in doing its job.

These three proposals would make Florida safer and would not diminish Florida residents' rights under the 2nd Amendment. It's a win–win for all of us. Please give them strong consideration.

Thank you for helping to keep us safe.

Sincerely,

Mark Nelson
3534 NW 40th St
Gainesville FL 32606

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee;

I am a Florida resident who is very concerned about my own safety and that of my family and friends. It is my understanding that you and your committee have been tasked with reviewing hate crimes and gun violence and introducing legislation in the next session to address your findings.

Please consider the expansion of red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders. When a person is in crisis, their loved ones, not law enforcement, are often the first to see signs that they pose a threat. An expanded Extreme Risk law would allow family members to petition a court for an extreme risk protection order to temporarily remove guns from dangerous situations and prohibit the purchase or possession of firearms while the order is in effect. The law passed last year that allows law enforcement to petition the court has helped, but it is not enough. Allowing family members who are more familiar with threats and dangers to petition the court directly would make all of us safer, whether we are Florida residents or visitors to our state.

Also, please consider crafting legislation that requires those convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence to surrender firearms temporarily under the same requirements as under ERPOs. In an average month, at least 52 American women are shot and killed by an intimate partner, and many more are injured. And often, the children are either harmed or also killed, and/or suffer the trauma of witnessing these events or losing both parents simultaneously. We must do more to prevent these tragedies.

These simple expanded protections will surely save the lives of many Floridians. I ask you to consider these as we attempt to be safer in our homes and communities throughout the state.

My thanks in advance for your efforts on behalf of all Floridians.

Sincerely,

Rachel Nelson
535 Gentian Road
St Augustine FL 32086

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair
Florida Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee
418 Senate Building
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

Dear Senator Lee:

I am writing you as a Lakeland, Florida resident since 2012, when I came down to be a caregiver for my father. He was a WW II veteran who served for almost four years in the Pacific Theatre on a light cruiser, the USS Pasadena.

Senseless acts of gun violence have become the new normal here in America. Every day at least 100 people are killed by guns in domestic violence cases, suicides, mass murders, gang-related murders and the like.

The equation for such a drastic situation in America is not hard to understand:

Easy Access to Guns + Weak Gun Laws = CARNAGE

As a lawmaker, the burden rests upon your shoulders to act. I suggest the following:

- Expand background checks to cover all sales or transfer of firearms.
- Expand extreme risk protection orders to include family members and co-workers.
- Ban assault weapons and high capacity magazines
- Prohibit the carrying of firearms, concealed or otherwise in schools, shopping centers, universities, churches, mosques and synagogues.
- Make ownership of a firearm like ownership of a vehicle, demanding licensing and registration of all guns.

Regards,
Leander Aulisio

September 14, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair
Florida Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee
418 Senate Building
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Senator Lee,

The NRA is a terrorist organization. Period. They promote fear for the personal financial benefit of its leadership and the profiteering of gun manufacturers. Its members number only about 5 million and yet somehow, a smaller, radical segment of this group has managed to sow fear and confusion among the population of 325 million US citizens, and to corrupt our political system, ultimately subverting the will of the American people.

Various surveys have shown results consistent with the following, including one recently reported by Fox News.

* 92% of Americans support background checks.
* 87% support preventing convicted felons or those with mental health issues from owning guns
* 85% in favor of preventing those on terrorist watch lists from owning guns

Senator, I have traveled extensively around the world and have lived for two years as an expat in Japan. No other country in the world has the gun problems we have in the US because, no other country in the world has allowed millions of mass murder weapons to be bought and sold with so little oversight.

* Background checks should apply to 100% of gun sales
* Firearms dealers must report background check failures to law enforcement
* Expand red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders
* Require those convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence to surrender firearms

Please, continue the good work that has come from the tragedy of Parkland. Help us make America gun safe.

Sincerely,

Terry Heagy
61 Riverview Ln
Cocoa Beach, FL 32931
Former NRA member

Moms Demand Action, Brevard County

Rosemary Walker
3329 Cerro Avenue
New Smyrna Beach, FL 32168

September 6, 2019

Sen. Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

As a mother and grandmother, the safety of our community is a top issue for me. As your committee looks to establish legislative priorities to prevent further gun violence, I urge you to consider a wide range of potential beneficial efforts. These include:

- Background checks on all gun sales
  This is just common sense and is widely supported by the vast majority of your constituents!

- A ban on assault weapons and high capacity magazines
  Again, this is widely supported. There is no reason why the common person would need a weapon of war! These are only good for hunting people!

- Expansion of red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders
  Once again, common sense. We ask people to speak up when they see danger – please give them an effective tool to do so!

- Prohibit classroom teachers from serving as school guardians
  Coming from a family of educators, this issue is of utmost importance. We ask too much of our teachers today. They are underpaid and overworked as is evidence by the ranks of them fleeing the classroom. We are in an education crisis that will be exacerbated by allowing firearms in the classroom – not to mention the potential tragedy that could result from an unprotected firearm falling in the hands of a child!

- Reform the concealed carry license process to give the Department of Agriculture greater discretion to deny licenses to those individuals who present a public safety threat

- Prohibit those convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence to surrender firearms

- Require firearms dealers to notify law enforcement when a customer fails a background check

- Prohibit concealed carry licensees from carrying firearms in additional sensitive places, such as daycares, public playgrounds, and at public demonstrations
- Require safe storage of guns in vehicles and Require gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement
- Require safety training prior to purchasing a firearm
- Require the timely reporting of criminal and mental health records to NICS
- Repeal preemption
- Return the burden of proof for stand your ground defense to the defendant
- Prohibit the printing of 3D guns

I fear that there will be a mass shooting memorial in every city within Florida if we do not take a stand and use our common sense! There is no greater responsibility of an elected official than to protect the safety and health of the citizens. As your committee considers these serious issues, I pray that real solutions are addressed.

Sincerely,

Rosemary Walker

Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee:

I am writing to you from Miami-Dade County in the hopes of letting you know what issues I would like the Florida legislature to focus on next year in terms of gun violence prevention. My priorities are as follows:

1. Background checks on all gun sales

93 percent of American voters support requiring background checks on all gun sales, including 89 percent of Republicans and 87 percent of gun owners. Florida has not closed the unlicensed sale loophole which means that felons, domestic abusers and other prohibited people cans skip a background check and get armed simply by seeking an unlicensed seller online or even at a gun show. It is like if you went to TSA to board a plane and just asked to skip the line and you were ALLOWED! It just makes no sense. An investigation found that in 2018 alone, there were nearly 1.2 million gun ads on an online gun marketplace called Armslist.com for gun sales. No background check was legally required. Research shows that prohibited people seek guns in those unlicensed gun sales at a disproportionate rate.

2. Expansion of red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders

When a person is in crisis, loved ones are usually the first to see signs that they pose a threat.

3. Require firearms dealers to notify law enforcement when a customer fails a background check

Failed attempts to purchase guns can foreshadow future criminal activity. People who fail background checks are 28 percent more likely to be arrested in the five years following the denial than in the five years before it. Law enforcement should know and WANTS to know when prohibited individuals are attempting to purchase guns.

4. Reform the concealed carry license process to give the Department of Agriculture greater discretion to deny licenses to those individuals who present a public safety threat

The legislature practically apologizes to gun owners for requiring a license to concealed carry: "The Legislature does not delegate to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services the authority to regulate or restrict the issuing of licenses provided for in this section, beyond those provisions contained in this section. Subjective or arbitrary actions or rules which encumber the issuing process by placing burdens on the applicant beyond those sworn statements and specified documents detailed in this section or which create restrictions beyond those specified in this section are in conflict with the intent of this section and are prohibited. This section shall be liberally construed to carry out the constitutional right to bear arms for self-defense. This section is supplemental and additional to existing rights to bear arms, and nothing in this section shall impair or diminish such rights." Fla. Stat. 790.06(15).

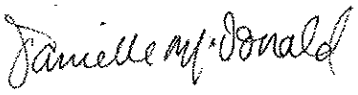
5. Require gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement

From 2007 to 2017, at least 82,000 guns were reported stolen and never found in Florida. Requiring safe storage in vehicles would go a long way to reducing these numbers.

On behalf of my family, I urge you as a leader and steward of Florida, to take action on this issue of gun reform. We cannot risk another young life because of our inaction. thank you for taking the time to read this letter.

Sincerely,

Name: M. Danielle McDonald
Address: 3211 SW 19th Terrace, Miami, Fl, 33145
Phone Number: 305-505-6891



Sen. Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Senator Lee,

I am a resident of Tampa, Florida and a mother to my 8 year old son. I am writing to you in regards to passing common sense gun legislation that we so desperately need.

We need you to pass legislation requiring background checks on ALL gun sales. This includes private gun sales where people who would be unable to pass a background check are still able to purchase a weapon. We also need you to require firearms dealers to notify law enforcement when a customer fails a background check.

We need you to pass legislation banning assault weapons and high capacity magazines. This type of weapon is designed to kill in mass numbers. It has no business being on our streets.

We need you to pass legislation expanding our Red Flag Laws to allow family members to petition for extreme risk protection orders. If someone is a danger to themselves or others we need to take away access to firearms.

We need you to repeal the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Safety Act. Guns have no place in the classroom near our children. Thankfully my son's school has opted out of this but we have already seen evidence that students have been able to gain access to guns in the classroom. Children are curious and it on us, the adults, to keep them safe!

These are common sense measures that YOU can take to help keep our communities safer. I should not have to worry every time I drop my son off at school that he will make it home to me safely. I am pleading with you, please, you have an opportunity to make real and lasting impacts on the health of our communities. These legislative acts WILL keep our children and families safer.

Sincerely,

Emily Burch-Aiosa
Tampa, FL

Juliet Lewis
924 Michele Circle
Dunedin, FL 34698

September 7, 2019

Senator Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 S. Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee:

I am a member of Everytown for Gun Safety/Moms Demand Action. I believe that the upcoming public meeting to address hate crime and gun violence is of paramount importance, especially in Florida. Our state has witnessed too many gun related incidences. I would appreciate the following issues to be addressed by your committee:

- Background checks on all gun sales
- Ban on assault weapons and high capacity magazines
- Expansion of red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Rick Protection Orders
- Reinstate the language in 30.15 that prohibited classroom teachers from serving as school guardians
- Reform the concealed carry license process to give the Dept. of Agriculture greater discretion to deny licenses to those individuals who present a public safety threat
- Prohibit those convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence to possess firearms
- Require firearms dealers to notify law enforcement when a customer fails a background check
- Prohibit concealed carry licensees from carrying firearms in additional sensitive places, such as daycares, public playgrounds, and at public demonstrations
- Require safe storage in vehicles and require gun owners to report lost of stolen firearms to law enforcement
- Require safety training prior to purchasing a firearm
- Require timely reporting of criminal and mental records to NICS
- Repeal preemption
- Return the burden of proof for stand your ground defense to the defendant
- Prohibit the printing of 3D guns

Thank you for your consideration of these matters.

Sincerely,

Juliet Lewis
Dunedin, Florida

September 6, 2019

Sen. Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee,

I look forward to seeing progress and meaningful action to reduce gun violence in our state after the Senate Infrastructure Committee meeting on September 16th. I hope that you will take a strong stance and be a leader in our state to reduce the epidemic in our country.

Our federal background check law is severely outdated. It was written 25 years ago, well before a massive unregulated online marketplace was established. On one website alone in 2018 (Armslist.com), there were 93,497 posts for firearms where no background check was required in our state. In Duval County, there were 9,218 posts on Armslist.com (just one website). Last month, my city of Jacksonville surpassed its highest homicide by gun death rate ever and we still have four months to go. Requiring background checks on ALL gun sales in our state needs to be a top priority this session, as it is supported by more than 90% of voters in our country.

I am grateful that a state Red Flag law was established as a part of the Margorie Stoneman Douglas Act. It is being used daily to protect people in our state and I would like to see the ERPO appeal process be extended to family members. Loved ones and family members are more than often the first ones to see that someone poses a threat to themselves or others, and they should be allowed to file an ERPO along with law enforcement.

As a parent of two elementary school children and the daughter of a retired public school teacher, I 100% oppose teachers serving as guardians, and I adamantly oppose arming school staff members. Teachers are hired as educators and staff members are hired to foster the education experience of our youth...not to serve as armed service personnel. I hope that the guardian program will be severely reconsidered.

Above are just a few reasonable requests of you to take action. One-hundred Americans are shot and killed every day, and we must take common sense steps to address gun violence in our country. Now is the time to get on the right side of history and join our momentum to reduce the gun violence epidemic in our country as much as possible. You have the power to address the health crisis which is impacting us all.

Sincerely,

Katie Hathaway
225 Myra Street
Neptune Beach, FL 32266

Melanie Hagen, MD
5508 SW 97th Terrace
Gainesville, FL 32608
September 8, 2019

Sen. Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee,

I am a mother and a general internist living in Gainesville, Florida. I am writing to you because I believe it is time for the state of Florida legislature to act to prevent further deaths from the gun violence epidemic. Today 100 people die in this country every day from gun violence. Although the situation is grim we have evidence that laws can work to prevent deaths from gun violence. I urge you to enact the following measures.

1. Require background checks on all gun sales

93 percent of American voters support requiring background checks on all gun sales, including 89 percent of Republicans and 87 percent of gun owners. An investigation found that in 2018 alone, there were nearly 1.2 million gun ads on an online gun marketplace called Armslist.com for gun sales where no background check was legally required. And research shows that prohibited people seek guns in those unlicensed gun sales at a disproportionate rate.

2. Ban on assault weapons and high capacity magazines

The August 2019 Dayton, Ohio shooter used a rifle equipped with a high-capacity drum magazine capable of holding 100 rounds. Though law enforcement stopped the shooting in about 30 seconds, the shooter was able to fire dozens of shots—and kill 9 people—largely because of the magazine capacity. Over the past decade, the four deadliest mass shootings in America involved the use of high-capacity magazines. In fact, 58 percent of mass shootings between 2009 and 2017 were committed with firearms equipped with high-capacity magazines.5

3. Expand red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders

When a person is in crisis, loved ones and law enforcement are often the first to see signs that they pose a threat. An Extreme Risk law allows them to petition a court for an extreme risk protection order to temporarily remove guns from dangerous situations and prohibit the purchase or possession of firearms while the order is in effect.

4. Reinstate the language in §30.15 that prohibited classroom teachers from serving as school guardians

A March 2018 survey of almost 500 U.S. teachers found that 73 percent oppose proposals to arm school staff. Another survey found that 63 percent of parents of elementary, middle, and high school students oppose arming teachers.

5. Reform the concealed carry license process to give the Department of Agriculture greater discretion to deny licenses to those individuals who present a public safety threat

The legislature practically apologizes to gun owners for requiring a license to concealed carry: "The Legislature does not delegate to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services the authority to regulate or restrict the issuing of licenses provided for in this section, beyond those provisions contained in this section. Subjective or arbitrary actions or rules which encumber the issuing process by placing burdens on the applicant beyond those sworn statements and specified documents detailed in this section or which create restrictions beyond those specified in this section are in conflict with the intent of this section and are prohibited. This section shall be liberally construed to carry out the constitutional right to bear arms for self-defense. This section is supplemental and additional to existing rights to bear arms, and nothing in this section shall impair or diminish such rights." Fla. Stat. 790.06(15).

6. Require those convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence to surrender firearms

In an average month, at least 52 American women are shot and killed by an intimate partner, and many more are injured.

7. Require firearms dealers to notify law enforcement when a customer fails a background check

Failed attempts to purchase guns can foreshadow future criminal activity. People who fail background checks are 28 percent more likely to be arrested in the five years following the denial than in the five years before it. Law enforcement should know when prohibited individuals are attempting to purchase guns.

8. Prohibit concealed carry licensees from carrying firearms in additional sensitive places, such as daycares, public playgrounds, and at public demonstrations

Florida's list of "sensitive" places is fairly small, and despite the NRA talking point, data from 2009-2016 shows that only 10 percent of the 156 mass shootings during that period happened in a "gun free zone."

9. Require safe storage of guns in vehicles and Require gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement

From 2007 to 2017, at least 82,000 guns were reported stolen and never found in Florida.

10. Require safety training prior to purchasing a firearm

Just like motor vehicle drivers Gun buyers should be educated on firearm safety, including safe storage. Every year almost 350 children shoot themselves or someone else unintentionally. Most of these shootings take place inside a home where a gun was not properly secured.

11. Require the timely reporting of criminal and mental health records to NICS

Hundreds of thousands of prohibiting mental health records are missing from the NICS background check system, potentially enabling prohibited people to pass a background check.

12. Repeal preemption

Efforts by municipalities to regulate where guns can be carried and fired have been struck down on the basis of Florida's preemption statute.

13. Return the burden of proof for stand your ground defense to the defendant

Florida's Stand Your Ground defense, which requires the state to disprove the defense before trial, is very difficult for prosecutors to overcome.

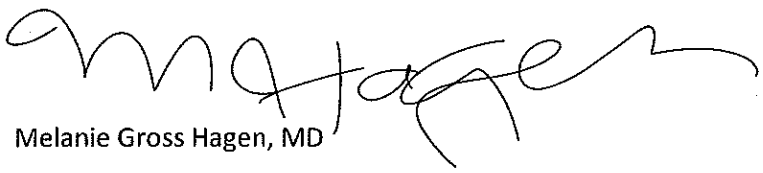
14. Prohibit the printing of 3D guns

3d Printed guns provide another way for individuals prohibited by law from purchasing a gun to obtain one without a background check.

The time has come for legislators to stand up and protect Floridians from injuries and from gun deaths due to suicide, homicide, intimate partner violence and unintentional death as well as horrific mass shootings.

The people of Florida are looking to you take the lead on this critical issue. There is so much to be done to make the people of Florida safe from gun violence.

Sincerely yours,



Melanie Gross Hagen, MD

Senator Tom Lee, Chairperson
Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

September 10, 2019

Re: Gun Violence in Florida

Dear Senator Lee:

I am a Mom, a Magistrate, an attorney, a Florida resident.

* Please BAN assault weapons & high capacity magazines.
* Please require background checks on all gun sales.
* Please keep guns out of our schools, ~~[illegible]~~ unless by a federal agent ~~[illegible]~~ or high level officer.
* Require firearms dealer to notify law enforcement if fail background check.
* Expand red flag laws to allow family to apply for extreme risk.

We, together, have the power to change, to save lives, to protect lives. We can make our world safe again. You have that power. You have the power to save lives and

thank you.

Sincerely,

9-10-19

Senator Tom Lee, Chairperson
Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

September 10, 2019

Re: Gun Violence in Florida

Dear Senator Lee:

I am a parent, a Member of Moms Demand Action, and I Vote!
Why is it easier to purchase a gun than get medication?
All gun sales should require a background check.
Ban all assault weapons and high capacity magazines.
Expand Red Flag laws
As a retired Guidance Counselor, I find it horrifying that teachers have guns.
If someone does not pass a background check - turn in their name to law enforcement.
You work for us -

Sincerely,

Gayle Edelman-Telchin 11571 Island Lakes Lane Boca Raton, FL 33498

Name Address City, State, Zip

Sen. Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Senator Lee,

I am writing you as a Florida resident, a mother of four, and a wife of a Florida teacher. Thank you for your consideration and thoughtful work to enact legislation to prevent gun violence in Florida. Gun violence has become an epidemic in the U.S. with ~100 Americans dying every day by gun. I'm asking for your careful consideration as it is up to all of us to work to protect our fellow citizens, our families, our children.

Here are some common sense ideas I hope you will review and consider:

- **Background checks on all gun sales**
  - 93% of America voters support requiring background checks on all gun sales, including:
    - 89% of Republicans
    - 87% of gun owners
- **Ban on assault weapons and high capacity magazines**
  - The August 2019 Dayton, Ohio shooter used a rifle equipped with a high-capacity drum magazine capable of holding 100 rounds. Though law enforcement stopped the shooting in about 30 seconds, with this type of weapon the shooter was still able to kill 9 people
  - 58% of mass shootings from 2009 - 2017 were committed with firearms equipped with high-capacity magazines, including the 4 deadliest mass shootings in America.
- **Expansion of red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders**
  - When someone is in crisis, loved ones and law enforcement are often the first to see the signs of a threat, with little ability to intervene. An Extreme Risk las allows them to petition a court for an extreme risk protection order to temporarily remove guns from dangerous situations.
- **Repeal Arming Teachers**
  - Since passing this bill the majority of schools, teachers, parents, and school boards have opted out of the program. More guns do not stop guns, and they know arming teachers makes school personnel and our children less safe
  - Arming teachers:
    - Reduces the reaction time of actual law enforcement
    - Could lead to unintentional shootings, which we have seen in other areas of the country
  - There is no evidence that arming teachers discourages shootings or decreases gun violence in any form.
- **Repeal Stand Your Ground**
  - Since this law has been enacted, homicide rates have dramatically increased in Florida
- **Prohibit the printing of 3D guns**
  - This is another way for someone to acquire a gun without a background check

Thank you for your consideration,

Jennifer Threlfall

12620 Hammock Pointe Circle
Clermont, FL 34711

Sen. Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100
September 14, 2019

Dear Senator Tom Lee,

From what I hear you are in favor of gun control; so, I am writing this letter to support your efforts and get the following accomplished:

- Anyone purchasing a gun must first have a Permit
- In order to obtain a permit a background check must occur
- All assault weapons must be banned
- Assault weapons on the streets must be removed anyway possible
- Stop the sale of guns in in Flea Markets

Sincerely,

Joseph Cummings
16611 Rockwell Heights Lane
Clermont, Florida 34711

The Honorable Tom Lee

Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee

The Florida Senate 418 Senate Building

404 South Monroe Street

Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee;

Thank you for your work and ongoing concern for the health and safety of all Floridians. As you and the Committee move forward with discussion and creation of legislation that will address hate crimes and gun violence, please consider the following.

Since retirement of the federal ban on assault weapons in 1994, we have seen a drastic increase in the number of deaths associated with mass shootings. While we cannot presume that the rise in incidents can be attributed to assault weapons, we can say with all certainty that more deaths occur per incident when assault weapons are involved. Most recently, the Dayton Ohio shooter used a high-capacity drum magazine holding 100 rounds. Although law enforcement quickly intervened to stop the shooting, within 30 seconds 9 people had been shot and killed, largely due to the magazine capacity. Thus, while a ban on assault weapons may not impact the frequency of mass shootings, it would certainly help to decrease the number of deaths.

In the area of gun safety, please improve the safety standards associated with the training that is required prior to the purchase of a firearm. From 2014 through today, across America, 1,296 children have been killed or injured by guns. Many of these incidents result from accidents associated with the failure of the owner to safely store a weapon. While today's reality may require that we as parents ask whether there is a gun in the house each time we organize a play date, it's imperative that we be assured that those guns are safely stored.

As always, my thanks for your consideration dedication to safeguarding all Floridians.

Sincerely,

Signed 

Name: Cindy Lerner, Former Mayor, Pinecrest FL and Former State Representative

5901 Moss Ranch Rd Pinecrest, FL 33156

September 11, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee

Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee

The Florida Senate

418 Senate Building

404 South Monroe Street

Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee;

I am a Florida resident who is very concerned about my own safety and that of my family and friends. It is my understanding that you and your Committee have been tasked with reviewing hate crimes and gun violence and introducing legislation in the next session to address your findings.

Please consider the expansion of red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders. When a person is in crisis, their loved ones, not law enforcement, are often the first to see signs that they pose a threat. An expanded Extreme Risk law would allow family members to petition a court for an extreme risk protection order to temporarily remove guns from dangerous situations and prohibit the purchase or possession of firearms while the order is in effect. The law passed last year that allows law enforcement to petition the court has helped but it is not enough. Allowing family members who are more familiar with threats and dangers to petition the court directly would make all of us safer, whether we are Florida residents or visitors to our state.

Also, please consider crafting legislation that requires those convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence to surrender firearms temporarily under the same requirements as under ERPOs. In an average month, at least 52 American women are shot and killed by an intimate partner, and many more are injured. And often, the children are either harmed or also killed, and/or suffer the trauma of witnessing these events or losing both parents simultaneously. We must do more to prevent these tragedies.

These simple expanded protections will surely save the lives of many Floridians. I ask you to consider these as we attempt to be safer in our homes and communities throughout the state.

My thanks in advance for your efforts on behalf of all Floridians.

Sincerely,

Signed: Cindy Lerner

Name: Cindy Lerner, Former Mayor, Pinecrest, FL and Former State Representative

Full Address:5901 Moss Ranch Road Pinecrest, FL 33156

Sen. Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

September 14, 2019

Dear Sen. Lee:

In June 2016, my friend went to his local police department to report threats to his sister Tara by her ex-boyfriend. He told the officers that this man owned guns and had been making threats to shoot his sister and other family members. The police responded their hands were tied despite the many threats my friend reported. Less than 3 months later, this man hunted down and murdered Tara as she sat in a parked car in a driveway. He also shot and killed her boyfriend, a father of a 2 year old. The murderer later died of a self inflicted gunshot wound. Tara -- a 25 year-old dance and elementary school teacher -- died because her family did not have the power to petition to remove weapons from a dangerous killer, even when his actions were telegraphed for months.

Tara is just one of 52 American women shot and killed every month by current or former partners. Family members are usually the first and often the only people to know when their loved ones are in a dangerous situation. We need to update our Red Flag laws to allow for family members to petition a court for an extreme risk protection order to temporarily remove guns from dangerous situations and prohibit the purchase of possession of firearms while the order is in effect.

Equally as important, the Florida legislature should require those convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence to surrender firearms. We also need to reform the concealed carry license process to give the Department of Agriculture greater discretion to deny licenses to those individuals who present a public safety threat. Proven violent and dangerous behavior (towards self and others) should absolutely be a disqualifier for owning firearms.

In order to enforce these measures, we must ensure that there are background checks on ALL gun sales. Private gun sellers reported that 67% of their sales probably would not pass a background check, and millions of guns are sold per year through private sales or other loopholes. 90% of Americans agree on this point, so it is time for our lawmakers to act.

Thank you for the Committee's work to keep Floridians safe and protected from the preventable tragedies that gun violence causes in our families and communities.

Sincerely,
Katie Rose Cianfaglione
Sarasota, FL 34232

September 13, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Florida Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee
418 Senate Building
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Senator Lee:

I am writing to you today to express my support for passing a state law to require criminal background checks on ALL gun sales. Florida state law currently does not require background checks on unlicensed gun sales, leaving a massive loophole in place that makes it far too easy for criminals, people prohibited from having guns because of mental illness, and others with dangerous histories to get their hands on guns through private, online or gun show sales. As a Registered Mental Health Counselor Intern, I provide trauma-focused counseling for survivors of domestic violence. I've worked with countless women who are scared to death that their former partners will come after them and kill them. Knowing that these loopholes exist frightens them, making it difficult to assure them that they're safe from their former partners. And, these loopholes frighten me as the parent to two small children. I shouldn't have to live in fear that someone will walk into my son's school and gun him or his classmates and teacher down.

Fifteen states have passed laws to require background checks on all gun sales. *Background check laws —by point-of-sale check and/or permit— are associated with lower rates of firearm homicide, suicide and firearm trafficking*. The Florida Legislature should build upon the important gun violence legislation passed following the Parkland mass shooting and pass a comprehensive background check law.

Sincerely,

Jackie Jackson-Dean
10134 Balcony St.
Trinity, FL 34655
(727) 807-7683

September 14,2019

Sen. Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Mr. Lee

My name is Betsy Dale Adams. I am with Moms Demand Action and a survivor of gun violence. I am writing you because of what is happening all over this country today, and everyday. Over 100 people die everyday because of gun violence. We have regressed into a very dangerous country. If more guns is the answer to being safer, this would be the safest country on the planet. But it is the opposite. This, to me, is an appalling fact. This should prompt you and your constituents to pass safer gun legislation. Please read my story.

My brother Patrick was gunned down by a man that had just been released from a mental hospital and had easy access to a loaded gun. Patrick was out with friends one night, when a man he had never met asked him for a ride home. Pat obliged, and was never seen alive again. The murderer was documented to be homicidal while in the mental hospital, but was released anyway. He was living with his parents, and they had a loaded shotgun inside their house. When Pat took him home, the man went into the home for gas money, but instead returned with a shotgun down by his side. He kidnapped Pat at gunpoint, forced him to drive into the night, and then shot him in the countryside at close range, decapitating him. Pat's body lay in the hot July sun only to be eaten by buzzards and other animals. When he was found in the woods five days later, there was very little left of Pat.

The murderer should never have had access to that shotgun. Now, with automatic military style weaponry available to virtually anyone, our country has become a country of fear. Fear to go to a concert, school, church, shopping, or anywhere. This man had over 13 indictments against him, a violent past, and documented to have severe mental illness. People need to understand this could happen to anyone. This is not about the 2nd amendment. This is about humanity. We must close loopholes and perform backround checks on ALL GUN SALES. We must ban military weaponry, expand the Red Flag Bill, update the NCIS system, and mandate gun safety education to all who purchase a firearm.

Patrick died a young, 27 year old man. His little girl lost her father at age 3. Why do we have to allow 100 people die everyday in this country due to gun violence? Why do we allow weapons of war to anyone? WHY?

This country has a terrible reputation to other countries concerning violence with guns. What has happened to our country? Please work to end this epidemic of gun violence.

Please act. The vast MAJORITY of the population are demanding safer gun legislation. Listen to us. Act for us. Do your job. I am mailing you a copy of my book about what happened. Please read it.

Betsy Dale Adams

September 11th, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee;

I understand that the Infrastructure and Security Committee will be focusing on ways to address gun violence and hate crimes during its September meeting. While the recent wave of mass shootings has served to focus our attention on this topic, in reality, one hundred Americans lose their lives to gun violence in their own neighborhoods daily. Obviously, this is a vitally important topic, and I thank you for spearheading this discussion.

As you move forward with the discussion, particularly as it relates to hate crimes, it is my hope that you will consider revisions to the existing Stand Your Ground Law. Under the current law, the burden of proof falls to the plaintiff and requires that the state disprove the defense which is difficult, if not impossible, for prosecutors to overcome. Additionally, the existing law is flawed and serves to exacerbate hate crimes in that it provides latitude to initiate a confrontation, then respond with deadly force. This can be corrected by placing the burden of proof for a stand your ground defense on the defendant.

Again, my thanks for spearheading the discussion and for your dedication to preserving the health, safety and welfare of us all.

Keverlin Fonseca

3352 W 105th Terrace

Hialeah FL 33018

Senator Tom Lee, Chairperson
Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

September 10, 2019

Re: Gun Violence in Florida

Dear Senator Lee:

I am a voter from Delray Beach & I urge you to take action to address gun violence. The Florida Senate should take action on the following-

Require Firearms Dealers to notify Law Enforcement when a customer fails a background check. This is pure common sense. People who fail background checks are 28% more likely to be arrested in the 5 years following the denial.

Ban on Assault Weapons & High Capacity Magazines. I know of no reason for this to be allowed. The deadliest mass shootings involved the use of high capacity magazines.

Sincerely,

Eileen Tucker
6112 Hunstwick Terrace, apt 201
Delray Beach, FL 33484

Senator Tom Lee, Chairperson
Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

September 10, 2019

Re: Gun Violence in Florida

Dear Senator Lee:

It is very important to have background checks on all gun sales. We do not want criminals, mentally ill people to have access to have a legal gun. These people who can be erratic can cause many problems. Former convicted or anyone with a conviction of domestic abuse, a child abuse, sex offenders should be included. There are no reasons for assault rifles, high capacity magazines. People who want to have guns for sports or for personal security certainly do not need these types of guns. They should be completely banned to our country.

Sincerely,

Lenore Gordon
14111 Royal Oak Drive 20
Delray Beach FL 33484

Senator Tom Lee, Chairperson
Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

September 10, 2019

Re: Gun Violence in Florida

Dear Senator Lee:

I am a mother from Boca Raton + I urge you to take action on gun violence. I have 2 small boys (ages 6 + 2) + a nephew 9 who just graduated from Stoneman Douglas High School. My family has been personally touched by gun violence + I don't want my sons to live in fear. Please support background checks for all gun sales. If I need to submit to a background check to coach little league baseball, its reasonable to ask any gun owner to go through the same. If this prevents 1 tragedy, its worth it.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Lauren Goldberg 7131 Montrico Drive
Boca Raton, FL
33433

Senator Tom Lee, Chairperson
Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

September 10, 2019

Re: Gun Violence in Florida

Dear Senator Lee:

I am a grandmother. Please pass bills to require background checks on all gun sales. No one should be able to buy a gun without one. Children are being frightened. People are being killed for driving a car down the street.

Sincerely,

Elaine 9265 Neptunes Basin Boca Raton, FL 33434

Name Address City, State, Zip

Senator Tom Lee, Chairperson
Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

September 10, 2019

Re: Gun Violence in Florida

Dear Senator Lee:

I am a mom and Government employee/BOCA/RATON & Air Force Veteran. I urge you and your team to take immediate action. The Florida Senate should take action this year by Requiring Background checks on ALL gun sales and BAN assault weapons and high capacity Magazines I have two daughters and we live near Parkland FL. Both of my daughters are still fearful of an incident happening at their schools due to the tragedy at Stoneman Douglas HS. I send my daughters to public schools for a great education not to be afraid of their peers / parents Potentially bringing weapons to their Schools. We need your help NOW! Please take action for my Mycah Wells and Ava Tellis.

Sincerely,

Kaylla Dixon 9059 Ruttledge Ave BOCA RATON FL 33434

Name Address City, State, Zip

Senator Tom Lee, Chairperson
Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

September 10, 2019

Re: Gun Violence in Florida

Dear Senator Lee:

Please require those convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence to surrender Firearms. I have many Friends who have been in this position.

ALL Background checks on ALL sales ARE STRONGLY REQUIRED IN EVERY STATE! Mental illness tests should be given to all persons in possession of guns.

ALL GUNS SHOULD BE TAKEN AWAY TO ANY GUN HOLDERS WHO CAUSE VIOLENCE EVEN VERBAL. FIREARM DEALERS SHOULD HAVE STRONGER FORMS TO Phil out & not be so money cancious. !!!

Sincerely,

Roberta Pogrob 13549 Sunburst Lane

Name Address Boca Raton FL 33496
City, State, Zip

Senator Tom Lee, Chairperson
Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

September 10, 2019

Re: Gun Violence in Florida

Dear Senator Lee:

I am a voter, mother, and teacher from Boca Raton and I strongly urge you to take action to address the problem of gun violence. The Florida Senate should take action this year by: -Requiring background checks on all gun sales - banning AR-15's and other assault weapons and high capacity magazines. -Expand red flag laws - ban the guardian program - prohibit gun concealed carry in places where children are present. - and close loopholes in background checks. I have been teaching since 1997 in high schools in MA and FL and after 10 years out of teaching I returned to a classroom in Broward County last year. For 2 hours in December 2018 I was terrorized by a student with a gun on the loose in my school. Subsequently, I have left my job and now I teach online! This makes me feel safer but what about my two children, ages 2 and 4? what is in store for them? Thank you!

Sincerely,

Leah Fiorentino 12124 Quilting Lane Boca Raton, FL 33428

Name Address City, State, Zip

Senator Tom Lee, Chairperson
Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

September 10, 2019

Re: Gun Violence in Florida

Dear Senator Lee:

I am a grandmother and voter from Boca Raton and I hope you will take action to address gun violence!

I especially would like to see a ban on assault weapons and high capacity magazines. While I support the 2nd amendment right of self protection - I don't believe ANYone who is not in the military or law enforcement should own these weapons.

My grandchildren attend school about 1 mile from Marjorie Stoneman Douglas H.S. In fact their school was locked down during the aftermath. This is not just an excuse for me - it is a plea for us to return to Sanity.

Sincerely,

Michelle Edelman

Name Address City, State, Zip

Senator Tom Lee, Chairperson
Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

September 10, 2019

Re: Gun Violence in Florida

Dear Senator Lee:

I am a Grandmom / voter / psychotherapist from Boca Raton and urge you to take action to address gun violence! The Florida Senate should take action this year by:

requiring background checques of ALL gun sales

Ban assault weapons or high capacity magazines

Expand red flag laws to allow family members to apply for extreme risk protection orders for people who may harm themselves or others

No armed teachers in schools

Require firearm dealers to notify law enforcement when a customer fails a background check

Sincerely,

Hilary Israel 2930 Castle Rdg Boca Raton FL 33432

Name Address City, State, Zip

Senator Tom Lee, Chairperson
Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

September 10, 2019

Re: Gun Violence in Florida

Dear Senator Lee:

It is about time we stop kowtowing to the NRA and get practical gun control in this country.
- Background checks are needed for ALL gun sales
assault weapons and high capacity magazines are ABSURD!!!
As a former teacher it is ridiculous for teachers to be "guardians" of their students.

I urge you to make changes immediately before it is your family getting "thoughts & prayers".

Sincerely,

Barbara Robbins 22230 Cameo Dr. East
Boca Raton, FL 33433

September 13, 2019

Sen. Tom Lee
Chair: Infrastructure & Security
The Florida Senate
418 Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee:

I am writing you with great concern regarding the current state of affairs not only nationally, but within our great state of Florida. I am a registered gun owner with a concealed carry permit. I consider myself to be a responsible gun owner and have always adhered to gun laws. My concerns have hit the ceiling and that is why I am writing this letter. Our country and state have to make changes regarding our gun laws and the enforcement of them. I am very hopeful that you will consider my concerns below as the only way to make things better is to change the laws for the better. Here you go:

1) Ban the sale of assault weapons and high capacity magazines to the general public. Only our military should have access to this type of a weapon.

2) Please ENFORCE current gun laws and include a more stringent background check that includes medical history. Privacy laws should not count when purchasing any type of weapon. Background checks should be performed on ALL gun sales.

3) There should be a mandatory 3 - 4 hour continuing education class for any gun owner or concealed permit carrier. This would include safe handling, review of weapon safety features, responsible storage and shooting. The continuing education should cost at least $50 to $100 per year. We have continuing education for all licenses or permits so why not include weapons?

4) Get the funding for our schools (all districts) statewide to provide hiring of trained security personnel. Teachers have enough pressure on them already and policing the campus should not be included. It amazes me the premium that everyone places on education but for some reason there is never enough money for it. Take the "Pork Barrell" spending and put it into education.

In closing, let me tell you that I am a conservative at heart but will always vote my conscience when it comes to political office. I appreciate what you guys do in Tallahassee and believe that most of our senators are trying to do the right thing. Please note that this is not a partisan issue. I have grandchildren in grade school and can tell you that they are afraid to go on the playground as code red drills have actually made them more aware. I am hoping that you will be able to make a difference. Thanks for your service to our State of Florida.

Respectfully,

Mike Gainer
Jacksonville Beach, FL

September 13, 2019

Senator Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee:

I am writing to ask the Infrastructure Committee to take up meaningful legislation that addresses the unrelenting epidemic of gun violence in our state and around the country. I am a resident of Neptune Beach, Florida (which is in the Jacksonville area), the father of children that attend Florida public schools and a constituent who is very concerned about the increasingly frequent mass-shootings. This issue hits home for me as Jacksonville has been dubbed the murder capital of Florida and drastically rising suicide rates. I urge you and your colleagues to consider the many reasonable and common sense steps supported by groups such as Moms Demand Action and the vast majority of Floridians.

The United States has **25 times** more gun homicides than any other developed country in the world. That statistic is truly staggering. There can simply be no doubt that we have a problem with guns and that we need to do a better job of keeping guns out of the hands of the wrong people, such as criminals, domestic abusers, those who have made threats of violence or otherwise triggered red flags and those with mental illness. There are several common sense approaches that can help do exactly that.

First, the Legislature should pass a bill that requires background checks on all gun sales in the state. Under the current federal law, background checks are only required for gun purchases from licensed dealers, but are not required for gun sales via the internet, gun show or private sale. Thus, under the current status quo, any person who would not pass a background check if purchasing a gun from a licensed dealer, can simply go online or to a gun show to obtain a firearm. It is no small number of guns being sold this way. In fact, in Florida in a single year, there were nearly 100,000 online gun sale ads on Armlist.com, none of which would require a background check. Moreover, one in seven prospective Florida buyers on that site would have failed a background check. That is terrifying. Nationally, nearly **a quarter** of all Americans who obtain a firearm do so without getting a background check. That adds up to tens of thousands, if not more, guns in the hands of the wrong people.

This loophole has real and fatal consequences. For instance, and as I'm sure you know, in the recent mass shooting in Odessa, TX, a man who had been previously denied an assault weapon because of a failed background check was able to work the system and purchase such a weapon from a private seller without the requirement of a background check. He then used that automatic

weapon to indiscriminately kill 7 innocent people and injure more than 20 others. If a background check had been required for all gun sales, including private gun sales, he would not have been able to purchase an assault weapon. I simply do not understand how there can be opposition to the requirement of a background check for the sale of a potentially deadly weapon in all sales venues. If you disagree with this, please explain to me the basis for your opposition as I truly cannot wrap my mind around it.

It is worth noting, and I ask you to consider, the fact that implementation of background checks for all gun sales not only makes common sense, this measure has overwhelming bipartisan support. In fact, 93 percent of American voters support requiring background checks on all gun sales, including 89 percent of Republicans and 87 percent of gun owners.[1] I urge you to support this common sense measure to reduce gun violence in Florida.

Second, I would like your Committee to support expansion of the existing red flag law to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders, as the current law only permits law enforcement officers to seek such an Order. When a person is in crisis and poses a threat to themselves or others, it is often their loved ones who see the signs of such a threat and they are in the best position to report such concerns. An Extreme Risk law would allow those family members or law enforcement to petition a court for an Extreme Risk Protection Order to temporarily remove guns from dangerous situations and to prohibit the purchase or possession of firearms while the Order is in effect. It simply makes sense to create a procedure by which deadly weapons can be kept out of the hands of someone who poses a threat to themselves or others. Please recognize that red flag laws are no different in theory or practice than temporary restraining orders and should, likewise, cause no greater reservation or opposition. The process would require a judge to consider evidence of the threat posed by someone and any restriction of someone's right to possess a firearm would be temporary and based on such evidence. Such laws have been passed by numerous states around the country and all such states have seen a reduction in gun deaths – gun suicides in particular. As the suicide rate in Jacksonville, especially among teens, is among the highest in the state, this is of particular concern to me.

Third, I urge you to support a ban on assault weapons and high capacity magazines. These are weapons of war and there is simply no legitimate reason for any civilian to possess such a weapon in our society. Assault weapons are not used for sport and they are not used to defend people or property. Instead, as these weapons were designed for war, their entire purpose is to kill as many people as possible in as short a period of time. Mass killing is exactly what ownership of these weapons is accomplishing – the killing of innocent Americans.

Lastly, I ask that the legislature reinstate the prohibition against the arming of classroom teachers. Arming teachers is strongly opposed by school safety experts like law enforcement. Moreover, neither teachers, administrators, students nor parents want more guns in schools and absolutely do not want to arm untrained teachers. Schools should be a place for learning and growth. Injecting more dangerous weapons into that environment can only do harm. Teachers are

not trained to and should not be expected to take on the role of armed guards. It is my understanding that the recommendation of arming teachers came from the commission formed following the mass shooting in Parkland, Florida. Shockingly, it is also my understanding that there was not a teacher on that commission. The idea of forcing something dangerous in classrooms that is overwhelmingly opposed by the very people on whom it is being forced – i.e., teachers, administrators, students and parents – is ludicrous and I urge you to reconsider.

These common sense measures supported by Moms Demand Action are ones that we must implement to at least try to save lives. Inaction, thoughts and prayers are no longer an option. I urge you to be on the right side of history on these issues, to stand up to the NRA and to refuse to let another Floridian die without taking action.

Sincerely,

J. Rice Ferrelle, Jr.

1365 Hickory Marsh Lane
Neptune Beach, FL 32266
904-891-8779

Richard G. Hathaway, Esq.

115 Oceanforest Drive North
Atlantic Beach, FL 32233
Email: richardghathaway@gmail.com
Telephone: (904) 613-9972

Sept 12, 2019

Sen. Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee,

As a resident of Atlantic Beach, Florida, I wish to express my support of reasonable gun control laws. I expect your support also.

The laws which Florida should promulgate and which you should sponsor and support are:

- Universal, expanded, effective, comprehensive background checks, applicable throughout our State and accessing the records of the other 49 states;
- Outlawing handgun possession for anyone committing a crime- including misdemeanors
- No possession of handguns by anyone under the age of 21
- Effective Red Flag laws;
- Banning sale and/or possession of military assault weapons;
- Banning sale and/or possession of large capacity magazines;
- Grant police discretion on whether or not to issue concealed gun permits..

Sincerely,

Richard G. Hathaway, Esq.

Senator Tom Lee, Chairperson
Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

September 10, 2019

Re: Gun Violence in Florida

Dear Senator Lee:

I am a new resident of Florida & formerly New Jersey. I am a retired teacher & am very nervous when I am in a public place. Locations such as shopping malls, movie theaters, restaurants, schools, parks, arenas, etc... the list goes on.

While I fully believe in background checks and banning assault weapons & high capacity magazines, I also believe & support prohibiting concealed & carry licenses and carry firearms.

US citizens do not need to have that kind of "power" in their hands to be used in a hot headed situation to their own agenda! Please ban & prohibit - conceal & carry, assault weapons!

Sincerely, STOP THE MADNESS!!

Lisa E Davis
4074 Branchcliff Circle
Boca Raton, FL 33491

Senator Tom Lee, Chairperson
Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

September 10, 2019

Re: Gun Violence in Florida

Dear Senator Lee:

I believe the state of Florida must require dealers to notify law enforcement when a customer fails a background check. Failed attempts to purchase guns can foreshadow future criminal activity. People who fail background checks are 28% more likely to be arrested in the 5 years following the denial than in the 5 years before it! Law enforcement should know when prohibited individuals are attempting to purchase guns. As a teacher, we must stop gun violence and those criminals who are allowed to purchase guns. Please help!!

Sincerely,

Marlene Ast
4137 Briarcliff Circle
Boca Raton, FL 33496

Senator Tom Lee, Chairperson
Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

September 10, 2019

Re: Gun Violence in Florida

Dear Senator Lee:

It is your duty as a legislator to ensure that the needs of All floridians are taken into consideration One of the most important needs of Floridians is To live without fear.

Just the fact that Assault Weapons and high capacity weapons are on the streets is a reason to be scared. We are human, in the case of anger people do stupid things and when you have guns in the mix you are asking for trouble. This issue compounded by the fact that just about anyone in florida can buy a gun provide a sense of fear that should not be acceptable in a first world country.

I beg you to take action and ban these Assault weapons and ~~work~~ for legislation to ensure background checks are done and who can buy guns permits are tighten.

Sincerely,

KARINA Woodman Henderson Boca Raton, FL 33498

Senator Tom Lee, Chairperson
Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

September 10, 2019

Re: Gun Violence in Florida

Dear Senator Lee:

I am a mom of two young children both who attend schools in Boca Raton. I write to please urge you to take action against gun violence. When we were moving to Boca from NY My husband and I both HAD to have and pass background checks for all houses and apartments we were looking at. If such action is taken for me to purchase a home to raise my family in, how is it not something required to own something so dangerous? I feel like this is almost now a days as well as alerting our law enforcement when a customer fails a background check if I need a check to live, than others should need it to own something that takes life

Sincerely,

Kimberly Hallquist 5764 Arbor Club way Boca Raton FL 33433

Name Address City, State, Zip

Senator Tom Lee, Chairperson
Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

September 10, 2019

Re: Gun Violence in Florida

Dear Senator Lee:

Please pass Background checks on All Gun Sales - and Ban on All Assault Weapons and High Capacity Magazines. There is no Hunter who ~~Kills~~ ~~Any~~ uses these Assault Weapons to Hunt. We want everyone to be able to get away from a mad person with a gun.

Sincerely,

Janice Donnelly 262 Buttonwood Dr Debary FL 32746

Name Address City, State, Zip

Senator Tom Lee, Chairperson
Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

September 10, 2019

Re: Gun Violence in Florida

Dear Senator Lee:

As a native Floridian and a mother of two elementary age children, I'm asking for the FL Senate to take action on the epidemic of gun violence in our state.
It is unbelievable in 2019 that a person can buy a dangerous weapon without a background check. We need to keep weapons out of the hands of people who should not have them because of their criminal past. Gun violence should not be a partisan issue. I'm looking to our leaders in Tallahassee to pass common sense legislation.

Sincerely,

K Driver Boca Raton, FL 33496

Name Address City, State, Zip

September, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair
Florida Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee
418 Senate Building
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Senator Lee:

I'm writing to you a a mother of 5 young adult children and as someone about to become a grandmother. I'm am frustrated that common sense measures that will reduce gun violence in our country get talked about after every mass shooting, and then nothing gets done.

As you lead the effort to consider legislation this session to prevent gun violence, including mass shootings, I write to express my support for passing a state law to require criminal background checks on ALL gun sales. Florida state law currently does not require background checks on unlicensed gun sales, leaving a massive loophole in place that makes it far too easy for criminals, people prohibited from having guns because of mental illness, and others with dangerous histories to get their hands on guns through private, online or gun show sales. Fifteen states have passed laws to require background checks on all gun sales. Background check laws —by point-of-sale check and/or permit— are associated with lower rates of firearm homicide, suicide and firearm trafficking. The Florida Legislature should build upon the important gun violence legislation passed following the Parkland mass shooting and pass a comprehensive background check law.

Be Brave!!!

Sincerely,



Mary Castronuovo, MPS
Volunteer Guardian ad Litem
Member of Moms Demand Action for Gunsense in America
Zip Code: 33418
561-373-1646

Anna Kate Mackle
4945 2nd Ave N.
St. Petersburg, FL 33710
akmackle@me.com
727.421.0557

September 12, 2019

Senator Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee,

I am writing to you as a Florida resident who has serious concerns about the gun violence epidemic in this country, and the efforts of the state of Florida to protect its citizens from becoming victims of it. I am grateful that you and the other members of the Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee are taking the time to explore common sense gun legislation which will save countless lives, and I hope that you will consider implementing some, if not all, of the following:

First and foremost is conducting background checks on all gun sales. Millions of people obtain guns illegally through online and person-to-person gun sales where no background check is required. There should also be a requirement for firearms dealers to notify law enforcement when a customer fails a background check.

There is also no reason not to ban assault-style weapons and high capacity magazines. No one ever needs one of these, for any reason. Period. More bullets = more deaths.

Expansion of existing red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders is critical, as family members are the ones closest to those in crisis and are the first to see signs that they pose a threat to themselves or others.

Remove the expansion of the Guardian Program which allows teachers to carry guns. Teachers, parents and students are overwhelmingly against it. Armed confrontations with active shooters are not in an educator's job description, and the possibility of unintended consequences and accidents across the country have been well documented. The fact that school districts across Florida have overwhelmingly voted against arming teachers should tell you what a bad idea it is.

Finally, returning the burden of proof for a Stand Your Ground defense to the defendant would make it more difficult for shooters to arbitrarily claim that they were in imminent danger and forced to shoot, which has happened in several noteworthy cases in Florida.

Again, I thank you for your consideration to this very important matter. You have a golden opportunity at this moment to make Florida a leader of common-sense gun safety legislation and banish the nickname "The Gunshine Sate" forever.

Sincerely yours,

Anna Kate Mackle

September 10, 2019

Sen. Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee:

I've watched with horror at the escalating gun violence in our country and Florida. Each and every time, we hear from our legislators that something should be done. Time passes until the next mass shooting and very little if anything changes.

Please take action on these measures that can and will make a difference for us:

Background Checks on All Gun Sales[1]
93 percent of American voters support requiring background checks on all gun sales, including 89 percent of Republicans and 87 percent of gun owners. An investigation found that in 2018 alone, there were nearly 1.2 million gun ads on an online gun marketplace called Armslist.com for gun sales where no background check was legally required. And research shows that prohibited people seek guns in those unlicensed gun sales at a disproportionate rate.

Ban on Assault Weapons and High Capacity Magazines[2]
The August 2019 Dayton, Ohio shooter used a rifle equipped with a high-capacity drum magazine capable of holding 100 rounds. Though law enforcement stopped the shooting in about 30 seconds, the shooter was able to fire dozens of shots—and kill 9 people—largely because of the magazine capacity. Over the past decade, the four deadliest mass shootings in America involved the use of high-capacity magazines. In fact, 58 percent of mass shootings between 2009 and 2017 were committed with firearms equipped with high-capacity magazines.

Senator Lee, this is a bipartisan issue and I urge you to take action to prevent further gun violence in Florida.

Sincerely,

Terri Isaacs

Terrell (Terri) Isaacs
3181 Forest Bend Rd
Apt 107
Kissimmee, FL. 34746

[1] https://everytownresearch.org/background-checks-save-lives-protect-communities/
[2] https://everytown.org/learn/h-r-1186-prohibiting-high-capacity-magazines-would-reduce-the-devastation-of-gun-violence/

22648 Esplanada Circle West
Boca Raton, Florida 33433
September 12, 2019

Dear Tom Lee,

As Chair of the Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee, I understand that you are hosting a workshop/meeting on September 16 to discuss the very serious situation of gun violence in our country.

I am a retired educator, a mother, and a grandmother of five. I was teaching during the Columbine situation and it was the beginning of a period of mass shootings in our beloved country. We employed new rues to lock all school entrances as soon as children were in the classroom. An aid was hired to man the back door to allow only those people who were on a list to be allowed into school. All of a sudden, elementary school life changed for me and the entire school community. Today, shootings in public places have become much too often and much too lethal. This must be stopped.

I have retired to Florida and have been here for 20 years. I am overwhelmed with what has happened to our country. I am begging you to please:

1. Institute a procedure for Comprehensive Gun Reform
2. Institute a procedure for background checks.
3. Fix our Red Flag Laws to include family members
4. Impose a ban on assault weapons and include a buy back provision
5. Impose a ban on high capacity magazines
6. Repeal the idea of arming teachers
7. Repeal the STAND YOUR GROUND

Regarding my point number 6, I, as a former teacher, would never want a gun in my classroom. I would certainly never want fellow teachers to have a gun. I would have left the profession if I had to adhere to having a gun. If this situation remains, I think it would serve as a discouragement to those who wish to enter this noble profession. My daughter is a speech/language pathologist who works in the schools. My 5 grandchildren are of elementary school age. I fear for their safety in a daily basis. I do not want any child to be harmed like those in Sandy Hook.

I implore you to resist the NRA and look into your heart and know that we must do something about the number of guns in our country.

Sincerely,
Deena Drandoff

Sen. Tom Lee

Chair, Infrastructure and Security

The Florida Senate

418 Senate Building

404 South Monroe Street

Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

September 12, 2019

Dear Senator Lee,

I would like to thank you for your efforts and for those of all the members of your Committee on Infrastructure and Security to help reduce gun violence in the state of Florida. There is no easy answer to this complicated problem, but I feel there are steps we can take that would have a measurable impact and I urge you to support these measures during the 2020 legislative session.

First, I would urge you to help change the laws so that background checks are performed on all gun sales in the state. It is too easy for criminals to obtain a gun through a private sale. Polls have regularly shown that Americans, both Republican and gun owners, have strongly supported this requirement. Most gun owners are responsible people and do want to keep guns out of the hands of prohibited buyers.

As the wife of a former army serviceman and the mother of two sons and the grandmother of two grandsons who have been in the military, I have listened to the talk about the capacity of assault weapons and the magazines that hold many rounds of ammo. Even if law enforcement should stop a shooting in a matter of seconds, the shooter would be able to fire dozens of shots and kill a lot of people in that time. More than half of mass shootings in the last ten years were committed with firearms equipped with high-capacity magazines.

Finally, as a veteran teach and school administrator in Duval County for 34 years, I am in favor of reinstating the language that prohibited classroom teachers from serving as school guardians. The vast majority of teachers and administrators oppose the proposal to arm school personnel. There are so many reasons for this, including the difficulty in having a teacher respond to a situation while keeping his or her students safely in the classroom. I can also see a huge problem with the teacher carrying a gun as being identified by law enforcement personnel as a "good guy" when everything is in chaos.

Commented [wp1]:

There are so many points that can be addressed, but the three items I have mentioned and very high on my list of concerns.

Thank you for your consideration.

Louise Peaks

4326 Richmond Park Dr. E.

Jacksonville, FL 32224

September 12, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair
Florida Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee
418 Senate Building
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Senator Lee:

I am a mother of two small children in Winter Garden, Florida, and I am very concerned about gun violence. As you lead the effort to consider legislation this session to prevent gun violence, including mass shootings, please work to pass a state law to require criminal background checks on all gun sales.

Florida state law currently does not require background checks on unlicensed gun sales, leaving a massive loophole in place that makes it far too easy for criminals, people prohibited from having guns because of mental illness, and others with dangerous histories to get their hands on guns through private, online or gun show sales.

Fifteen states have passed laws to require background checks on all gun sales. Background check laws — by point-of-sale check and/or permit— are associated with lower rates of firearm homicide, suicide and firearm trafficking. The Florida Legislature should build upon the important gun violence legislation passed following the Parkland mass shooting and pass a comprehensive background check law.

Sincerely,

Adrienne Egolf
Winter Garden, FL 34787

September 11, 2019

Senator Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee,

Today we remember those we lost across America and the heroes who gave their lives to save others. You have the opportunity on September 16th to save others as well. I hope that you will take a strong stance in our state to reduce lost lives due to gun violence.

Americans across party lines overwhelmingly support expanded background checks. Requiring background checks on ALL gun sales needs to be a top priority this session. Mass shootings continue across our country and homicides in my city of Jacksonville have reached an all-time high. You must do your part to do what is needed to reduce the rising gun violence.

I also implore you to be a leader to support reimposing the Federal Assault Weapons Ban. This law should never have been allowed to lapse. No one but active military needs possession of assault style weapons. Weapons of war do not belong in civilian hands.

As a household of two retired teachers with a combined 81 years of experience and proud grandparents of four, we adamantly oppose teachers serving as guardians, and arming of school staff. I sincerely hope the hastily enacted guardian program will be reconsidered this next session.

You have the opportunity to take the common sense steps to address gun violence in our state.

Sincerely,

Bill Holden
1114 Seawood Drive
Neptune Beach, FL 32266

Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee:

I am writing to you from Miami-Dade County in the hopes of letting you know what issues I would like the Florida legislature to focus on next year in terms of gun violence prevention. My priorities are as follows:

1. **Ban on assault weapons and high capacity magazines**

   The August 2019 Dayton, Ohio shooter used a rifle equipped with a high-capacity drum magazine capable of holding 100 rounds. Though law enforcement stopped the shooting in about 30 seconds, the shooter was able to fire dozens of shots—and kill 9 people—largely because of the magazine capacity. Over the past decade, the four deadliest mass shootings in America involved the use of high-capacity magazines. In fact, 58 percent of mass shootings between 2009 and 2017 were committed with firearms equipped with high-capacity magazines.

2. **Background checks on all gun sales**

   93 percent of American voters support requiring background checks on all gun sales, including 89 percent of Republicans and 87 percent of gun owners. Florida has not closed the unlicensed sale loophole which means that felons, domestic abusers and other prohibited people cans skip a background check and get armed simply by seeking an unlicensed seller online or even at a gun show. It is like if you went to TSA to board a plane and just asked to skip the line and you were ALLOWED! It just makes no sense. An investigation found that in 2018 alone, there were nearly 1.2 million gun ads on an online gun marketplace called Armslist.com for gun sales. No background check was legally required. Research shows that prohibited people seek guns in those unlicensed gun sales at a disproportionate rate.

3. **Expansion of red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders**

   When a person is in crisis, loved ones are usually the first to see signs that they pose a threat.

4. **Require firearms dealers to notify law enforcement when a customer fails a background check**

   Failed attempts to purchase guns can foreshadow future criminal activity. People who fail background checks are 28 percent more likely to be arrested in the five years following the denial than in the five years before it. Law enforcement should know and WANTS to know when prohibited individuals are attempting to purchase guns.

5. **Reform the concealed carry license process to give the Department of Agriculture greater discretion to deny licenses to those individuals who present a public safety threat**

   The legislature practically apologizes to gun owners for requiring a license to concealed carry: "The Legislature does not delegate to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services the authority to regulate or restrict the issuing of licenses provided for in this section, beyond those provisions contained in this section. Subjective or arbitrary actions or rules which encumber the issuing process by placing burdens on the applicant beyond those sworn statements and specified documents detailed in this section or which create restrictions beyond those specified in this section are in conflict with the intent of this section and are prohibited. This section shall be liberally construed to carry out the constitutional right to bear arms for self-defense. This section is supplemental and additional to existing rights to bear arms, and nothing in this section shall impair or diminish such rights." Fla. Stat. 790.06(15).

6. **Require gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement**

   From 2007 to 2017, at least 82,000 guns were reported stolen and never found in Florida. Requiring safe storage in vehicles would go a long way to reducing these numbers.

On behalf of my family, I urge you as a leader and steward of Florida, to take action on this issue of gun reform. We cannot risk another young life because of our inaction. thank you for taking the time to read this letter.

Sincerely,

Maria Vulcheva
13260 NW 11th Street, Miami, Fl 33182
(404) 642-6268

Jaclyn Hall
Melrose FL, 32666

September 12, 2019

Senator Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee,

I am a Florida resident from a rural area. My friends/neighbors and I grew up with guns in the home. We used them to hunt, and to target shoot on the property. We learned about gun safety from our grandfathers. **But that is not the landscape of our current gun violence problem.**

Currently there are four main categories of gun violence that you can take action to reduce. **What are you doing to reduce gun violence?**

1. Suicides committed with guns. We need a strong red flag law that **also allows families** to initiate the process of requesting the court for an Extreme Risk Protection order.
2. Criminal homicides and nonfatal shootings (including drug-related and gang-related violence, killings committed as part of a robbery or other crime, interpersonal disputes, and other homicides). Why is it ok that almost one quarter of **guns are obtained without a background check**? It is already a law. We are not talking about a new law here, just close the loopholes in the current law.
3. Domestic violence involving firearms. **Close the boyfriend loophole**. Again – not a new law- just close the loophole. Domestic partners, if married or not, cause 58% of murders of women. Rates of domestic homicide, that means from boyfriends or husbands, is **on the rise**.
4. Mass shootings. Civilians do not need weapons of war, **ban assault weapons** and high capacity magazines!

Please take steps to reduce gun violence.

Thank you,

Jaclyn Hall

Jaclyn Hall

Senator Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee,

As a Florida resident living in Alachua County, I am writing in support of a number of legislative ideas that I believe will make a huge difference in reducing the incidence of gun violence. As a parent and as a human being, I have significant concerns for the safety and welfare of my sons, their friends, and all young people in our community. Please do everything in your power to promote the following common sense proposals to reduce gun violence:

Background checks for all gun sales: Evidence suggests that a quarter of all online gun sales are to individuals who could not pass a background check. Raise all gun sales to the same standard. This is an easy one! Over 90% of voters approve of this simple change.

Expand Red Flag language to allow family petitions for interventions: Family members know each other and know when a situation is getting dangerous. Make it easy for families to take care of each other. Current regulations requires the process to pass through law enforcement.

Ban assault weapons and high capacity magazines: Weapons of war do not belong in our community. In shooting after shooting, these guns are used to kills dozens of people in seconds. Although the Dayton, OH shooter was stopped in about 30 seconds, he was able to fire dozens of shots, killing 9.

Respectfully,

Katherine Blackburn

Gainesville, FL

Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee:

I am writing to you from Miami-Dade County in the hopes of letting you know what issues I would like the Florida legislature to focus on next year in terms of gun violence prevention. My priorities are as follows:

1. Background checks on all gun sales, no more loop-holes please!

93 percent of American voters support requiring background checks on all gun sales, including 89 percent of Republicans and 87 percent of gun owners. Florida has not closed the unlicensed sale loophole which means that felons, domestic abusers and other prohibited people cans skip a background check and get armed simply by seeking an unlicensed seller online or even at a gun show. It is like if you went to TSA to board a plane and just asked to skip the line and you were ALLOWED! It just makes no sense. An investigation found that in 2018 alone, there were nearly 1.2 million gun ads on an online gun marketplace called Armslist.com for gun sales. No background check was legally required. Research shows that prohibited people seek guns in those unlicensed gun sales at a disproportionate rate.

2. Expansion of red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders

When a person is in crisis, loved ones are usually the first to see signs that they pose a threat.

3. Require firearms dealers to notify law enforcement when a customer fails a background check

Failed attempts to purchase guns can foreshadow future criminal activity. People who fail background checks are 28 percent more likely to be arrested in the five years following the denial than in the five years before it. Law enforcement should know and WANTS to know when prohibited individuals are attempting to purchase guns.

4. Reform the concealed carry license process to give the Department of Agriculture greater discretion to deny licenses to those individuals who present a public safety threat

The legislature practically apologizes to gun owners for requiring a license to concealed carry: "The Legislature does not delegate to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services the authority to regulate or restrict the issuing of licenses provided for in this section, beyond those provisions contained in this section. Subjective or arbitrary actions or rules which encumber the issuing process by placing burdens on the applicant beyond those sworn statements and specified documents detailed in this section or which create restrictions beyond those specified in this section are in conflict with the intent of this section and are prohibited. This section shall be liberally construed to carry out the constitutional right to bear arms for self-defense. This section is supplemental and additional to existing rights to bear arms, and nothing in this section shall impair or diminish such rights." Fla. Stat. 790.06(15).

5. Require gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement

From 2007 to 2017, at least 82,000 guns were reported stolen and never found in Florida. Requiring safe storage in vehicles would go a long way to reducing these numbers.

On behalf of my South Florida family and friends, I urge you as a leader and steward of Florida, to take action on this issue of gun reform. We cannot risk another young life because of our inaction. thank you for taking the time to read this letter.

Sincerely,

Estrella Malca

Estrella Malca
218 SE 14 ST
Miami, FL 33131
305-546-9526

Jennifer Stach
3374 Bellino Blvd
New Smyrna Beach, FL 32168

September 13, 2019

Sen. Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

I am the Assistant Principal at the local high school and have seen, first hand, what the horrid scourge of gun violence has done to our students and communities. There are a number of common sense solutions to help reduce this tragic trend. I urge you to look at all the opportunities. Please include these:

Background checks on all gun sales and an assault weapons ban! Also, do not allow classroom teachers to be armed – this is just foolish and asking for a tragedy.

Require common sense safety training and don't allow guns in places like schools, college campuses, playgrounds and parks.

Require safe storage of guns and hold those that do not criminally liable from any resulting violence.

There are so many common sense measures that can be taken. I urge you to ask the experts, study the causes of violence and DO SOMETHING!

Sincerely,

Jennifer W. Stach

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair
Florida Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee
418 Senate Building
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Senator Lee:

I am an **ardent** supporter of the second amendment. I do not suffer the actions of people who would restrict my right to carry a weapon, as guaranteed by the second amendment, lightly. So trust me when I say that as you lead the effort to consider legislation this session to prevent gun violence, including mass shootings, you have my **full support** for passing a state law to require criminal background checks on all gun sales. Florida state law currently does not require background checks on unlicensed gun sales, leaving a massive loophole in place that makes it far too easy for criminals, people prohibited from having guns because of mental illness, and others with dangerous histories to get their hands on guns through private, online or gun show sales. This makes it harder for people like me, lawful supporters of the second amendment, to stand on the right side of history.

Background check laws —by point-of-sale check and/or permit— are associated with lower rates of firearm homicide, suicide and firearm trafficking. The Florida Legislature should build upon the important gun violence legislation passed following the Parkland mass shooting and pass a comprehensive background check law.

Sincerely,

Austin Pollard
561-309-0330

Senator Tom Leek

Chair, Infrastructure and Security

The Florida Senate Building

404 S. Monroe Street

Dear Sen. Leek,

As a constituent, I implore you to take seriously my concern about the availability of guns in Florida. Too many innocent people are dying because of the politicians who do nothing to make us safe and use the feeble excuses why they can't do anything. But I have some suggestions!

We need a background check on all gun sales, banning assault weapons and high capacity magazines, expand the Red Flag Laws, reinstate language to prohibit classroom teachers from serving as school guardians, deny concealed carry licenses to those individuals who present a public threat, have those who have been convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence surrender their firearm, require dealers to inform law enforcement of those who fail a background check, prohibit carrying firearms in sensitive places, require safe storage, and require safety training prior to obtaining a gun.

This is what you can do!!! The Moms are here to remind you that we demand action on these fronts. We will not sit idly by and watch gun deaths occur when they can be stopped. 70% of gun deaths are suicide. A Red Flag Law could lower the number of suicides. Safe storage laws can prevent children from getting Dad's gun. Background checks and a ban on assault weapons and high capacity magazines can stop a mass killer.

Moms are not going away. We will fight to put people in office who are not afraid of the NRA. There are more of us than them!!!

Sincerely,

Susanne Jones

2688 Sicily Dr.

Mew Smyrna Beach, Florida 32168

Jean M Francis
116 19th Avenue N Unit 201
Jacksonville Beach FL 32250

Senator Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

September 9, 2019

Dear Senator Lee,

I am a resident of Jacksonville Beach, Duval County. I grew up in Jacksonville's west side and experienced what most would consider an idyllic childhood. Sadly, the children and citizens throughout greater Jacksonville are no longer assured of the safety and security I knew as a child. In just the first six months of this year, Jacksonville had 84 homicides, 64 of which involved gun violence. As I child as young as 9, I could ride my bike alone to the community pool a mile away. Today, children are shot while playing in their front yard or sitting in a car waiting for their mother to come out of a store.

I appreciate the initial actions Florida's legislature took after the tragedy in Parkland. However, the work is unfinished; more actions must be taken to diminish the number of preventable deaths and injuries due to guns in Florida and across this nation. Such actions must address not only the violence inflicted by mass shootings such as Pulse, Parkland and most recently El Paso, Dayton and Midland-Odessa, but also individual homicides, suicides and unintentional deaths and injuries involving firearms.

I urge you and your committee to bring forward legislation that addresses the following:

1. Require background checks for all gun sales. Anyone who fails or would fail a background check, can easily purchase a gun at a gun show or over the internet. In fact, in a **single year**, there were nearly 100,000 online gun sale ads on Armlist.com in Florida, none of which would require a background check. Moreover, **one in seven** prospective Florida buyers on that site would **have** failed a background check. Nationally, nearly a quarter of all Americans who obtain a firearm do so without getting

a background check. The overwhelming majority of Americans, including responsible gun owners, support the expansion of background check requirements.

2. Expand Florida's current red flag law to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders. There is growing evidence that ERPOs prevent suicides. Sixty percent (60%) of handgun deaths are due to suicide and a first attempt of suicide by a gun is successful 84% of the time. Removal of weapons for a short period of time allows for interventions that can save these lives and avoid the trauma that suicide imposes on families and communities.

3. Require that firearm dealers report background check failures to law enforcement. Failed attempts to purchase guns can foreshadow future criminal activity. People who fail background checks are 28 % more likely to be arrested in the five years following the denial than in the five years before it. Law enforcement should know when prohibited individuals are attempting to purchase guns.

4. Further, require the timely reporting of criminal and mental health report to NICI. Hundreds of thousands of prohibiting mental health records are missing from the NICS background check system, potentially enabling prohibited people to pass a background check.

5. Require those convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence surrender firearms. In an average month in America, 52 women are shot and killed by an intimate partner and many more are injured. This does not even reflect the full picture, as we know that women are not the only victims of domestic violence.

6. Require gun owners to report lost or stolen weapons in a timely manner and that guns be secured when left in a vehicle, or in a home in which children may be present.

7. Ban high capacity magazines. In Dayton, despite the immediate and heroic response by law enforcement, the perpetrator murdered 9 individuals and injured almost two dozen more in less than 30 seconds. Responsible gun owners favor such a ban; indeed, they would go further and ban assault type weapons as well.

8. Lastly, I ask that the legislature reinstate the prohibition against the arming of classroom teachers. Arming teachers is strongly opposed by school safety experts and law enforcement. In an active shooter incident, law enforcement has enough of a challenge discerning who is the perpetrator. In the last year, there have been at least two innocent "good guys with guns" mistakenly shot and killed by law enforcement while responding to an active shooter incident. Moreover, teachers, administrators, students and parents oppose the presence of more guns in schools and absolutely do not want to arm teachers. Teachers entered the profession to guide the development of children and should not be expected to take on the role of armed guard.

Gun violence certainly is not a "Florida" problem. In taking these steps, the Florida legislature can demonstrate true leadership and set an example for others across the nation. Use your power as our representatives not only to protect Floridians, but also to move national lawmakers to action.

Sincerely,

Jean M Francis

Jean M Francis

09/13/19

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee,

As the Infrastructure and Security Committee focuses on ways to address gun violence and hate crimes during its September meeting(s), my family and I are asking you to consider these priorities:

1.) **Require a background checks on every firearm purchase in the State of Florida** – Over 90% of Americans support requiring background checks on all gun sales. An investigation found that in 2018 alone, there were nearly 1.2 million firearm ads on an online gun marketplace called Armslist.com for gun sales where no background check was legally required. And research shows that prohibited people seek guns in those unlicensed gun sales at a disproportionate rate.

2.) **Require the timely reporting of criminal and mental health records to NICS** - Hundreds of thousands of prohibiting criminal and mental health records are missing from the NICS background check system, potentially enabling prohibited people to pass a background check. This is a critical fail that is required to be fixed in order to make background check legislation effective. Legislation to make this reporting mandatory will make us safer.

3.) **Require gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement -** From 2007 to 2017, at least 82,000 guns were reported stolen and never found in Florida. Not knowing a gun is stolen hinders criminal investigations and law enforcement's ability to track gun-trafficking networks. Stolen gun reports also serve as a deterrent to inter-state gun-trafficking. This is a simple measure of accountability that assists law enforcement do its job.

These three (3) proposals would have a positive effect in making Florida safer and would not diminish Florida residents' rights under the 2nd Amendment. It's a win-win for all of us. Please give them strong consideration.

Thank you for helping to keep us safe.

Sincerely,

Robyn Raymond
2713 Edgewater Court
Weston, Florida 33332
954-383-6636
Bluetide257@gmail.com
Sent from my iPad

9/9/19

Sen. Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
4040 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee,
As you know, gun violence occurs on a daily basis – here in Florida and across the nation. While I am a longtime Florida resident, I was born and raised in Dayton, Ohio, and still have several family members and friends there.

Up until this summer, I had never been personally affected by gun violence, but statistically it was just a matter of time, and the mass shooting in Dayton became my "gun violence event."

While thankfully my brother was not shot, he was in the Oregon District the night of the shooting, ran for his life and has since been suffering the post mass-shooting effects which in turn has affected our entire extended family and friends.

Therefore, I would like you to consider a few priorities this legislative session as it will help save American lives. I would like you to consider:

Background checks on all gun sales[1]

> 93 percent of American voters support requiring background checks on all gun sales, including 89 percent of Republicans and 87 percent of gun owners. An investigation found that in 2018 alone, there were nearly 1.2 million gun ads on an online gun marketplace called Armslist.com for gun sales where no background check was legally required. And research shows that prohibited people seek guns in those unlicensed gun sales at a disproportionate rate.

Ban on assault weapons and high capacity magazines[2]

> The August 2019 Dayton, Ohio shooter used a rifle equipped with a high-capacity drum magazine capable of holding 100 rounds. Though law enforcement stopped the shooting in about 30 seconds, the shooter was able to fire dozens of shots—and kill 9 people—largely because of the magazine capacity. Over the past decade, the four deadliest mass shootings in America involved the use of

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[1] https://everytownresearch.org/background-checks-save-lives-protect-communities/
[2] https://everytown.org/learn/h-r-1186-prohibiting-high-capacity-magazines-would-reduce-the-devastation-of-gun-violence/

high-capacity magazines. In fact, 58 percent of mass shootings between 2009 and 2017 were committed with firearms equipped with high-capacity magazines.[5]

Expansion of red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders[3]

When a person is in crisis, loved ones and law enforcement are often the first to see signs that they pose a threat. An Extreme Risk law allows them to petition a court for an extreme risk protection order to temporarily remove guns from dangerous situations and prohibit the purchase or possession of firearms while the order is in effect.

I sincerely appreciate you and the committee taking a look at ways to save lives from gun violence in Florida. Evidence shows that the above ideas can do just that.

Thank you,
Rebecca Newman
337 Swansea Court
Oviedo, FL 32765
(407) 971-1541

[3] https://everytownresearch.org/extreme-risk-laws/

September, 12 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair
Florida Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee
418 Senate Building
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Senator Lee:

As you lead the effort to consider legislation this session to prevent gun violence, including mass shootings, I write to express my support for passing a state law to require criminal background checks on all gun sales. Florida state law currently does not require background checks on unlicensed gun sales, leaving a massive loophole in place that makes it far too easy for criminals, people prohibited from having guns because of mental illness, and others with dangerous histories to get their hands on guns through private, online or gun show sales. Fifteen states have passed laws to require background checks on all gun sales. Background check laws —by point-of-sale check and/or permit— are associated with lower rates of firearm homicide, suicide and firearm trafficking. The Florida Legislature should build upon the important gun violence legislation passed following the Parkland mass shooting and pass a comprehensive background check law.

Sincerely,

Nicole Witt
4112 Walden View Dr.
Brandon, FL 33511

9/15/2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee,
As the Infrastructure and Security Committee focuses on ways to address gun violence and hate crimes during its September meeting(s), my family and I are asking you to consider these priorities:

1.) Require a background checks on every firearm purchase in the State of Florida – Over 90% of Americans support requiring background checks on all gun sales. An investigation found that in 2018 alone, there were nearly 1.2 million firearm ads on an online gun marketplace called Armslist.com for gun sales where no background check was legally required. And research shows that prohibited people seek guns in those unlicensed gun sales at a disproportionate rate.

2.) Require the timely reporting of criminal and mental health records to NICS - Hundreds of thousands of prohibiting criminal and mental health records are missing from the NICS background check system, potentially enabling prohibited people to pass a background check. This is a critical fail that is required to be fixed in order to make background check legislation effective. Legislation to make this reporting mandatory will make us safer.

3.) Require gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement - From 2007 to 2017, at least 82,000 guns were reported stolen and never found in Florida. Not knowing a gun is stolen hinders criminal investigations and law enforcement's ability to track gun-trafficking networks. Stolen gun reports also serve as a deterrent to inter-state gun-trafficking. This is a simple measure of accountability that assists law enforcement do its job.

These three (3) proposals would have a positive effect in making Florida safer and would not diminish Florida residents' rights under the 2nd Amendment. It's a win-win for all of us. Please give them strong consideration.

Thank you for helping to keep us safe.
Sincerely,

Signed: Claes Bell
549 Fairwind Drive
North Palm Beach, FL 33408

September 14, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee

Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee

The Florida Senate

418 Senate Building

404 South Monroe Street

Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee;

I am a Florida resident who is very concerned about my own safety and that of my family and friends. It is my understanding that you and your Committee have been tasked with reviewing hate crimes and gun violence and introducing legislation in the next session to address your findings.

Please consider the expansion of **red flag laws** to allow family members to petition for **Extreme Risk Protection Orders**. When a person is in crisis, their loved ones, not law enforcement, are often the first to see signs that they pose a threat. An expanded Extreme Risk law would allow family members to petition a court for an extreme risk protection order to temporarily remove guns from dangerous situations and prohibit the purchase or possession of firearms while the order is in effect. The law passed last year that allows law enforcement to petition the court has helped but it is not enough. Allowing family members who are more familiar with threats and dangers to petition the court directly would make all of us safer, whether we are Florida residents or visitors to our state.

Our son, Colin, was a senior at Marjory Stoneman Douglas on February 14, 2018. He hid in a closet for hours as we texted him to make sure he was safe during the Massacre. Agonizing as this experience was for us, we were fortunate, he came home to us. Fourteen students with their whole life ahead of them and three brave staff did not return home to their loved ones. If Nikolas Cruz' mother had been able to petition the court to disqualify him from purchasing his cache of weapons, this terrible tragedy may not have occurred. Saving lives should be the primary goal of our government and law enforcement. It's time for **PROACTIVE** not **REACTIVE** solutions.

Also, please consider crafting legislation that requires those convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence to surrender firearms temporarily under the same requirements as under **ERPOs**. In an average month, at least 52 American women are shot and killed by an intimate partner, and many more are injured. And often, their children are either harmed or killed. These children also suffer the trauma of witnessing the gun violence and potentially lose both parents simultaneously. We must do more to prevent these tragedies.

These simple expanded protections will surely save the lives of many Floridians. I ask you to consider these as we attempt to be safer in our homes and communities throughout the state.

My thanks in advance for your efforts on behalf of all Floridians.

Sincerely,

Signed: *Janice Herbert-Bates*

Name: Janice Herbert-Bates

Full Address: 9285 NW 70th ct

Parkland FL, 33067

Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee:

I am writing to you from Miami-Dade County in the hopes of letting you know what issues I would like the Florida legislature to focus on next year in terms of gun violence prevention. My priorities are as follows:

1. Background checks on all gun sales

93 percent of American voters support requiring background checks on all gun sales, including 89 percent of Republicans and 87 percent of gun owners. Florida has not closed the unlicensed sale loophole which means that felons, domestic abusers and other prohibited people cans skip a background check and get armed simply by seeking an unlicensed seller online or even at a gun show. It is like if you went to TSA to board a plane and just asked to skip the line and you were ALLOWED! It just makes no sense. An investigation found that in 2018 alone, there were nearly 1.2 million gun ads on an online gun marketplace called Armslist.com for gun sales. No background check was legally required. Research shows that prohibited people seek guns in those unlicensed gun sales at a disproportionate rate.

2. Expansion of red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders

When a person is in crisis, loved ones are usually the first to see signs that they pose a threat.

3. Require firearms dealers to notify law enforcement when a customer fails a background check

Failed attempts to purchase guns can foreshadow future criminal activity. People who fail background checks are 28 percent more likely to be arrested in the five years following the denial than in the five years before it. Law enforcement should know and WANTS to know when prohibited individuals are attempting to purchase guns.

4. Reform the concealed carry license process to give the Department of Agriculture greater discretion to deny licenses to those individuals who present a public safety threat

The legislature practically apologizes to gun owners for requiring a license to concealed carry: "The Legislature does not delegate to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services the authority to regulate or restrict the issuing of licenses provided for in this section, beyond those provisions contained in this section. Subjective or arbitrary actions or rules which encumber the issuing process by placing burdens on the applicant beyond those sworn statements and specified documents detailed in this section or which create restrictions beyond those specified in this section are in conflict with the intent of this section and are prohibited. This section shall be liberally construed to carry out the constitutional right to bear arms for self-defense. This section is supplemental and additional to existing rights to bear arms, and nothing in this section shall impair or diminish such rights." Fla. Stat. 790.06(15).

5. Require gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement

From 2007 to 2017, at least 82,000 guns were reported stolen and never found in Florida. Requiring safe storage in vehicles would go a long way to reducing these numbers.

On behalf of my family, I urge you as a leader and steward of Florida, to take action on this issue of gun reform. We cannot risk another young life because of our inaction. thank you for taking the time to read this letter.

Sincerely,



Name: Terri Sparber Bukacheski

Address: 10140 SW 99 Avenue, Miami, FL 33176

Phone Number: 786-223-7509

Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Infrastructure and Security Committee:

I am writing to thank you for your work on gun violence and to ask you to support the commonsense gun reform so **desperately** needed in our state. Based on the experiences here in Miami Dade County, I believe the following changes would be the most impactful in preventing gun violence:

1. Background checks on all gun sales

Most Florida voters support requiring background checks on all gun sales, including 89 percent of Republicans and 87 percent of gun owners. We still have not closed the unlicensed gun sale loophole which means that prohibited buyers can take advantage of this loophole and get armed illegally in person and via internet. This loophole guts the public safety impact of **all** our laws. Criminals, underage buyers and people subject to Extreme Risk Orders can simply circumvent the law and purchase a firearm from an unlicensed seller and skip a background check altogether. It is like going to TSA, skipping the line and being allowed through a side door. Crazy!

2. Ban on high capacity magazines

The August 2019 Dayton, Ohio shooter used a rifle equipped with a high-capacity drum magazine capable of holding 100 rounds. Though law enforcement stopped the shooting in about 30 seconds, the shooter was able to fire dozens of shots—and kill 9 people—largely because of the magazine capacity. Over the past decade, **the four deadliest mass shootings in America involved the use of high-capacity magazines. In fact, 58 percent of mass shootings between 2009 and 2017 were committed with firearms equipped with high-capacity magazines.** Limiting magazine capacity would make **ALL** guns less lethal.

3. Require firearms dealers to notify law enforcement when a customer fails a background check

Failed attempts to purchase guns can foreshadow future criminal activity. People who fail background checks are 28 percent more likely to be arrested in the five years following the denial than in the five years before it. Law enforcement wants to know and should know when prohibited individuals are attempting to purchase guns.

4. Expansion of red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders

When a person is in crisis, loved ones are often the first to see signs that they pose a threat to themselves or others. An Extreme Risk law allows them to petition a court for an order to temporarily remove guns from dangerous situations and prohibit the purchase or possession of firearms while the order is in effect.

5. Require gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement and make responsible storage laws stricter so stolen guns are kept off the streets.

From 2007 to 2017, at least 82,000 guns were reported stolen and never found in Florida. Law enforcement has said over and over that they want to know if a stolen gun is on the street. Here in Miami Dade we need solutions for our urban violence NOW – please raise the bar to make it more difficult for guns to be stolen and for law enforcement to be informed.

The bottom line is that **too** many Floridians are killed with guns. The impact of this violence is heartbreaking and impacts our residents, tourist industry, hospitals and economy through gun trafficking, suicide, domestic violence, injury and death. I ask that you focus on the above priorities to save lives and that you don't wait.

Thank you for your time and attention,

Name Sandi Huffman-Hansen
Address 2000 Salzedo St. Apt. 1415
Coral Gables, FL 33134
903-238-7743

Mr. and Mrs. Steve Rude
85076 Bostick Wood Drive
Fernandina Beach, Florida 32034
904-557-0486

September 14, 2019

Tom Lee
Chair of the Infrastructure and Security Committee

Re: Gun Violence Prevention

Dear Mr. Lee:

As parents and now grandparents we are concerned about the rising gun violence in the United States. New laws need to be formed so that there are comprehensive background checks. We also need to fix red flag laws to include family members. There needs to be a ban on assault weapons, there is no need whatsoever for them to be in American homes. Finally, there needs to be a repeal of arming teachers and the "Stand Your Ground" law.

We urge you to consider these 4 things, they are so important to American families.

Sincerely,

Steve and Barbara Rude

Rosie Kewsen
2432 Jolene Lane
Tallahassee, Florida 32303

September 11, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security
The Florida Senate
416 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee:

It is my understanding that your committee is considering efforts to prevent mass attacks and targeted violence. Many Americans are particularly concerned about gun violence, but we cannot wait on Washington to respond to this issue. We must look at our situation for reducing gun violence in Florida such as collection and examination of crime data and researching programs from other states and other countries that have successfully reduced gun violence.

Over ninety percent of American voters support requiring background checks on gun sales and eighty-three percent support background checks at gun shows and other private sales. The U.S. Congress has yet to pass legislation to close loopholes and ensure that all gun sales require a through background check. I urge your committee to review this issue and pursue strong background check legislation for our state.

Assault guns and high capacity magazines are frequently used in mass shootings and result in more deaths and serious injuries. These weapons are designed to kill the maximum number of people in the minimum amount of time. They are not for sport shooting and should only be available to military and law enforcement. Just last month 53 people were killed in mass shootings and there have been 19 mass shootings across this country in the past eight months.

Legal firearms should be safely stored in homes and vehicles. From 2007-2017, over 82,000 guns were stolen and never found in Florida. Imagine a child finding a loaded gun in a home or vehicle. Every year 350 children accidentally shoot themselves or someone else. Stolen guns can be diverted to the illegal gun market where they can be accessed by criminals and persons who cannot pass a background check. We need legislation to require safe storage of firearms and requirements and procedures to report stolen guns.

Fewer people die in states with strong gun laws. Florida made an improvement last year with the passage of extreme risk protection and higher minimum age for buying firearms, but we need to do much more. I encourage your committee to give serious consideration to all efforts to protect our citizens from gun violence.

Thank you,

Rosie Kewsen

September, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair
Florida Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee
418 Senate Building
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Senator Lee:

As you lead the effort to consider legislation this session to prevent gun violence, including mass shootings, I write to express my support for passing a state law to require criminal background checks on all gun sales. Florida state law currently does not require background checks on unlicensed gun sales, leaving a massive loophole in place that makes it far too easy for criminals, people prohibited from having guns because of mental illness, and others with dangerous histories to get their hands on guns through private, online or gun show sales. Fifteen states have passed laws to require background checks on all gun sales. Background check laws —by point-of-sale check and/or permit— are associated with lower rates of firearm homicide, suicide and firearm trafficking. The Florida Legislature should build upon the important gun violence legislation passed following the Parkland mass shooting and pass a comprehensive background check law.

Sincerely,

Joyce Evans

September, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair
Florida Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee
418 Senate Building
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Senator Lee:

As you lead the effort to consider legislation this session to prevent gun violence, including mass shootings, I write to express my support for passing a state law to require criminal background checks on all gun sales. Florida state law currently does not require background checks on unlicensed gun sales, leaving a massive loophole in place that makes it far too easy for criminals, people prohibited from having guns because of mental illness, and others with dangerous histories to get their hands on guns through private, online or gun show sales. Fifteen states have passed laws to require background checks on all gun sales. Background check laws —by point-of-sale check and/or permit— are associated with lower rates of firearm homicide, suicide and firearm trafficking. The Florida Legislature should build upon the important gun violence legislation passed following the Parkland mass shooting and pass a comprehensive background check law.

Sincerely,

Dana Elliott Preble

Sen. Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee,

I understand that there will be a meeting in the Florida Legislature on Monday, September 16th on the topic of gun legislation. I am a Windermere, FL resident and mother of two middle school aged children who is greatly concerned about the impact of gun violence on our kids, our families and our communities. We have a new middle school in our community. Sadly, the first thought when we visited the campus was whether it is secure enough to protect our kids from an active shooter. This is pathetic. Gun violence is an epidemic in our state and our country. Doing nothing is NOT acceptable. I support all of the following initiatives. Please make them part of your dialogue and do something to make a difference.

Background checks on all gun sales[1]

> 93 percent of American voters support requiring background checks on all gun sales, including 89 percent of Republicans and 87 percent of gun owners. An investigation found that in 2018 alone, there were nearly 1.2 million gun ads on an online gun marketplace called Armslist.com for gun sales where no background check was legally required. And research shows that prohibited people seek guns in those unlicensed gun sales at a disproportionate rate.

Ban on assault weapons and high capacity magazines[2]

> The August 2019 Dayton, Ohio shooter used a rifle equipped with a high-capacity drum magazine capable of holding 100 rounds. Though law enforcement stopped the shooting in about 30 seconds, the shooter was able to fire dozens of shots—and kill 9 people—largely because of the magazine capacity. Over the past decade, the four deadliest mass shootings in America involved the use of high-capacity magazines. In fact, 58 percent of mass shootings between 2009 and 2017 were committed with firearms equipped with high-capacity magazines.[5]
>
> NO civilian needs this type of weapon. NO ONE.

Expansion of red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders[3]

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[1] https://everytownresearch.org/background-checks-save-lives-protect-communities/
[2] https://everytown.org/learn/h-r-1186-prohibiting-high-capacity-magazines-would-reduce-the-devastation-of-gun-violence/
[3] https://everytownresearch.org/extreme-risk-laws/

When a person is in crisis, loved ones and law enforcement are often the first to see signs that they pose a threat. An Extreme Risk law allows them to petition a court for an extreme risk protection order to temporarily remove guns from dangerous situations and prohibit the purchase or possession of firearms while the order is in effect.

Reinstate the language in §30.15 that prohibited classroom teachers from serving as school guardians[4]

A March 2018 survey of almost 500 U.S. teachers found that **73 percent** oppose proposals to arm school staff. Another survey found that **63 percent** of parents of elementary, middle, and high school students oppose arming teachers.

I WILL NOT send my children to a public school where teachers are armed. The only individuals who should be armed in schools are law enforcement officers. Do NOT put this burden on our teachers. They deal with enough. Put the money into physical campus security and preventive measures.

Reform the concealed carry license process to give the Department of Agriculture greater discretion to deny licenses to those individuals who present a public safety threat[5]

The legislature practically apologizes to gun owners for requiring a license to concealed carry: "The Legislature does not delegate to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services the authority to regulate or restrict the issuing of licenses provided for in this section, beyond those provisions contained in this section. Subjective or arbitrary actions or rules which encumber the issuing process by placing burdens on the applicant beyond those sworn statements and specified documents detailed in this section or which create restrictions beyond those specified in this section are in conflict with the intent of this section and are prohibited. This section shall be liberally construed to carry out the constitutional right to bear arms for self-defense. This section is supplemental and additional to existing rights to bear arms, and nothing in this section shall impair or diminish such rights." Fla. Stat. 790.06(15).

Require those convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence to surrender firearms[6]

In an average month, at least 52 American women are shot and killed by an intimate partner, and many more are injured.

Require firearms dealers to notify law enforcement when a customer fails a background check[7]

Failed attempts to purchase guns can foreshadow future criminal activity. People who fail background checks are 28 percent more likely to be arrested in the five years following the

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[4] https://everytownresearch.org/arming-teachers-introduces-new-risks-into-schools/

[5] https://www.freshfromflorida.com/Consumer-Resources/Concealed-Weapon-License/Applying-for-a-Concealed-Weapon-License/Eligibility-Requirements

[6] https://everytownresearch.org/reports/guns-violence-women-americas-uniquely-lethal-domestic-violence-problem/

[7] https://www.thetrace.org/2018/03/florida-lie-and-try-loophole-background-check-denials/

denial than in the five years before it. Law enforcement should know when prohibited individuals are attempting to purchase guns.

Prohibit concealed carry licensees from carrying firearms in additional sensitive places, such as daycares, public playgrounds, and at public demonstrations[8]

Florida's list of "sensitive" places is fairly small, and despite the NRA talking point, data from 2009-2016 shows that only 10 percent of the 156 mass shootings during that period happened in a "gun free zone."

Require safe storage of guns in vehicles and Require gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement[9]

From 2007 to 2017, at least 82,000 guns were reported stolen and never found in Florida.

Require safety training prior to purchasing a firearm[10]

Gun buyers should be educated on firearm safety, including safe storage. Every year almost 350 children shoot themselves or someone else unintentionally. Most of these shootings take place inside a home where a gun was not properly secured.

Require the timely reporting of criminal and mental health records to NICS[11]

Hundreds of thousands of prohibiting mental health records are missing from the NICS background check system, potentially enabling prohibited people to pass a background check.

Repeal preemption[12]

Efforts by municipalities to regulate where guns can be carried and fired have been struck down on the basis of Florida's preemption statute.

Return the burden of proof for stand your ground defense to the defendant[13]

Florida's Stand Your Ground defense, which requires the state to disprove the defense before trial, is very difficult for prosecutors to overcome.

Prohibit the printing of 3D guns[14]

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[8] https://www.freshfromflorida.com/Consumer-Resources/Concealed-Weapon-License/Possession-Restrictions
[9] https://projects.tampabay.com/projects/2017/special-report/unlocked-loaded/stolen-guns/
[10] https://everytownresearch.org/secure-storage/
[11] https://everytownresearch.org/reports/fatal-gaps-mental-health-records/
[12] https://everytownresearch.org/fact-sheet-preemption-laws/
[13] https://slate.com/news-and-politics/2019/01/florida-stand-your-ground-law-just-got-way-worse.html
[14] https://www.npr.org/2019/02/14/694641578/texas-man-with-3d-printed-gun-and-hit-list-of-lawmakers-sentenced-to-8-years

3d Printed guns provide another way for individuals prohibited by law from purchasing a gun to obtain one without a background check.

Seven states and the District of Columbia have some type of assault weapon prohibition. Nine states and the District of Columbia have some type of high capacity magazine prohibition. With the gun violence already experienced in our state, isn't it time to really do something about it?

Please, take a stand and make Florida a safer place to live.

Kristine Bunnell
13967 Darchance Rd.
Windermere, FL 34786

September 13, 2019

Infrastructure and Security Committee

The Florida Senate

418 Senate Building

404 South Monroe Street

Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee:

I am resident of Miami Florida since 1962. I am a mother, a grandmother a former Miami- Dade Public Schools Volunteer, a Former PTA President and EESAC board member of more schools than I can list. In the last 4 years my family and I have experienced the following: **1**. My next door neighbor Pepe was shot and killed by a mentally ill neighbor because Pepe's dog stepped on this man's lawn. He was living in our neighborhood because he had too many restraining orders for aggressive behavior in his old neighborhood, so his son moved him into ours and no on took his gun away. **2**. I was visiting my son in Orlando the night of the Pulse massacre. His home was less than a mile away, we heard the horrors and the sirens and saw the lights and helicopters. **3**. My pregnant daughter was at Merrick Park leaving a maternity shop when she saw a group of half naked people running towards her screaming shooter, 8 months pregnant she ran in terror to her car. **4.** On February 14, 2018 my husband was stuck in traffic on an expressway when policemen in riot gear and riffles jumped through and over traffic, his car to get to Parkland high school. **5**. My husband walked into our home to find our tile man Carlos with a red dot on his chest and an armed intruder pointing a gun at him. These experiences and the gun related deaths of approximately 35,000 Americans annually are why I am writing you.

I am writing to you in the hopes of letting you know what issues I would like the Florida legislature to focus on next year in terms of gun violence prevention. My priorities are as follows:

1. Background checks on all gun sales

93 percent of American voters support requiring background checks on all gun sales, including 89 percent of Republicans and 87 percent of gun owners. Florida has not closed the unlicensed sale loophole which means that felons, domestic abusers and other prohibited people cans skip a background check and get armed simply by seeking an unlicensed seller online or even at a gun show. It is like if you went to TSA to board a plane and just asked to skip the line and you were ALLOWED! It just makes no sense. An investigation found that in 2018 alone, there were nearly 1.2 million gun ads on an online gun marketplace called Armslist.com for gun sales. No background check was legally required. Research shows that prohibited people seek guns in those unlicensed gun sales at a disproportionate rate.

2. Expansion of red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders

When a person is in crisis, loved ones are usually the first to see signs that they pose a threat.

3. Require firearms dealers to notify law enforcement when a customer fails a background check

Failed attempts to purchase guns can foreshadow future criminal activity. People who fail background checks are 28 percent more likely to be arrested in the five years following the denial than in the five years before it. Law enforcement should know and WANTS to know when prohibited individuals are attempting to purchase guns.

4. Reform the concealed carry license process to give the Department of Agriculture greater discretion to deny licenses to those individuals who present a public safety threat

The legislature practically apologizes to gun owners for requiring a license to concealed carry: "The Legislature does not delegate to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services the authority to regulate or restrict the issuing of licenses provided for in this section, beyond those provisions contained in this section. Subjective or arbitrary actions or rules which encumber the issuing process by placing burdens on the applicant beyond those sworn statements and specified documents detailed in this section or which create restrictions beyond those specified in this section are in conflict with the intent of this section and are prohibited. This section shall be liberally construed to carry out the constitutional right to bear arms for self-defense. This section is supplemental and additional to existing rights to bear arms, and nothing in this section shall impair or diminish such rights." Fla. Stat. 790.06(15).

5. Require gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement

From 2007 to 2017, at least 82,000 guns were reported stolen and never found in Florida. Requiring safe storage in vehicles would go a long way to reducing these numbers.

On behalf of my family, I urge you as a leader and steward of Florida, to take action on this issue of gun reform. We cannot risk another young life because of our inaction. thank you for taking the time to read this letter.

Sincerely,

Charmaine Sforza-Flick

9715 SW 104 Court

Miami, Florida 33176

305 216-9436

September 13, 2019

Sen. Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security
The Florida Senate

Honorable Chair Senator Lee,

Please lead the Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee to promote public safety. Bills needed are:

Background checks on all gun sales[1] Note that 3 percent of American voters support this measure.
Ban on assault weapons and high capacity magazines[2] Since 58 percent of mass shootings between 2009 and 2017 were committed with firearms equipped with high-capacity magazines.[5]
Expansion of red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders[3] When a person is in crisis, loved ones and law enforcement are often the first to see signs that they pose a threat. An Extreme Risk law allows them to petition a court for an extreme risk protection order to temporarily remove guns from dangerous situations and prohibit the purchase or possession of firearms while the order is in effect. I personally know 3 persons who may have been helped—a woman facing divorce, an unemployed musician, and a dementia patient, who took their lives with guns.
Prohibit concealed carry licensees from carrying firearms in additional sensitive places, such as daycares, public playgrounds, and at public demonstrations[4] Florida's list of "sensitive" places is fairly small, and despite the NRA talking point, data from 2009-2016 shows that only 10 percent of the 156 mass shootings during that period happened in a "gun free zone."

Other measures I support are many: Reinstate the language in §30.15 that prohibited[5]; Reform the concealed carry licenses process to give the Department of Agriculture greater discretion to deny licenses to those individuals who present a public safety threat[6] ; Require those convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence to surrender firearms[7]; Require firearms dealers to notify law enforcement when a customer fails a background check[8]; Require safe storage of guns in vehicles and require gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement[9]; Require safety training prior to purchasing a firearm[10]; Require the timely reporting of criminal and mental health records to NICS[11]; Repeal preemption[12]; Return the burden of proof for stand your ground defense to the defendant[13] Prohibit the printing of 3D guns[14]

I urge the Florida Legislature to pass strong laws protecting our citizens.

Thank you, Kathleen W. Pagan, Gainesville

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[1] https://everytownresearch.org/background-checks-save-lives-protect-communities/
[2] https://everytown.org/learn/h-r-1186-prohibiting-high-capacity-magazines-would-reduce-the-devastation-of-gun-violence/
[3] https://everytownresearch.org/extreme-risk-laws/
[4] https://www.freshfromflorida.com/Consumer-Resources/Concealed-Weapon-License/Possession-Restrictions
[5] https://everytownresearch.org/arming-teachers-introduces-new-risks-into-schools/
[6] https://www.freshfromflorida.com/Consumer-Resources/Concealed-Weapon-License/Applying-for-a-Concealed-Weapon-License/Eligibility-Requirements
[7] https://everytownresearch.org/reports/guns-violence-women-americas-uniquely-lethal-domestic-violence-problem/
[8] https://www.thetrace.org/2018/03/florida-lie-and-try-loophole-background-check-denials/
[9] https://projects.tampabay.com/projects/2017/special-report/unlocked-loaded/stolen-guns/
[10] https://everytownresearch.org/secure-storage/
[11] https://everytownresearch.org/reports/fatal-gaps-mental-health-records/
[12] https://everytownresearch.org/fact-sheet-preemption-laws/
[13] https://slate.com/news-and-politics/2019/01/florida-stand-your-ground-law-just-got-way-worse.html
[14] https://www.npr.org/2019/02/14/694641578/texas-man-with-3d-printed-gun-and-hit-list-of-lawmakers-sentenced-to-8-years

September 12, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee,

As the mother of two daughters that survived the mass shooting as Stoneman Douglas High School, I was proud to see the state legislature passed the MSD High School Public Safety Act in 2018. Since then, I have been disappointed with the lack of progress to enhance the law over the last 16 months. I am elated to see your committee back to work on this important topic. Since the Infrastructure and Security Committee will be focusing on ways to address gun violence and hate crimes during its September meeting(s), my family and I are asking you to consider these priorities:

1) Require a background checks on every firearm purchase in the State of Florida – Over 90% of Americans support requiring background checks on all gun sales. An investigation found that in 2018 alone, there were nearly 1.2 million firearm ads on an online gun marketplace called Armslist.com for gun sales where no background check was legally required. And research shows that prohibited people seek guns in those unlicensed gun sales at a disproportionate rate.

2) Require the timely reporting of criminal and mental health records to NICS - Hundreds of thousands of prohibiting criminal and mental health records are missing from the NICS background check system, potentially enabling prohibited people to pass a background check. This is a critical fail that is required to be fixed in order to make background check legislation effective. Legislation to make this reporting mandatory will make us safer.

3) Expansion of Red Flag Laws - Current law only allows for Law Enforcement to petition for Extreme Risk Protections Orders. When a person is in crisis their loved ones, not the police, are often the first to see the signs that they pose a threat. Allowing family members who are more familiar with threats and dangers to petition the court directly, would make all of us safer, whether we are Florida residents or visitors to the state.

These three (3) proposals would have a positive effect in making Florida safer and would not diminish Florida residents' rights under the 2nd Amendment. It's a win-win for all of us. Please give them strong consideration.

Thank you for continuing to work hard on keeping our family, friends, and future generations safe.

Sincerely,

Heather Chapman
9750 Lakeview Lane
Parkland, FL 33076
954-695-5238



Jennifer Young, LMHC
Certified Clinical Trauma Therapist
1301 Seminole Blvd, Suite H169, Largo, FL. 33770
PH: 727.642.2189 FAX: 727.536.3847
Email: jennifer@counselingforyourself.com
www.counselingforyourself.com

September 12, 2019

Sen. Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee:

I am writing today in my capacity as a Licensed Mental Health Counselor and especially as a trauma therapist. I am asking that you consider the mental health aspects of gun violence, not just a cause, but as an issue woven deeply into the need for common sense gun laws. We cannot simplify this problem down to just one issue and mental health is being wrongly scapegoated as the cause and the solution. There is zero evidence to support that path. What we do know, is that guns in the hands of a dangerous person leads to violence. Our job is to create a fair path to identify dangerous people, identify if they have a gun in the home and secure that gun for the safety of themselves, their family and the community.

Mentally ill people are much more likely to be victims of violence than to be a perpetrator of it. However, there are people who display anger, aggression and possess other dangerous personality traits that are identifiable that must be our concern. In Pinellas County, where I practice, Red Flag Laws have been put in place allowing mental health professionals to make the call to the police should we identify someone who is acting in a dangerous way. This process allows the police department to investigate and remove guns from the home.

<u>What I am asking is for the expansion of red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders</u>

When a person is in crisis, loved ones and law enforcement are often the first to see signs that they pose a threat. An Extreme Risk law allows them to petition a court for an extreme risk protection order to temporarily remove guns from dangerous situations and prohibit the purchase or possession of firearms while the order is in effect. We need these laws to include family members being allow to make the call.

Please stop scapegoating the mentally ill. Guns in the hands of dangerous people are the problem. We must focus on guns and dangerous people – not those suffering with mental illness. The only way for red flag laws to work is through a system of universal background checks – it must be comprehensive and federal. Without a system to both identify (red flag laws) and report (background check system) we will continue to see innocent people murdered.

I am counting on you and your colleagues, who have been elected by the people, to DO SOMETHING.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Young, LMHC
Jennifer Young LMHC

e Florida Senate

ar Senator Lee,

m. . teacher living in Gainesville, Florida. I have become increasingly alarmed and ddened by the news of more frequent mass shootings in our country, and the growing mber of deaths as a result of city gun violence and gun suicide. It is a good sign that the rida Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee is holding a workshop/meeting to cuss legislation to address this crisis.

e most effective way to reduce gun violence in Florida is to pass a law requiring ckground checks for all gun sales. Current law allows too many gun purchases to slip ough the cracks -- it is too easy to buy a gun no questions asked, through private sales a n shows or on an online gun marketplace. Research shows that prohibited people seek ns in those unlicensed gun sales at a disproportionate rate. The majority of gun owners ree that there is a pressing need to create a new mechanism for incorporating a licensed aler's background check into all gun sale transactions. They agree that this process doe thing to infringe on law abiding Americans' 2nd Amendment rights, but it does a great dea keep guns out of the hands of dangerous people.

addition, it is important to pass a measure that will reduce the number of illegal firearms i r communities. From 2007 to 2017, at least 82,000 guns were reported stolen and never nd in Florida. A good way to address this problem is to require safe storage of guns in hicles and require gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement.

ally, a key component of gun suicide prevention is Florida's Red Flag law. The law shoul expanded to allow family members to petition a court for an Extreme Risk Protection Ord en a loved one is in crisis and at risk of gun suicide. Temporary removal of guns from ngerous situations has been proven to save lives.

ank you for the important work you are doing on this issue.

ncerely,
len Kirklin
s' 'ent of Alachua County

September 13, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee,

My family and I are asking you to consider these priorities, as the Infrastructure and Security Committee focuses on ways to address gun violence and hate crimes during its September meeting(s),:

1.) **Require a background checks on every firearm purchase in the State of Florida** – Over 90% of Americans support requiring background checks on all gun sales. An investigation found that in 2018 alone, there were nearly 1.2 million firearm ads on an online gun marketplace called Armslist.com for gun sales where no background check was legally required. And research shows that prohibited people seek guns in those unlicensed gun sales at a disproportionate rate.

2.) **Require the timely reporting of criminal and mental health records to NICS** - Hundreds of thousands of prohibiting criminal and mental health records are missing from the NICS background check system, potentially enabling prohibited people to pass a background check. This is a critical fail that is required to be fixed in order to make background check legislation effective. Legislation to make this reporting mandatory will make us safer.

3.) **Require gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement** - From 2007 to 2017, at least 82,000 guns were reported stolen and never found in Florida. Not knowing a gun is stolen hinders criminal investigations and law enforcement's ability to track gun-trafficking networks. Stolen gun reports also serve as a deterrent to inter-state gun-trafficking. This is a simple measure of accountability that assists law enforcement do its job.

These three (3) proposals would have a positive effect in making Florida safer and would not diminish Florida residents' rights under the 2nd Amendment. It's a win-win for all of us. Please give them strong consideration.

Thank you for making these issues a priority and helping to keep us safe.

Sincerely,

Signed:

Dianne M. Bishop
1633 N.E. 6th St.
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33304

September 13, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee;

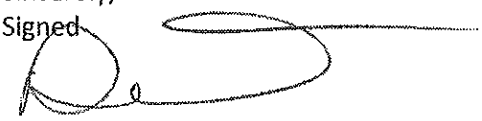
Thank you for your work and ongoing concern for the health and safety of all Floridians. As you and the Committee move forward with discussion and creation of legislation that will address hate crimes and gun violence, please consider the following.

Since retirement of the federal ban on assault weapons in 1994, we have seen a drastic increase in the number of deaths associated with mass shootings. While we cannot presume that the rise in incidents can be attributed to assault weapons, we can say with all certainty that more deaths occur per incident when assault weapons are involved. Most recently, the Dayton Ohio shooter used a high-capacity drum magazine holding 100 rounds. Although law enforcement quickly intervened to stop the shooting, within 30 seconds 9 people had been shot and killed, largely due to the magazine capacity. Thus, while a ban on assault weapons may not impact the frequency of mass shootings, it would certainly help to decrease the number of deaths.

In the area of gun safety, please improve the safety standards associated with the training that is required prior to the purchase of a firearm. From 2014 through today, across America, 1,296 children have been killed or injured by guns. Many of these incidents result from accidents associated with the failure of the owner to safely store a weapon. While today's reality may require that we as parents ask whether there is a gun in the house each time we organize a play date, it's imperative that we be assured that those guns are safely stored.

As always, my thanks for your consideration dedication to safeguarding all Floridians.

Sincerely,
Signed



Dianne M. Bishop
1633 N.E. 6th St.
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33304

September 13, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee

Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee

The Florida Senate

418 Senate Building

404 South Monroe Street

Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee:

I live in the State of Florida resident and I am very concerned about my own safety and the safety of my family and friends. It is my understanding that you and your Committee have been tasked with reviewing hate crimes and gun violence and introducing legislation in the next session to address your findings.

Please consider the expansion of red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders. When a person is in crisis, their loved ones, not law enforcement, are often the first to see signs that they pose a threat. An expanded Extreme Risk law would allow family members to petition a court for an extreme risk protection order to temporarily remove guns from dangerous situations and prohibit the purchase or possession of firearms while the order is in effect. The law passed last year that allows law enforcement to petition the court has helped but it is not enough. Allowing family members who are more familiar with threats and dangers to petition the court directly would make all of us safer, whether we are Florida residents or visitors to our state.

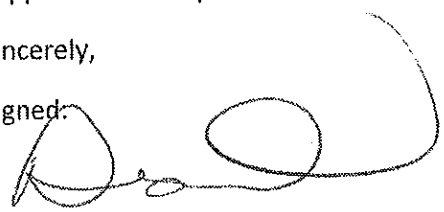
Also, please consider crafting legislation that requires those convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence to surrender firearms temporarily under the same requirements as under ERPOs. In an average month, at least 52 American women are shot and killed by an intimate partner, and many more are injured. And often, the children are either harmed or also killed, and/or suffer the trauma of witnessing these events or losing both parents simultaneously. We must do more to prevent these tragedies.

These simple expanded protections will surely save the lives of many Floridians. I ask you to consider these as we attempt to be safer in our homes and communities throughout the state.

I appreciate all of your efforts on behalf of all Floridians.

Sincerely,

Signed:



Dianne M. Bishop

1633 N.E. 6th St.

Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33304

September 13, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee;

I understand that the Infrastructure and Security Committee will be focusing on ways to address gun violence and hate crimes during its September meeting. While the recent wave of mass shootings has served to focus our attention on this topic, in reality, one hundred Americans lose their lives to gun violence in their own neighborhoods daily. Obviously, this is a vitally important topic, and I thank you for spearheading this discussion.

As you move forward with the discussion, particularly as it relates to hate crimes, it is my hope that you will consider revisions to the existing Stand Your Ground Law. Under the current law, the burden of proof falls to the plaintiff and requires that the state disprove the defense which is difficult, if not impossible, for prosecutors to overcome. Additionally, the existing law is flawed and serves to exacerbate hate crimes in that it provides latitude to initiate a confrontation, then respond with deadly force. This can be corrected by placing the burden of proof for a stand your ground defense on the defendant.

Again, my thanks for spearheading the discussion and for your dedication to preserving the health, safety and welfare of us all.

Sincerely,

Dianne M. Bishop
1633 N.E. 6th St.
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33304

Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Infrastructure and Security Committee:

I am writing to thank you for your work on gun violence and to ask you to support the commonsense gun reform so desperately needed in our state. Based on the experiences here in Miami Dade County, I believe the following changes would be the most impactful in preventing gun violence:

1. Background checks on all gun sales

Most Florida voters support requiring background checks on all gun sales, including 89 percent of Republicans and 87 percent of gun owners. We still have not closed the unlicensed gun sale loophole which means that prohibited buyers can take advantage of this loophole and get armed illegally in person and via internet. This loophole guts the public safety impact of **all** our laws. Criminals, underage buyers and people subject to Extreme Risk Orders can simply circumvent the law and purchase a firearm from an unlicensed seller and skip a background check altogether. It is like going to TSA, skipping the line and being allowed through a side door. Crazy!

2. Ban on high capacity magazines

The August 2019 Dayton, Ohio shooter used a rifle equipped with a high-capacity drum magazine capable of holding 100 rounds. Though law enforcement stopped the shooting in about 30 seconds, the shooter was able to fire dozens of shots—and kill 9 people—largely because of the magazine capacity. Over the past decade, **the four deadliest mass shootings in America involved the use of high-capacity magazines. In fact, 58 percent of mass shootings between 2009 and 2017 were committed with firearms equipped with high-capacity magazines.** Limiting magazine capacity would make **ALL** guns less lethal.

3. Require firearms dealers to notify law enforcement when a customer fails a background check

Failed attempts to purchase guns can foreshadow future criminal activity. People who fail background checks are 28 percent more likely to be arrested in the five years following the denial than in the five years before it. Law enforcement wants to know and should know when prohibited individuals are attempting to purchase guns.

4. Expansion of red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders

When a person is in crisis, loved ones are often the first to see signs that they pose a threat to themselves or others. An Extreme Risk law allows them to petition a court for an order to temporarily remove guns from dangerous situations and prohibit the purchase or possession of firearms while the order is in effect.

5. Require gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement and make responsible storage laws stricter so stolen guns are kept off the streets.

From 2007 to 2017, at least 82,000 guns were reported stolen and never found in Florida. Law enforcement has said over and over that they want to know if a stolen gun is on the street. Here in Miami Dade we need solutions for our urban violence NOW – please raise the bar to make it more difficult for guns to be stolen and for law enforcement to be informed.

The bottom line is that too many Floridians are killed with guns. The impact of this violence is heartbreaking and impacts our residents, tourist industry, hospitals and economy through gun trafficking, suicide, domestic violence, injury and death. I ask that you focus on the above priorities to save lives and that you don't wait.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Name Marvin Cruz
Address 21901 SW 124th Ct
Miami, FL 33170
Phone (305) 480-7595

Do Your JOB!

Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Infrastructure and Security Committee:

I am writing to thank you for your work on gun violence and to ask you to support the commonsense gun reform so **desperately** needed in our state. Based on the experiences here in Miami Dade County, I believe the following changes would be the most impactful in preventing gun violence:

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The bottom line is that too many Floridians are killed with guns. The impact of this violence is heartbreaking and impacts our residents, tourist industry, hospitals and economy through gun trafficking, suicide, domestic violence, injury and death. I ask that you focus on the above priorities to save lives and that you don't wait.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Name Sara Cruz
Address 21941 SW 124 Ct, Miami, FL 33170
Phone (305) 484-3380

As a South Dade resident, it is important you do something about the gun violence in our communities.

Every year, about 30,000 Americans are killed with guns. Almost 100 per day. The most tragic are those involving military style assault weapons and high capacity magazines where dozens of people are murdered in seconds. This must end. I support the second amendment but no citizen needs assault weapons or high capacity magazines. For the sake of my neighbors, my friends, my children and my little grandchildren please, please end the sale assault weapons and high capacity magazines. Save people and prevent future murders. History will be on your side. Sincerely,

Robert P Kelly
Boca Raton, Florida

September 14, 2019

Dear Senator Lee,

My wife and I live in Tallahassee and we have two Elementary school-aged children. When we were kids we never had to worry about being killed at school. We are now offering bullet proof backpacks as a solution to our completely out of control gun problem.

It's past time to act, and nobody is suggesting altering the second amendment.

Weapons of mass destruction such as AR-15's do not belong in the hands of citizens.

High capacity magazines are only used to spray large numbers of bullets, quickly.

We need to strengthen Red Flag Laws- 51% of mass shooters showed signs of distress prior to their act.

Background checks have effectively kept guns from people who should not have them. Let's make them required for all gun purchases.

There's not a perfect solution but it is TIME TO ACT.

Please, we urge to you be one of the people who are on the right side of history. People will remember your name as someone who made a difference.

Thank you, Sincerely,

Ben Trexler

September 12, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Florida Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee
418 Senate Building
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Senator Lee:

As you lead the effort to consider legislation this session to prevent gun violence, including mass shootings, I write to express my support for passing a state law to require criminal background checks on all gun sales. Florida state law currently does not require background checks on unlicensed gun sales, leaving a massive loophole in place that makes it far too easy for criminals, people prohibited from having guns because of mental illness, and others with dangerous histories to get their hands on guns through private, online or gun show sales. Fifteen states have passed laws to require background checks on all gun sales. Background check laws —by point-of-sale check and/or permit— are associated with lower rates of firearm homicide, suicide and firearm trafficking. The Florida Legislature should build upon the important gun violence legislation passed following the Parkland mass shooting and pass a comprehensive background check law.

Sincerely,

Julie Ford

September 12, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Florida Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee
418 Senate Building
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Senator Lee:

As you lead the effort to consider legislation this session to prevent gun violence, including mass shootings, I write to express my support for passing a state law to require criminal background checks on all gun sales. Florida state law currently does not require background checks on unlicensed gun sales, leaving a massive loophole in place that makes it far too easy for criminals, people prohibited from having guns because of mental illness, and others with dangerous histories to get their hands on guns through private, online or gun show sales. Fifteen states have passed laws to require background checks on all gun sales. Background check laws —by point-of-sale check and/or permit— are associated with lower rates of firearm homicide, suicide and firearm trafficking. The Florida Legislature should build upon the important gun violence legislation passed following the Parkland mass shooting and pass a comprehensive background check law.

Sincerely,

VALERIE F. SMITH
jay_val@msn.com
Tel. 457.8730

September 12, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Florida Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee
418 Senate Building
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Senator Lee:

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Sincerely,

Jessica Harrington

September 12, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Florida Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee
418 Senate Building
Tallahassee, FL 32399

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Sincerely,

Jason Miller

September 12, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Florida Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee
418 Senate Building
Tallahassee, FL 32399

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Sincerely,

Jessica Vaughn

September 12, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Florida Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee
418 Senate Building
Tallahassee, FL 32399

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Sincerely,

Nicole J Rice

September 12, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Florida Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee
418 Senate Building
Tallahassee, FL 32399

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Sincerely,



September 12, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Florida Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee
418 Senate Building
Tallahassee, FL 32399

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Sincerely,

September 12, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Florida Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee
418 Senate Building
Tallahassee, FL 32399

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Sincerely,

Jessica Buckley

September 12, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Florida Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee
418 Senate Building
Tallahassee, FL 32399

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Sincerely,

Karen Ford
7802 Lochlan Drive
Trinity FL 34655

Senator Tom Lee, Chairperson
Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

September 15, 2019

Re: End Gun Violence in Florida

Dear Senator Lee:

Thank you for your work on the Infrastructure and Security Committee of the Florida Senate. As an extremely concerned mother of two young children, I am grateful that the committee has decided to seek out meaningful action to end gun violence in Florida.

I often feel that my entire family is in danger – my husband works on a university campus, my parents work in a mall, my brother is a high school teacher, and my older daughter recently started kindergarten at public school in Boca Raton. All of these places – college campuses, schools, stores – are sites of mass shootings, and I worry about the safety of my loved ones every single day. I have even made changes in my life, like having my groceries delivered instead of taking my children grocery shopping with my to the store, since the recent series of shootings at Walmart and other shopping centers. I truly feel that no where is safe.

I hope the Florida Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee will consider these specific actions in 2019 to better safeguard Florida's families from gun violence. I believe these are reasonable steps which can and should be taken, and which do not infringe on the Second Amendment rights of any law-abiding Floridian.

Background Checks on All Gun Sales: 93% of American voters support requiring background checks on all gun sales, including 89% of Republicans and 87% of gun owners. An investigation found that in 2018 alone, there were nearly 1.2 million gun ads on an online gun marketplace called Armslist.com for gun sales where no background check was legally required. Research shows that prohibited people seek guns in those unlicensed gun sales at a disproportionate rate.

Require Firearms Dealers to Notify Law Enforcement When a Customer Fails a Background Check: Failed attempts to purchase guns can foreshadow future criminal activity. People who fail background checks are 28 percent more likely to be arrested in the five years following the denial than in the five years before it. Law enforcement should know when prohibited individuals are attempting to purchase guns.

Require Those Convicted of Misdemeanor Domestic Violence to Surrender Firearms: In an average month, at least 52 American women are shot and killed by an intimate partner. If someone is convicted of a DUI their license is revoked as the government recognizes this person poses a threat to the health and safety of the public. The same should be true of gun ownership when it comes to individuals who have been convicted of dangerous behavior.

Expansion of Red Flag Laws to Allow Family Members to Petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders: When a person is in crisis, loved ones and law enforcement are often the first to see signs that they pose a threat. An Extreme Risk law allows them to petition a court for an extreme risk protection order to temporarily remove guns from dangerous situations and prohibit the purchase or possession of firearms while the order is in effect.

Reinstate the Language in §30.15 that Prohibited Classroom Teachers from Serving as School Guardians: A March 2018 survey of almost 500 U.S. teachers found that 73 percent oppose proposals to arm school staff. Another survey found that 63 percent of parents of elementary, middle, and high school students oppose arming teachers.

Senator, thank you again for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Cara Capp
6728 Hollandaire Drive West
Boca Raton, Florida 33433
caracapp@gmail.com

September 15, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee;
I am a Florida resident who is very concerned about my own safety and that of my family and friends. It is my understanding that you and your Committee have been tasked with reviewing hate crimes and gun violence and introducing legislation in the next session to address your findings.

Please consider the expansion of red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders. When a person is in crisis, their loved ones, not law enforcement, are often the first to see signs that they pose a threat. An expanded Extreme Risk law would allow family members to petition a court for an extreme risk protection order to temporarily remove guns from dangerous situations and prohibit the purchase or possession of firearms while the order is in effect. The law passed last year that allows law enforcement to petition the court has helped but it is not enough. Allowing family members who are more familiar with threats and dangers to petition the court directly would make all of us safer, whether we are Florida residents or visitors to our state.

Also, please consider crafting legislation that requires those convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence to surrender firearms temporarily under the same requirements as under ERPOs. In an average month, at least 52 American women are shot and killed by an intimate partner, and many more are injured. And often, the children are either harmed or also killed, and/or suffer the trauma of witnessing these events or losing both parents simultaneously. We must do more to prevent these tragedies.

These simple expanded protections will surely save the lives of many Floridians. I ask you to consider these as we attempt to be safer in our homes and communities throughout the state. My thanks in advance for your efforts on behalf of all Floridians.

Sincerely,
Marie Berlin

Marie Berlin
125 Sunset Cove Lane
Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33418

September 15, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee,

As the Infrastructure and Security Committee focuses on ways to address gun violence and hate crimes during its September meeting(s), my family and I are asking you to consider these priorities:

1.) Require a background checks on every firearm purchase in the State of Florida – Over 90% of Americans support requiring background checks on all gun sales. An investigation found that in 2018 alone, there were nearly 1.2 million firearm ads on an online gun marketplace called Armslist.com for gun sales where no background check was legally required. And research shows that prohibited people seek guns in those unlicensed gun sales at a disproportionate rate.

2.) Require the timely reporting of criminal and mental health records to NICS - Hundreds of thousands of prohibiting criminal and mental health records are missing from the NICS background check system, potentially enabling prohibited people to pass a background check. This is a critical fail that is required to be fixed in order to make background check legislation effective. Legislation to make this reporting mandatory will make us safer.

3.) Require gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement - From 2007 to 2017, at least 82,000 guns were reported stolen and never found in Florida. Not knowing a gun is stolen hinders criminal investigations and law enforcement's ability to track gun-trafficking networks. Stolen gun reports also serve as a deterrent to inter-state gun-trafficking. This is a simple measure of accountability that assists law enforcement do its job.

These three (3) proposals would have a positive effect in making Florida safer and would not diminish Florida residents' rights under the 2nd Amendment. It's a win-win for all of us. Please give them strong consideration.

Thank you for helping to keep us safe.

Sincerely,
Gerald Berlin
Gerald Berlin
125 Sunset Cove Lane
Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33418

Sen. Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Background checks on all gun sales[1]

93 percent of American voters support requiring background checks on all gun sales, including 89 percent of Republicans and 87 percent of gun owners. An investigation found that in 2018 alone, there were nearly 1.2 million gun ads on an online gun marketplace called Armslist.com for gun sales where no background check was legally required. And research shows that prohibited people seek guns in those unlicensed gun sales at a disproportionate rate.

Ban on assault weapons and high capacity magazines[2]

The August 2019 Dayton, Ohio shooter used a rifle equipped with a high-capacity drum magazine capable of holding 100 rounds. Though law enforcement stopped the shooting in about 30 seconds, the shooter was able to fire dozens of shots—and kill 9 people—largely because of the magazine capacity. Over the past decade, the four deadliest mass shootings in America involved the use of high-capacity magazines. In fact, 58 percent of mass shootings between 2009 and 2017 were committed with firearms equipped with high-capacity magazines.[5]

Expansion of red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders[3]

When a person is in crisis, loved ones and law enforcement are often the first to see signs that they pose a threat. An Extreme Risk law allows them to petition a court for an extreme risk protection order to temporarily remove guns from dangerous situations and prohibit the purchase or possession of firearms while the order is in effect.

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[1] https://everytownresearch.org/background-checks-save-lives-protect-communities/
[2] https://everytown.org/learn/h-r-1186-prohibiting-high-capacity-magazines-would-reduce-the-devastation-of-gun-violence/
[3] https://everytownresearch.org/extreme-risk-laws/

Reinstate the language in §30.15 that prohibited classroom teachers from serving as school guardians[4]

A March 2018 survey of almost 500 U.S. teachers found that **73 percent** oppose proposals to arm school staff. Another survey found that **63 percent** of parents of elementary, middle, and high school students oppose arming teachers.

Reform the concealed carry license process to give the Department of Agriculture greater discretion to deny licenses to those individuals who present a public safety threat[5]

The legislature practically apologizes to gun owners for requiring a license to concealed carry: "The Legislature does not delegate to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services the authority to regulate or restrict the issuing of licenses provided for in this section, beyond those provisions contained in this section. Subjective or arbitrary actions or rules which encumber the issuing process by placing burdens on the applicant beyond those sworn statements and specified documents detailed in this section or which create restrictions beyond those specified in this section are in conflict with the intent of this section and are prohibited. This section shall be liberally construed to carry out the constitutional right to bear arms for self-defense. This section is supplemental and additional to existing rights to bear arms, and nothing in this section shall impair or diminish such rights." Fla. Stat. 790.06(15).

Require those convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence to surrender firearms[6]

In an average month, at least 52 American women are shot and killed by an intimate partner, and many more are injured.

Require firearms dealers to notify law enforcement when a customer fails a background check[7]

Failed attempts to purchase guns can foreshadow future criminal activity. People who fail background checks are 28 percent more likely to be arrested in the five years following the denial than in the five years before it. Law enforcement should know when prohibited individuals are attempting to purchase guns.

Prohibit concealed carry licensees from carrying firearms in additional sensitive places, such as daycares, public playgrounds, and at public demonstrations[8]

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[4] https://everytownresearch.org/arming-teachers-introduces-new-risks-into-schools/

[5] https://www.freshfromflorida.com/Consumer-Resources/Concealed-Weapon-License/Applying-for-a-Concealed-Weapon-License/Eligibility-Requirements

[6] https://everytownresearch.org/reports/guns-violence-women-americas-uniquely-lethal-domestic-violence-problem/

[7] https://www.thetrace.org/2018/03/florida-lie-and-try-loophole-background-check-denials/

[8] https://www.freshfromflorida.com/Consumer-Resources/Concealed-Weapon-License/Possession-Restrictions

Florida's list of "sensitive" places is fairly small, and despite the NRA talking point, data from 2009-2016 shows that only 10 percent of the 156 mass shootings during that period happened in a "gun free zone."

Require safe storage of guns in vehicles and Require gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement[9]

From 2007 to 2017, at least 82,000 guns were reported stolen and never found in Florida.

Require safety training prior to purchasing a firearm[10]

Gun buyers should be educated on firearm safety, including safe storage. Every year almost 350 children shoot themselves or someone else unintentionally. Most of these shootings take place inside a home where a gun was not properly secured.

Require the timely reporting of criminal and mental health records to NICS[11]

Hundreds of thousands of prohibiting mental health records are missing from the NICS background check system, potentially enabling prohibited people to pass a background check.

Repeal preemption[12]

Efforts by municipalities to regulate where guns can be carried and fired have been struck down on the basis of Florida's preemption statute.

Return the burden of proof for stand your ground defense to the defendant[13]

Florida's Stand Your Ground defense, which requires the state to disprove the defense before trial, is very difficult for prosecutors to overcome.

Prohibit the printing of 3D guns[14]

3d Printed guns provide another way for individuals prohibited by law from purchasing a gun to obtain one without a background check.

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[9] https://projects.tampabay.com/projects/2017/special-report/unlocked-loaded/stolen-guns/
[10] https://everytownresearch.org/secure-storage/
[11] https://everytownresearch.org/reports/fatal-gaps-mental-health-records/
[12] https://everytownresearch.org/fact-sheet-preemption-laws/
[13] https://slate.com/news-and-politics/2019/01/florida-stand-your-ground-law-just-got-way-worse.html
[14] https://www.npr.org/2019/02/14/694641578/texas-man-with-3d-printed-gun-and-hit-list-of-lawmakers-sentenced-to-8-years

These proposals would make Florida safer and would not diminish Florida residents' rights under the 2nd Amendment. It's a win–win for all of us. Please give them strong consideration.

Thank you for helping to keep us safe.

Sincerely,

Elaina Nelson
3534 NW 40th St
Gainesville FL 32606

Sen. Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Senator Lee,

I am writing you as a Florida resident, and a mother of two. Thank you for your consideration and thoughtful work to enact legislation to prevent gun violence in Florida. Gun violence has become an epidemic in the United States and it is up to all of us to work to protect our fellow citizens and our children. Change is possible and I appreciate you exploring solutions.

Here are some common sense ideas I implore you to consider:

- Background Checks on all Gun Sales – States that have implemented this simple measure have reduced gun homicides and suicides by gun. It's painfully simple to understand that not having this law enables a clear workaround for those who wouldn't be able to pass a background check to purchase in person or online from an unlicensed seller.

- Expand Red Flag Laws – This law, already used frequently in Florida, to allow firearms to be temporarily removed from those who pose a risk to themselves or others could be even stronger if we allowed family members to ability to use it.

- Ban Assault Weapons and High Capacity Magazines – With assault weapons being the weapon of choice for every mass shooting, this seems like a no brainer. They do not serve any real purpose for hunting or home protection. In my view, the fact that is it used to kill as many people as possible (9 in 30 seconds in Dayton, OH) should make it illegal for a civilian to own and operate.

- Repeal Arming Teachers – Since passing this bill, the vast majority of schools, teachers, parents, and school boards have opted out the program. They know it will make them and their kids less safe. More guns don't stop guns. It only reduces the reaction time of actual law enforcement, increases the risk of escalations, and could lead to unintentional shootings (which have happened around the country). There's no evidence that arming teachers discourages shootings or decreases gun violence in any form.

- Require those Convicted of Misdemeanor Domestic Violence to Surrender Firearms – Each month, an average of 52 women are killed by an intimate partner. They should not be armed.

- Repeal Stand Your Ground – In the years since this law was enacted, homicide rates have increased dramatically in Florida since there is less fear of repercussions. Incidents like the one in Clearwater may have been avoided if the shooter was not emboldened by this law.

- Prohibit the Printing of 3D guns – These cruder guns can avoid detection and also provide a way around background checks.

I appreciate your consideration.

Thank you,
Lisa Brown

1692 Turnstone Way
Clermont, FL 34711

September, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair
Florida Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee
418 Senate Building
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Senator Lee:

I'm writing as a grandmother of two and mother of two, concerned about the welfare of our communities. I've been a Florida resident for over 30 years, and worked as an educator until my recent retirement. I am deeply troubled and pained by countless occurrence of gun violence. As Floridians, I know we are strong enough and wise enough to create a safer world for our children and ourselves.

As you lead the effort to consider legislation this session to prevent gun violence, including mass shootings, I write to express my support for passing a state law to require criminal background checks on all gun sales. Florida state law currently does not require background checks on unlicensed gun sales, leaving a massive loophole in place that makes it far too easy for criminals, people prohibited from having guns because of mental illness, and others with dangerous histories to get their hands on guns through private, online or gun show sales. Fifteen states have passed laws to require background checks on all gun sales. Background check laws —by point-of-sale check and/or permit— are associated with lower rates of firearm homicide, suicide and firearm trafficking. The Florida Legislature should build upon the important gun violence legislation passed following the Parkland mass shooting and pass a comprehensive background check law.

Sincerely,

Lori Verier
Retired Educator, Sarasota County
Sarasota, FL

September 14, 2019

Sen. Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security
The Florida Senate
418 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee,

I am a wife, a mother of two school age children, an engineer and a voter. My husband and I have lived in Florida for 19 years. We enjoy our life here; the sunshine, beaches, comfortable winter weather and job opportunities. However, in recent years we have begun to question our future in Florida due to safety concerns. Florida's weak gun laws and recent decision to arm teachers and staff don't make us feel that the State is protecting its citizens to provide the best life Florida has to offer.

I applaud the legislature and Governor Scott for implementing a Risk Protection Order law after the Marjory Stoneman Douglass mass shooting. That law has been successful in removing weapons from more than 1,000 individuals since implementation. In a recent interview Sheriff Gualtieri, chair of the MSD School Safety Commission, said that Florida got it right with Risk Protection Orders (RPOs). His office executed more than 400 RPOs just last year, seizing not only weapons but stockpiles of ammunition. Sheriff Gualtieri went on to say that the RPO also prevents the person from purchasing other firearms which is a very important aspect of the law that should not be overlooked. I agree with the Sheriff but believe that there are too many loopholes in our purchasing programs which allow these dangerous individuals to once again get their hands on a weapon.

The law needs to be improved so we have background checks on all gun sales. Without that, dangerous individuals can simply purchase a firearm through a private sale with no risk of a background check requirement. This dangerous person may be prohibited from purchasing but the seller does not know if there is an RPO and is not required to perform a background check to make that determination. This is simply wrong and is an enormous gap in our state law. We have worked hard to secure our schools with fencing and locked gates to ensure only one way in and out for the safety of students, faculty and staff. Allowing no background check on private sales and sales through unlicensed dealers is akin to leaving the back gate open at a school. A chain is only as strong as its weakest link. I implore the committee to do what 93% of American voters want...require a background check on all gun sales.

As I stated earlier, I am a mother of two girls in middle and high school. I also implore this commission to reverse the decision to arm teachers and staff. Arming these individuals does not make children safer. It creates an environment where the teacher is policing versus teaching. A majority of teachers oppose this new law and a majority of school boards in Florida have opted out of the arming teachers and staff. Over 80% of kids live in districts not arming teachers. Our school districts understand the dangers of this proposal and the legislature should listen to them.

Sincerely,

Melissa DeFrancesco 3874 Beechgrove Road, Melbourne, FL 32934

https://www.thetrace.org/rounds/daily-bulletin-red-flag-laws-buzzfeed-news-clearance-rates/

https://www.wtsp.com/article/news/i-think-we-got-it-right-sheriff-gualtieri-does-not-support-expanding-floridas-red-flag-law/67-6cea4bf1-dae4-485c-b995-be02a3d6ed05

https://everytownresearch.org/arming-teachers-introduces-new-risks-into-schools/

September 12, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Florida Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee
418 Senate Building
Tallahassee, FL 32399

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Sincerely,

Angela Budsey
BOCC Diversity Council, Member

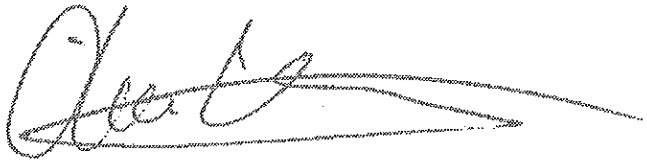
September 12, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Florida Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee
418 Senate Building
Tallahassee, FL 32399

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Sincerely,



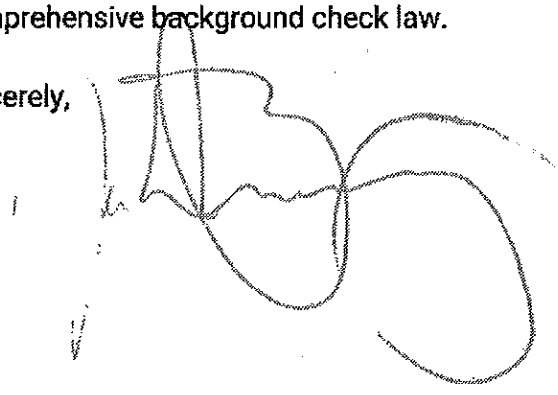
September 12, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Florida Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee
418 Senate Building
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Senator Lee:

As you lead the effort to consider legislation this session to prevent gun violence, including mass shootings, I write to express my support for passing a state law to require criminal background checks on all gun sales. Florida state law currently does not require background checks on unlicensed gun sales, leaving a massive loophole in place that makes it far too easy for criminals, people prohibited from having guns because of mental illness, and others with dangerous histories to get their hands on guns through private, online or gun show sales. Fifteen states have passed laws to require background checks on all gun sales. Background check laws —by point-of-sale check and/or permit— are associated with lower rates of firearm homicide, suicide and firearm trafficking. The Florida Legislature should build upon the important gun violence legislation passed following the Parkland mass shooting and pass a comprehensive background check law.

Sincerely,



Sept. 14, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure + Security Committee
Fla. Senate
418 Senate Bldg.
404 S. Monroe
Tallahassee, Fla. 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee,

As a concerned Florida citizen, resident, mother & grandmother - I implore you to address the issue of gun violence in this state.

Universal background checks, red flag laws, prohibition of possession of assault weapons & ammunition - all of these policies & more can SAVE LIVES!! It's time to initiate & pass legislation addressing these common sense gun policies.

PLEASE, be a leader & an advocate for the safety of all of us - esp. the children!

Thank you! - Deborah Mendelson

(Deborah Mendelson)
7743 N.W. 124th Ter.
Parkland, Fla. 33076

September 14, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
Florida Senate
418 Senate Bldg
404 S. Monroe St
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee,

I understand your committee will be focusing on ways to address gun violence. There are many sensible ways to curb people who should not have guns to be red flagged, require background checks, and ban assault weapons. My family believes in the 2nd amendment and believes in responsible gun safety. All gun transaction purchases need to be included in providing responsible controls (private sales, gun shows and dealers) to prevent guns getting into wrong hands. Thank you for handling of this very important issue.

Ronne Denbo
32043

The Honorable Jon Lee
Chair, Infrastructure + Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Bldg
404 S. Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL. 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee,

I understand that the Infrastructure and Security Committee will be focusing on ways to address gun violence. Please go ahead and bring common sense gun safety laws to the floor for a vote. All of our lives depend on making sure firearms have universal background checks, ban assault weapons, and any other proposed gun safety laws that could save lives.

Our families depend on you.

Thank you,

Robyn Raymond

Robyn Raymond
2713 Edgewater Ct.
Weston, FL 33332
954-383-6636
bluetide257@gmail.com

Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Infrastructure and Security Committee:

I am writing to thank you for your work on gun violence and to ask you to support the commonsense gun reform so **desperately** needed in our state. Based on the experiences here in Miami Dade County, I believe the following changes would be the most impactful in preventing gun violence:

1. Background checks on all gun sales

Most Florida voters support requiring background checks on all gun sales, including 89 percent of Republicans and 87 percent of gun owners. We still have not closed the unlicensed gun sale loophole which means that prohibited buyers can take advantage of this loophole and get armed illegally in person and via internet. This loophole guts the public safety impact of **all** our laws. Criminals, underage buyers and people subject to Extreme Risk Orders can simply circumvent the law and purchase a firearm from an unlicensed seller and skip a background check altogether. It is like going to TSA, skipping the line and being allowed through a side door. Crazy!

2. Ban on high capacity magazines

The August 2019 Dayton, Ohio shooter used a rifle equipped with a high-capacity drum magazine capable of holding 100 rounds. Though law enforcement stopped the shooting in about 30 seconds, the shooter was able to fire dozens of shots—and kill 9 people—largely because of the magazine capacity. Over the past decade, **the four deadliest mass shootings in America involved the use of high-capacity magazines. In fact, 58 percent of mass shootings between 2009 and 2017 were committed with firearms equipped with high-capacity magazines**. Limiting magazine capacity would make **ALL** guns less lethal.

3. Require firearms dealers to notify law enforcement when a customer fails a background check

Failed attempts to purchase guns can foreshadow future criminal activity. People who fail background checks are 28 percent more likely to be arrested in the five years following the denial than in the five years before it. Law enforcement wants to know and should know when prohibited individuals are attempting to purchase guns.

4. Expansion of red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders

When a person is in crisis, loved ones are often the first to see signs that they pose a threat to themselves or others. An Extreme Risk law allows them to petition a court for an order to temporarily remove guns from dangerous situations and prohibit the purchase or possession of firearms while the order is in effect.

5. Require gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement and make responsible storage laws stricter so stolen guns are kept off the streets.

From 2007 to 2017, at least 82,000 guns were reported stolen and never found in Florida. Law enforcement has said over and over that they want to know if a stolen gun is on the street. Here in Miami Dade we need solutions for our urban violence NOW – please raise the bar to make it more difficult for guns to be stolen and for law enforcement to be informed.

The bottom line is that **too** many Floridians are killed with guns. The impact of this violence is heartbreaking and impacts our residents, tourist industry, hospitals and economy through gun trafficking, suicide, domestic violence, injury and death. I ask that you focus on the above priorities to save lives and that you don't wait.

Thank you for your time and attention,
Name : Joseph Wright
Address:90 SW 3rd Street #504, Miami FL 33130
Phone: 305-469-1649

September, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair
Florida Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee
418 Senate Building
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Senator Lee:

I'm writing as a mother of two, concerned about the welfare of our communities. I've been a Florida resident, mostly in the Sarasota area for my entire life. As Floridians, I know we are strong enough and wise enough to create a safer world for our children and ourselves.

As you lead the effort to consider legislation this session to prevent gun violence, including mass shootings, I write to express my support for passing a state law to require criminal background checks on all gun sales. Florida state law currently does not require background checks on unlicensed gun sales, leaving a massive loophole in place that makes it far too easy for criminals, people prohibited from having guns because of mental illness, and others with dangerous histories to get their hands on guns through private, online or gun show sales. Fifteen states have passed laws to require background checks on all gun sales. Background check laws —by point-of-sale check and/or permit— are associated with lower rates of firearm homicide, suicide and firearm trafficking. The Florida Legislature should build upon the important gun violence legislation passed following the Parkland mass shooting and pass a comprehensive background check law.

Sincerely,

Leah Verier-Dunn
Artistic Director, Moving Ethos Dance
Sarasota, FL

September 15, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee;

Thank you for your work as head of the Infrastructure and Security Committee which will consider solutions for addressing gun violence during its September meeting..

Please consider the expansion of red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders. An expanded Extreme Risk law would allow family members to petition a court for an extreme risk protection order to temporarily remove guns from dangerous situations and prohibit the purchase or possession of firearms while the order is in effect. As Senator Rubio recently wrote in a New York Times editorial, the law passed last year has undoubtedly saved lives. There is more that can be done, however. Allowing family members who are more familiar with threats and dangers to petition the court directly would help ensure the safety of Florida residents and visitors to our state.

Also, please consider introducing legislation that requires those convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence to surrender firearms temporarily under the same requirements as under ERPOs. In an average month, at least 52 American women are shot and killed by an intimate partner, and many more are injured. The effects of these events extend beyond the deaths of the principals involved and are a strain on the social fabric of our state.

I also urge you to support background checks on every firearm purchase in the State of Florida. There is overwhelming public support for such legislation.

My thanks in advance for your consideration of these common-sense solutions which do not infringe on the 2nd Amendment rights of our law-abiding citizens.

Sincerely,

David Daegling
3552 NW 30th Blvd
Gainesville, FL 32605

September 13, 2019

Dear Senator Lee,

Greetings to you and the Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee!

I am Diane Kroeger, a Tallahassee resident, retired educator, new grandmother and the wife of a gun-owner. I also follow gun violence issues very closely. While the corporate world is now bringing its heavy-handed influence to the gun violence issue, I want to add my individual voice to encourage your committee to establish common-sense gun violence legislation. It is my fervent hope that our state and national representatives will work *across the aisles* to stop the horrible waste of innocent lives we've seen in the last few years. I encourage you and your committee to:

- Enact **Comprehensive Background Checks**. Americans want this by a vast majority. I want it too.
- Include **family members in our Red Flag Laws.**
- Ban the ownership of **assault weapons and high capacity magazines.** These are simply weapons of war; no law-abiding citizen has a need for this kind of fire-power.

I'm afraid. Afraid to go shopping with my precious granddaughter. I'm cautious about where I sit when I attend church in case of a shooting. I'm fearful about putting a bumper sticker on my car expressing my support for a given candidate or cause. How can this be?

Please work swiftly, collaboratively, and let your hearts guide. And, thank you for your work on behalf of the citizens of Florida.

With appreciation and hope,

Diane Kroeger

dkroeger2@gmail.com

Sen. Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Senator Lee,

In recognition of the many letters similar to mine that you may receive, I will keep mine short in hopes of standing out.

I am a Florida teacher. I have 4 children in public schools. I am afraid.

I am afraid for our children. All of them. Even without an actual situation happening, not adding sensible gun legislation is destroying the culture of America. It is put us in a constant state of fear and doing immeasurable psychological damage to our children. It is damage that will continue for decades as they reach adulthood and continue an underlying extreme paranoia. It will then be passed to their children. That paranoia supports that our biggest threat is from within and cannot he stopped.

I am afraid for myself. And it is not just me. With every shooting, specifically school shootings, more and more teachers become simply willing to walk away. With the other factors causing a teaching crisis in Florida, higher pay, misguided expectations, this is the one that will cause an exodus. If 3-4 more school shootings occur here, the state simply won't have teachers. Parents won't send their kids. The public school system becomes unsustainable.

Please consider our community, our children, and the education of our society in general and consider an attempt to heal this country with stricter background checks and sensible restrictions on the sales of semi-automatic weapons.

-Jeffrey Threlfall

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee;

Thank you for your work and ongoing concern for the health and safety of all Floridians. As you and the Committee move forward with discussion and creation of legislation that will address hate crimes and gun violence, please consider the following.

Since retirement of the federal ban on assault weapons in 1994, we have seen a drastic increase in the number of deaths associated with mass shootings. While we cannot presume that the rise in incidents can be attributed to assault weapons, we can say with all certainty that more deaths occur per incident when assault weapons are involved. Most recently, the Dayton Ohio shooter used a high-capacity drum magazine holding 100 rounds. Although law enforcement quickly intervened to stop the shooting, within 30 seconds 9 people had been shot and killed, largely due to the magazine capacity. Thus, while a ban on assault weapons may not impact the frequency of mass shootings, it would certainly help to decrease the number of deaths.

In the area of gun safety, please improve the safety standards associated with the training that is required prior to the purchase of a firearm. From 2014 through today, across America, 1,296 children have been killed or injured by guns. Many of these incidents result from accidents associated with the failure of the owner to safely store a weapon. While today's reality may require that we as parents ask whether there is a gun in the house each time we organize a play date, it's imperative that we be assured that those guns are safely stored.

As always, my thanks for your consideration dedication to safeguarding all Floridians.

Sincerely,

Name: Jeff Zatkowsky
Address: 8951 SW 8th Street
Plantation, FL 33324

September 14, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee,

As the Infrastructure and Security Committee focuses on ways to address gun violence and hate crimes during its September meeting(s), my family and I are asking you to consider these priorities:

1.) **Require a background checks on every firearm purchase in the State of Florida** – Over 90% of Americans support requiring background checks on all gun sales. An investigation found that in 2018 alone, there were nearly 1.2 million firearm ads on an online gun marketplace called Armslist.com for gun sales where no background check was legally required. And research shows that prohibited people seek guns in those unlicensed gun sales at a disproportionate rate.

2.) **Require the timely reporting of criminal and mental health records to NICS** - Hundreds of thousands of prohibiting criminal and mental health records are missing from the NICS background check system, potentially enabling prohibited people to pass a background check. This is a critical fail that is required to be fixed in order to make background check legislation effective. Legislation to make this reporting mandatory will make us safer.

3.) **Require gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement** - From 2007 to 2017, at least 82,000 guns were reported stolen and never found in Florida. Not knowing a gun is stolen hinders criminal investigations and law enforcement's ability to track gun-trafficking networks. Stolen gun reports also serve as a deterrent to inter-state gun-trafficking. This is a simple measure of accountability that assists law enforcement do its job.

These three (3) proposals would have a positive effect in making Florida safer and would not diminish Florida residents' rights under the 2nd Amendment. It's a win-win for all of us. Please give them strong consideration.

Thank you for helping to keep us safe.

Sincerely,

Name: Jeff Zatkowsky
Address: 8951 SW 8th Street
Plantation, FL 33324

September 14, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee

Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee

The Florida Senate

418 Senate Building

404 South Monroe Street

Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee;

I am a Florida resident who is very concerned about my own safety and that of my family and friends. It is my understanding that you and your Committee have been tasked with reviewing hate crimes and gun violence and introducing legislation in the next session to address your findings.

Please consider the expansion of red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders. When a person is in crisis, their loved ones, not law enforcement, are often the first to see signs that they pose a threat. An expanded Extreme Risk law would allow family members to petition a court for an extreme risk protection order to temporarily remove guns from dangerous situations and prohibit the purchase or possession of firearms while the order is in effect. The law passed last year that allows law enforcement to petition the court has helped but it is not enough. Allowing family members who are more familiar with threats and dangers to petition the court directly would make all of us safer, whether we are Florida residents or visitors to our state.

Also, please consider crafting legislation that requires those convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence to surrender firearms temporarily under the same requirements as under ERPOs. In an average month, at least 52 American women are shot and killed by an intimate partner, and many more are injured. And often, the children are either harmed or also killed, and/or suffer the trauma of witnessing these events or losing both parents simultaneously. We must do more to prevent these tragedies.

These simple expanded protections will surely save the lives of many Floridians. I ask you to consider these as we attempt to be safer in our homes and communities throughout the state.

My thanks in advance for your efforts on behalf of all Floridians.

Sincerely,

Name: Jeff Zatkowsky
Address: 8951 SW 8th Street
Plantation, FL 33324

September 14, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure & Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee;

I am the mother of student survivors from the mass shooting at Stoneman Douglas High School on 2/14/18. I am thrilled that your committee is taking the time to discuss gun violence and includes hate crimes. I look forward to bipartisan legislation coming out of this committee to make us safer from gun violence.

Sincerely,

Heather Chapman
9750 Lakeview Lane
Parkland, FL 33076
954-695-5238

Sept 14 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee

Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee

The Florida Senate

418 Senate Building

404 South Monroe Street

Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

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My thanks in advance for your efforts on behalf of all Floridians.

Sincerely,

Signed: Ruth Webster

Name: (typed or printed) Ruth Webster

Full Address: 913 NW 126th Terrace
Coral Springs FL 33071

Sept 14 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee

Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee

The Florida Senate

418 Senate Building

404 South Monroe Street

Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee;

I am a Florida resident who is very concerned about my own safety and that of my family and friends. It is my understanding that you and your Committee have been tasked with reviewing hate crimes and gun violence and introducing legislation in the next session to address your findings.

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These simple expanded protections will surely save the lives of many Floridians. I ask you to consider these as we attempt to be safer in our homes and communities throughout the state.

My thanks in advance for your efforts on behalf of all Floridians.

Sincerely,

Signed:

Name: (typed or printed) Kevin Webster

Full Address: 913 NW 126th Ter

Coral Springs FL 33071

Sept 14 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee

Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee

The Florida Senate

418 Senate Building

404 South Monroe Street

Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

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These simple expanded protections will surely save the lives of many Floridians. I ask you to consider these as we attempt to be safer in our homes and communities throughout the state.

My thanks in advance for your efforts on behalf of all Floridians.

Sincerely, Riley webster

Signed: Riley webster (age 10)

Name: (typed or printed) Riley webster

Full Address: 913 NW 126 terrace Coral Springs FL 33071

September 15, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 S. Monroe St.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee,

I am a Florida resident, living in Alachua County, a mother of a teenaged boy, and a volunteer with Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America. I am so grateful that your committee is taking the time before the session starts to explore, in an open-minded manner, measures that you might take to reduce gun violence and hate crimes in our state.

I began volunteering for Moms Demand Action soon after the mass shooting at MSD high school in Parkland. Watching the students respond to the shooting with such anguish and passion and determination both inspired and shamed me. I realized that, in giving up on believing that we could reach any sort of political consensus on reducing gun violence in this country, I had shirked my most basic responsibilities—those of keeping our kids safe and of building a better world for them. Moms Demand Action and Everytown for Gun Safety are nonpartisan organizations that use research on gun violence to develop evidence-based policy recommendations that aim to do both. Becoming involved with Moms Demand Action gave me hope that we could learn to talk and listen across party lines to find the best solutions to the epidemic of gun violence.

The most obvious place to start, to my mind, is to expand the requirement for background checks to include all gun sales, not just those conducted via a licensed gun dealer. Lots of folks like to say that we shouldn't pass any additional restrictions on guns in this country until we start enforcing the laws that are already on the books. Well, without background checks on all gun sales, there's really no way to enforce the most basic of those laws—those that dictate who we, as a society, have deemed too potentially dangerous to themselves or others to own a gun. Everytown has a project called Unchecked in which they document their research on gun sales that do not require background checks, specifically those that are conducted via the Armslist.com site, an online gun marketplace. At https://everytownresearch.org/unchecked/, you can watch a video that shows the sale of an AR-15-style weapon taking place in 5 minutes in a parking lot—no background check required—and you can also look up how many advertisements there were in each county in each state in the country in 2018 that would not require a background check to complete the sale. In Alachua County, there were 1,911 ads posted by unlicensed sellers for which no background check was required. Everytown has also found that 1 out of every 7 buyers on Armslist.com in Florida would not pass a federal background check. Combined, these numbers suggest that, in Alachua County alone in 2018, there were potentially more than 250 gun sales involving an unlicensed seller and a buyer that was legally prohibited from purchasing a gun. For the state of Florida, Everytown found that there were more than 93,000 ads for sales that wouldn't require a background check (the second highest in the country), suggesting more than 13,000 sales to prohibited buyers.

I've heard the arguments that criminals will find ways to get guns no matter what. But the evidence shows that, in states that have enacted background checks on all gun sales, the rate of women shot to death by intimate partners has been reduced by 47%, the number of law enforcement officers shot and killed in the line of duty is 53% lower, there are 47% fewer firearm suicides, and gun trafficking in cities is reduced by 48%.

I am sensitive to the fact that expanding background checks has been considered politically toxic for legislators for many years. However, the truth is that 97% of Americans support enacting background checks on all gun sales—this number includes substantial majorities of Democrats, Republicans, gun owners, and non-gun owners. In fact, many gun owners whom I've talked to about this issue believe that background checks are already required on all gun sales since they had to complete one to purchase their gun(s). They are often shocked when I describe to them how easy it is to purchase a gun without it.

Thus, I ask you to consider, first and foremost, expanding background checks in Florida to cover all gun sales. In combination with the Red Flag Law the legislature passed after Parkland along with laws regarding safe storage of firearms, requirements for reporting guns stolen from vehicles, requirements for reporting to law enforcement when a prohibited purchaser attempts to buy a firearm, and requirements that those convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence lose the right to own and purchase guns (at least temporarily), background checks would be a powerful and effective tool for saving lives, combating gun violence, and building a better future for our kids in Florida.

Thank you for your service to our state and for considering my input in your deliberations.

Marnie Wiss
3552 NW 30th Blvd.
Gainesville, FL 32605

September 15, 2019

Dear Senator Lee,

I am writing to support the Mom's Demand Action effort to address the issues of gun violence, not only in Florida, but in our country. As an elected Alachua County Commissioner and recently retired public school teacher, I urge you to listen to the voices of citizens who are calling for action to address the widespread incidents of gun violence. I, too, advocate for background checks, the removal of assault weapons and high capacity magazines, red flag law expansion and all the additional requests of Moms Demand Action particularly as they relate to expecting classroom teachers to arm and protect. My experience in public education was as a teacher of students with behavior disorders and I know full well the potential for violence that can be noted at a very young age.

I offer you the names of my neighbors, Pam and Cal Phillips and my house mate Ed Dansereau who were killed by a gunman who is now awaiting a highly publicized trial in Kentucky. I offer you the name of my cousin's 22 year old son, Josh Liebe, who committed suicide with his own shotgun. Our society is too focused on the faulty interpretation of the 2nd Ammendment. We count on our elected representatives to weigh the rights afforded by our written laws against the interpretations that serve a lobby whose only concern is maintaining an industry.

I ask you to promote and support what I consider thoughtful requests that in no way would prevent reasonable and responsible gun ownership in this country. I ask you to listen to the thoughtful requests of men and women who care for the health and wellbeing of their families and their neighbors.

Sincerely,

Marihelen Wheeler, Alachua County Commissioner, District 2, Gainesville, Florida

September 13, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee;

Thank you for your work and ongoing concern for the health and safety of all Floridians. As you and the Committee move forward with discussion and creation of legislation that will address hate crimes and gun violence, please consider the following.

Since retirement of the federal ban on assault weapons in 1994, we have seen a drastic increase in the number of deaths associated with mass shootings. While we cannot presume that the rise in incidents can be attributed to assault weapons, we can say with all certainty that more deaths occur per incident when assault weapons are involved. Most recently, the Dayton Ohio shooter used a high-capacity drum magazine holding 100 rounds. Although law enforcement quickly intervened to stop the shooting, within 30 seconds 9 people had been shot and killed, largely due to the magazine capacity. Thus, while a ban on assault weapons may not impact the frequency of mass shootings, it would certainly help to decrease the number of deaths.

In the area of gun safety, please improve the safety standards associated with the training that is required prior to the purchase of a firearm. From 2014 through today, across America, 1,296 children have been killed or injured by guns. Many of these incidents result from accidents associated with the failure of the owner to safely store a weapon. While today's reality may require that we as parents ask whether there is a gun in the house each time we organize a play date, it's imperative that we be assured that those guns are safely stored.

As always, my thanks for your consideration dedication to safeguarding all Floridians.

Sincerely,

Address:
132 SW 63 Ave
Plantation, FL
33317

September 13, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee;

Thank you for your work and ongoing concern for the health and safety of all Floridians. As you and the Committee move forward with discussion and creation of legislation that will address hate crimes and gun violence, please consider the following.

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As always, my thanks for your consideration dedication to safeguarding all Floridians.

Sincerely,

Alison Goldberg

Address:
1115 Alexander Road
Weston, FL 33327

September 13, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee,

As the Infrastructure and Security Committee focuses on ways to address gun violence and hate crimes during its September meeting(s), my family and I are asking you to consider these priorities:

1.) **Require a background checks on every firearm purchase in the State of Florida** – Over 90% of Americans support requiring background checks on all gun sales. An investigation found that in 2018 alone, there were nearly 1.2 million firearm ads on an online gun marketplace called Armslist.com for gun sales where no background check was legally required. And research shows that prohibited people seek guns in those unlicensed gun sales at a disproportionate rate.

2.) **Require the timely reporting of criminal and mental health records to NICS** - Hundreds of thousands of prohibiting criminal and mental health records are missing from the NICS background check system, potentially enabling prohibited people to pass a background check. This is a critical fail that is required to be fixed in order to make background check legislation effective. Legislation to make this reporting mandatory will make us safer.

3.) **Require gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement** - From 2007 to 2017, at least 82,000 guns were reported stolen and never found in Florida. Not knowing a gun is stolen hinders criminal investigations and law enforcement's ability to track gun-trafficking networks. Stolen gun reports also serve as a deterrent to inter-state gun-trafficking. This is a simple measure of accountability that assists law enforcement do its job.

These three (3) proposals would have a positive effect in making Florida safer and would not diminish Florida residents' rights under the 2nd Amendment. It's a win-win for all of us. Please give them strong consideration.

Thank you for helping to keep us safe.

Sincerely,

Full Address:

1325w63 Ave Plantation, FL
33317

September 14, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee

air, Infrastructure and Security Committee

The Florida Senate

418 Senate Building

404 South Monroe Street

Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee;

I am a Florida resident who is very concerned about my own safety and that of my family and friends. It is my understanding that you and your Committee have been tasked with reviewing hate crimes and gun violence and introducing legislation in the next session to address your findings.

Please consider the expansion of red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders. When a person is in crisis, their loved ones, not law enforcement, are often the first to see signs that they pose a threat. An expanded Extreme Risk law would allow family members to petition a court for an extreme risk protection order to temporarily remove guns from dangerous situations and prohibit the purchase or possession of firearms while the order is in effect. The law passed last year that allows law enforcement to petition the court has helped but it is not enough. Allowing family members who are more familiar with threats and dangers to petition the court directly would make of us safer, whether we are Florida residents or visitors to our state.

Also, please consider crafting legislation that requires those convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence to surrender firearms temporarily under the same requirements as under ERPOs. In an average month, at least 52 American women are shot and killed by an intimate partner, and many more are injured. And often, the children are either harmed or also killed, and/or suffer the trauma of witnessing these events or losing both parents simultaneously. We must do more to prevent these tragedies.

These simple expanded protections will surely save the lives of many Floridians. I ask you to consider these as we attempt to be safer in our homes and communities throughout the state.

My thanks in advance for your efforts on behalf of all Floridians.

Sincerely,

Laura Zatkowsky

Name: Laura Zatkowsky
Address: 8951 SW 8th Street
Plantation, FL 33324

September 14, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee

Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee

The Florida Senate

418 Senate Building

404 South Monroe Street

Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

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My thanks in advance for your efforts on behalf of all Floridians.

Sincerely,

Laura Zatkowsky

Name: Laura Zatkowsky
Address: 8951 SW 8th Street
Plantation, FL 33324

September 14, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee;

Thank you for your work and ongoing concern for the health and safety of all Floridians. As you and the Committee move forward with discussion and creation of legislation that will address hate crimes and gun violence, please consider the following.

Since retirement of the federal ban on assault weapons in 1994, we have seen a drastic increase in the number of deaths associated with mass shootings. While we cannot presume that the rise in incidents can be attributed to assault weapons, we can say with all certainty that more deaths occur per incident when assault weapons are involved. Most recently, the Dayton Ohio shooter used a high-capacity drum magazine holding 100 rounds. Although law enforcement quickly intervened to stop the shooting, within 30 seconds 9 people had been shot and killed, largely due to the magazine capacity. Thus, while a ban on assault weapons may not impact the frequency of mass shootings, it would certainly help to decrease the number of deaths.

In the area of gun safety, please improve the safety standards associated with the training that is required prior to the purchase of a firearm. From 2014 through today, across America, 1,296 children have been killed or injured by guns. Many of these incidents result from accidents associated with the failure of the owner to safely store a weapon. While today's reality may require that we as parents ask whether there is a gun in the house each time we organize a play date, it's imperative that we be assured that those guns are safely stored.

As always, my thanks for your consideration dedication to safeguarding all Floridians.

Sincerely,

Laura Zatkowsky

Name: Laura Zatkowsky
Address: 8951 SW 8th Street
Plantation, FL 33324

September 14, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee;

I understand that the Infrastructure and Security Committee will be focusing on ways to address gun violence and hate crimes during its September meeting. While the recent wave of mass shootings has served to focus our attention on this topic, in reality, one hundred Americans lose their lives to gun violence in their own neighborhoods daily. Obviously, this is a vitally important topic, and I thank you for spearheading this discussion.

As you move forward with the discussion, particularly as it relates to hate crimes, it is my hope that you will consider revisions to the existing Stand Your Ground Law. Under the current law, the burden of proof falls to the plaintiff and requires that the state disprove the defense which is difficult, if not impossible, for prosecutors to overcome. Additionally, the existing law is flawed and serves to exacerbate hate crimes in that it provides latitude to initiate a confrontation, then respond with deadly force. This can be corrected by placing the burden of proof for a stand your ground defense on the defendant.

Again, my thanks for spearheading the discussion and for your dedication to preserving the health, safety and welfare of us all.

Sincerely,

Laura Zatkowsky

Name: Laura Zatkowsky
Address: 8951 SW 8th Street
Plantation, FL 33324

Sept. 12, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee;

Thank you for your work and ongoing concern for the health and safety of all Floridians. As you and the Committee move forward with discussion and creation of legislation that will address hate crimes and gun violence, please consider the following.

Since retirement of the federal ban on assault weapons in 1994, we have seen a drastic increase in the number of deaths associated with mass shootings. While we cannot presume that the rise in incidents can be attributed to assault weapons, we can say with all certainty that more deaths occur per incident when assault weapons are involved. Most recently, the Dayton Ohio shooter used a high-capacity drum magazine holding 100 rounds. Although law enforcement quickly intervened to stop the shooting, within 30 seconds 9 people had been shot and killed, largely due to the magazine capacity. Thus, while a ban on assault weapons may not impact the frequency of mass shootings, it would certainly help to decrease the number of deaths.

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As always, my thanks for your consideration dedication to safeguarding all Floridians.

Sincerely,

Dawn Dawkins

Address:
119 SW 96th Ave
Plantation, FL 33324

Sen. Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Sen. Lee

I am writing today to express my support for background checks on **all** gun sales in the state of Florida. Currently, it's easy for someone who could not pass a background check to purchase guns from unlicensed sellers. Background checks should apply to all gun sales.

When cars are sold, car titles must be transferred from the seller to the purchaser. To drive a car, one must have a license. Why is it not the same with guns?

I'm sure you've seen the polls, including one from Fox News, reporting that 90% of Americans support background checks. Please support building upon the legislation passed following the Parkland tragedy and pass a comprehensive background check law.

Robin Brothers Heagy
Moms Demand Action-Brevard County
61 Riverview Lane
Cocoa Beach, Florida 32931
843.330.6321

September 14, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee;

I understand that the Infrastructure and Security Committee will be focusing on ways to address gun violence and hate crimes during its September meeting. While the recent wave of mass shootings has served to focus our attention on this topic, in reality, one hundred Americans lose their lives to gun violence in their own neighborhoods daily. Obviously, this is a vitally important topic, and I thank you for spearheading this discussion.

As you move forward with the discussion, particularly as it relates to hate crimes, it is my hope that you will consider revisions to the existing Stand Your Ground Law. Under the current law, the burden of proof falls to the plaintiff and requires that the state disprove the defense which is difficult, if not impossible, for prosecutors to overcome. Additionally, the existing law is flawed and serves to exacerbate hate crimes in that it provides latitude to initiate a confrontation, then respond with deadly force. This can be corrected by placing the burden of proof for a stand your ground defense on the defendant.

Again, my thanks for spearheading the discussion and for your dedication to preserving the health, safety and welfare of us all.

Sincerely,

Name: Jeff Zatkowski
Address: 8951 SW 8th Street
Plantation, FL 33324

September 12, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Florida Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee
418 Senate Building
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Senator Lee:

As you lead the effort to consider legislation this session to prevent gun violence, including mass shootings, I write to express my support for passing a state law to require criminal background checks on all gun sales. Florida state law currently does not require background checks on unlicensed gun sales, leaving a massive loophole in place that makes it far too easy for criminals, people prohibited from having guns because of mental illness, and others with dangerous histories to get their hands on guns through private, online or gun show sales. Fifteen states have passed laws to require background checks on all gun sales. Background check laws —by point-of-sale check and/or permit— are associated with lower rates of firearm homicide, suicide and firearm trafficking. The Florida Legislature should build upon the important gun violence legislation passed following the Parkland mass shooting and pass a comprehensive background check law.

Sincerely,

709 Red River Ct #9
Brandon, FL 33511

September 12, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Florida Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee
418 Senate Building
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Senator Lee:

As you lead the effort to consider legislation this session to prevent gun violence, including mass shootings, I write to express my support for passing a state law to require criminal background checks on all gun sales. Florida state law currently does not require background checks on unlicensed gun sales, leaving a massive loophole in place that makes it far too easy for criminals, people prohibited from having guns because of mental illness, and others with dangerous histories to get their hands on guns through private, online or gun show sales. Fifteen states have passed laws to require background checks on all gun sales. Background check laws —by point-of-sale check and/or permit— are associated with lower rates of firearm homicide, suicide and firearm trafficking. The Florida Legislature should build upon the important gun violence legislation passed following the Parkland mass shooting and pass a comprehensive background check law.

Sincerely,

Verona
Edelyn Verona
33617
Your constituent in Temple Terrace

September 13, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee;

Thank you for your work and ongoing concern for the health and safety of all Floridians. As you and the Committee move forward with discussion and creation of legislation that will address hate crimes and gun violence, please consider the following.

Since retirement of the federal ban on assault weapons in 1994, we have seen a drastic increase in the number of deaths associated with mass shootings. While we cannot presume that the rise in incidents can be attributed to assault weapons, we can say with all certainty that more deaths occur per incident when assault weapons are involved. Most recently, the Dayton Ohio shooter used a high-capacity drum magazine holding 100 rounds. Although law enforcement quickly intervened to stop the shooting, within 30 seconds 9 people had been shot and killed, largely due to the magazine capacity. Thus, while a ban on assault weapons may not impact the frequency of mass shootings, it would certainly help to decrease the number of deaths.

In the area of gun safety, please improve the safety standards associated with the training that is required prior to the purchase of a firearm. From 2014 through today, across America, 1,296 children have been killed or injured by guns. Many of these incidents result from accidents associated with the failure of the owner to safely store a weapon. While today's reality may require that we as parents ask whether there is a gun in the house each time we organize a play date, it's imperative that we be assured that those guns are safely stored.

As always, my thanks for your consideration dedication to safeguarding all Floridians.

Sincerely,

Adina B Shaftlin

Address:

831 Monticello Ave
Davie Fl 33325

September 13, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee;

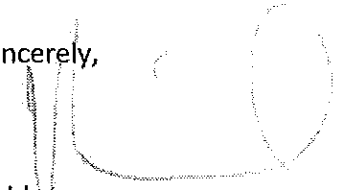
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As always, my thanks for your consideration dedication to safeguarding all Floridians.

Sincerely,



Address:

4233 NW 5th Ct
Plantation, FL
33324

September 13, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee;

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As always, my thanks for your consideration dedication to safeguarding all Floridians.

Sincerely,



Address:

8233 NW 5th Ct
Plantation, FL
33324

September 15, 2019

Sen. Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee:

Last year, my son was a senior in high school at Sarasota High. There were three lock downs during the year – not drills, but lock downs – because of fears related to gun violence. During the year, he attended a HOSA competition at a local technical school when they, too, had a lock down. Why? Because the high school next door was on a lock down due to a gun threat. It seems he cannot escape it, and I'm left wondering why our leaders – that we elect – don't do more.

I wish I could say my son's experience was unique. But we know this isn't true. Every day, the toll of gun violence is approximately 100 lives. In one month, we lose more Americans to gun violence than were lost in 9/11. Every month. We must – you must – do more.

Sen. Lee, please have your committee address gun violence by supporting background checks on all gun sales. 93% of American voters support requiring background checks on all gun sales, including 89% of Republicans and 87% of gun owners. An investigation found that in 2018 alone, there were nearly 1.2 million gun ads on an online gun marketplace called Armslist.com for gun sales where no background check was legally required. And research shows that prohibited people seek guns in those unlicensed gun sales at a disproportionate rate.

Please also have your committee to support the expansion of 'red flag laws' to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders. When a person is in crisis, loved ones and law enforcement are often the first to see signs that they pose a threat. An Extreme Risk law allows them to petition a court for an extreme risk protection order to temporarily remove guns from dangerous situations and prohibit the purchase or possession of firearms while the order is in effect.

Finally, we must address gun violence that comes from domestic violence in the home. Women in abusive relationships are 5 times more likely to die if there is a gun in the home. In an average month, at least 52 American women are shot and killed by an intimate partner, and many more are injured. Require those convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence to surrender firearms.

Please consider what your fellow Floridians are asking. Lives are at stake.

Sincerely,
Stan Ross
Sarasota, FL

September 14, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee,

As the Infrastructure and Security Committee focuses on ways to address gun violence and hate crimes during its September meeting(s), my family and I are asking you to consider these priorities:

1.) **Require a background checks on every firearm purchase in the State of Florida** – Over 90% of Americans support requiring background checks on all gun sales. An investigation found that in 2018 alone, there were nearly 1.2 million firearm ads on an online gun marketplace called Armslist.com for gun sales where no background check was legally required. And research shows that prohibited people seek guns in those unlicensed gun sales at a disproportionate rate.

2.) **Require the timely reporting of criminal and mental health records to NICS** - Hundreds of thousands of prohibiting criminal and mental health records are missing from the NICS background check system, potentially enabling prohibited people to pass a background check. This is a critical fail that is required to be fixed in order to make background check legislation effective. Legislation to make this reporting mandatory will make us safer.

3.) **Require gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement** - From 2007 to 2017, at least 82,000 guns were reported stolen and never found in Florida. Not knowing a gun is stolen hinders criminal investigations and law enforcement's ability to track gun-trafficking networks. Stolen gun reports also serve as a deterrent to inter-state gun-trafficking. This is a simple measure of accountability that assists law enforcement do its job.

These three (3) proposals would have a positive effect in making Florida safer and would not diminish Florida residents' rights under the 2nd Amendment. It's a win-win for all of us. Please give them strong consideration. **The time to take action is now!!!**

Thank you for helping to keep us safe.

Sincerely,

Signed:

Angela C. Dominguez
8645 S.W, 132nd Court
Miami, Florida

September 13, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee;

I understand that the Infrastructure and Security Committee will be focusing on ways to address gun violence and hate crimes during its September meeting. While the recent wave of mass shootings has served to focus our attention on this topic, in reality, one hundred Americans lose their lives to gun violence in their own neighborhoods daily. Obviously, this is a vitally important topic, and I thank you for spearheading this discussion.

As you move forward with the discussion, particularly as it relates to hate crimes, it is my hope that you will consider revisions to the existing Stand Your Ground Law. Under the current law, the burden of proof falls to the plaintiff and requires that the state disprove the defense which is difficult, if not impossible, for prosecutors to overcome. Additionally, the existing law is flawed and serves to exacerbate hate crimes in that it provides latitude to initiate a confrontation, then respond with deadly force. This can be corrected by placing the burden of proof for a stand your ground defense on the defendant.

Again, my thanks for spearheading the discussion and for your dedication to preserving the health, safety and welfare of us all.

Sincerely,
Simon Reid

Address:
9833 NW 5th Court
Plantation, FL
33324

Sept. 12, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee

Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee

The Florida Senate

418 Senate Building

404 South Monroe Street

Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee;

I am a Florida resident who is very concerned about my own safety and that of my family and friends. It is my understanding that you and your Committee have been tasked with reviewing hate crimes and gun violence and introducing legislation in the next session to address your findings.

Please consider the expansion of red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders. When a person is in crisis, their loved ones, not law enforcement, are often the first to see signs that they pose a threat. An expanded Extreme Risk law would allow family members to petition a court for an extreme risk protection order to temporarily remove guns from dangerous situations and prohibit the purchase or possession of firearms while the order is in effect. The law passed last year that allows law enforcement to petition the court has helped but it is not enough. Allowing family members who are more familiar with threats and dangers to petition the court directly would make all of us safer, whether we are Florida residents or visitors to our state.

Also, please consider crafting legislation that requires those convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence to surrender firearms temporarily under the same requirements as under ERPOs. In an average month, at least 52 American women are shot and killed by an intimate partner, and many more are injured. And often, the children are either harmed or also killed and/or suffer the trauma of witnessing these events or losing both parents simultaneously. We must do more to prevent these tragedies.

These simple expanded protections will surely save the lives of many Floridians. I ask you to consider these as we attempt to be safer in our homes and communities throughout the state.

My thanks in advance for your efforts on behalf of all Floridians.

Sincerely,

Tanya L. Keil

Full Address: 9833 NW 5th Court

Plantation, FL 33324

The Honorable Tom Lee

Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee

The Florida Senate

418 Senate Building

404 South Monroe Street

Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

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My thanks in advance for your efforts on behalf of all Floridians.

Sincerely,

Address:
1115 Alexander Bend
Weston, FL 33327

September 14, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair
Florida Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee
418 Senate Building
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Senator Lee:

I am writing you as a Florida resident and the father of a young child. As you know, gun violence is a serious problem in our state and nation with nearly 100 Americans dying every day due to senseless acts of gun violence. In Florida alone we have experienced two of the most horrific mass shootings in history at the Pulse nightclub in Orlando and at Marjory Stoneman Douglass High School in Parkland, Florida. This should not be our reality. We should all feel safe to live happy lives free from gun violence in our communities.

As you lead the effort to consider legislation this session to prevent gun violence, including mass shootings, I write to express my support for the following common-sense ideas I hope you will consider:

- Background Checks on all Gun Sales – States that have implemented this simple measure have reduced gun homicides and suicides by gun. It's painfully simple to understand that not having this law enables a clear workaround for those who wouldn't be able to pass a background check to purchase in person or online from an unlicensed seller.
- Expand Red Flag Laws – This law, already used frequently in Florida, to allow firearms to be temporarily removed from those who pose a risk to themselves or others could be even stronger if we allowed family members to ability to use it.
- Ban Assault Weapons and High Capacity Magazines – With assault weapons being the weapon of choice for every mass shooting, this seems like a no brainer. They do not serve any real purpose for hunting or home protection. In my view, the fact that is it used to kill as many people as possible (9 in 30 seconds in Dayton, OH) should make it illegal for a civilian to own and operate.
- Repeal Arming Teachers – Since passing this bill, the vast majority of schools, teachers, parents, and school boards have opted out the program. They know it will make them and their kids less safe. More guns don't stop guns. It only reduces the reaction time of actual law enforcement, increases the risk of escalations, and could lead to unintentional shootings (which have happened around the country). There's no evidence that arming teachers discourages shootings or decreases gun violence in any form.
- Repeal Stand Your Ground – In the years since this law was enacted, homicide rates have increased dramatically in Florida since there is less fear of repercussions. Incidents like the one in Clearwater may have been avoided if the shooter was not emboldened by this law.
- Prohibit the Printing of 3D guns – These cruder guns can avoid detection and also provide a way around background checks.
- Require those Convicted of Misdemeanor Domestic Violence to Surrender Firearms – Each month, an average of 52 women are killed by an intimate partner. They should not be armed.

I really appreciate your consideration in this matter.

Thank you,
Michael Rothwell
3707 Wilder Lane
Orlando, FL 32804

9/15/2019

The Honorable Tom Lee

Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee

The Florida Senate

418 Senate Building, 404 South Monroe Street

Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee;

I am a Florida resident who is very concerned about my own safety and that of my family and friends. It is my understanding that you and your Committee have been tasked with reviewing hate crimes and gun violence and introducing legislation in the next session to address your findings.

Please consider the expansion of red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders. When a person is in crisis, their loved ones, not law enforcement, are often the first to see signs that they pose a threat. An expanded Extreme Risk law would allow family members to petition a court for an extreme risk protection order to temporarily remove guns from dangerous situations and prohibit the purchase or possession of firearms while the order is in effect. The law passed last year that allows law enforcement to petition the court has helped but it is not enough. Allowing family members who are more familiar with threats and dangers to petition the court directly would make all of us safer, whether we are Florida residents or visitors to our state.

Also, please consider crafting legislation that requires those convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence to surrender firearms temporarily under the same requirements as under ERPOs. In an average month, at least 52 American women are shot and killed by an intimate partner, and many more are injured. And often, the children are either harmed or killed, and/or suffer the trauma of witnessing these events or losing both parents simultaneously. We must do more to prevent these tragedies.

These simple expanded protections will surely save the lives of many Floridians. I ask you to consider these as we attempt to be safer in our homes and communities throughout the state.

My thanks in advance for your efforts on behalf of all Floridians.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Reeve

641 El Dorado Parkway

Plantation FL 33317

September 12, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Florida Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee
418 Senate Building
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Senator Lee:

As you lead the effort to consider legislation this session to prevent gun violence, including mass shootings, I write to express my support for passing a state law to require criminal background checks on all gun sales. Florida state law currently does not require background checks on unlicensed gun sales, leaving a massive loophole in place that makes it far too easy for criminals, people prohibited from having guns because of mental illness, and others with dangerous histories to get their hands on guns through private, online or gun show sales. Fifteen states have passed laws to require background checks on all gun sales. Background check laws —by point-of-sale check and/or permit— are associated with lower rates of firearm homicide, suicide and firearm trafficking. The Florida Legislature should build upon the important gun violence legislation passed following the Parkland mass shooting and pass a comprehensive background check law.

Sincerely,

Michael B. Newburger
19826 5th St. SW
Lutz, FL 33548

September 12, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Florida Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee
418 Senate Building
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Senator Lee:

As you lead the effort to consider legislation this session to prevent gun violence, including mass shootings, I write to express my support for passing a state law to require criminal background checks on all gun sales. Florida state law currently does not require background checks on unlicensed gun sales, leaving a massive loophole in place that makes it far too easy for criminals, people prohibited from having guns because of mental illness, and others with dangerous histories to get their hands on guns through private, online or gun show sales. Fifteen states have passed laws to require background checks on all gun sales. Background check laws —by point-of-sale check and/or permit— are associated with lower rates of firearm homicide, suicide and firearm trafficking. The Florida Legislature should build upon the important gun violence legislation passed following the Parkland mass shooting and pass a comprehensive background check law.

Sincerely,

John Faul
7802 Lochland Dr
Trinity FL 34655

September 12, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Florida Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee
418 Senate Building
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Senator Lee:

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Sincerely,

Max Cochran

September 12, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Florida Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee
418 Senate Building
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Senator Lee:

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Sincerely,

Melissa Cochran

September 12, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Florida Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee
418 Senate Building
Tallahassee, FL 32399

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Sincerely,



September 12, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Florida Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee
418 Senate Building
Tallahassee, FL 32399

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Sincerely,

Kenneth L Copenhaver

September 12, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Florida Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee
418 Senate Building
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Senator Lee:

As you lead the effort to consider legislation this session to prevent gun violence, including mass shootings, I write to express my support for passing a state law to require criminal background checks on all gun sales. Florida state law currently does not require background checks on unlicensed gun sales, leaving a massive loophole in place that makes it far too easy for criminals, people prohibited from having guns because of mental illness, and others with dangerous histories to get their hands on guns through private, online or gun show sales. Fifteen states have passed laws to require background checks on all gun sales. Background check laws —by point-of-sale check and/or permit— are associated with lower rates of firearm homicide, suicide and firearm trafficking. The Florida Legislature should build upon the important gun violence legislation passed following the Parkland mass shooting and pass a comprehensive background check law.

Sincerely,

Russell Patterson
8701 Elmdale Pl
Tampa, FL 33637

member of moms demand action

September 12, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Florida Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee
418 Senate Building
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Senator Lee:

As you lead the effort to consider legislation this session to prevent gun violence, including mass shootings, I write to express my support for passing a state law to require criminal background checks on all gun sales. Florida state law currently does not require background checks on unlicensed gun sales, leaving a massive loophole in place that makes it far too easy for criminals, people prohibited from having guns because of mental illness, and others with dangerous histories to get their hands on guns through private, online or gun show sales. Fifteen states have passed laws to require background checks on all gun sales. Background check laws —by point-of-sale check and/or permit— are associated with lower rates of firearm homicide, suicide and firearm trafficking. The Florida Legislature should build upon the important gun violence legislation passed following the Parkland mass shooting and pass a comprehensive background check law.

Sincerely,
Christopher Zeller

September 12, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Florida Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee
418 Senate Building
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Senator Lee:

As you lead the effort to consider legislation this session to prevent gun violence, including mass shootings, I write to express my support for passing a state law to require criminal background checks on all gun sales. Florida state law currently does not require background checks on unlicensed gun sales, leaving a massive loophole in place that makes it far too easy for criminals, people prohibited from having guns because of mental illness, and others with dangerous histories to get their hands on guns through private, online or gun show sales. Fifteen states have passed laws to require background checks on all gun sales. Background check laws —by point-of-sale check and/or permit— are associated with lower rates of firearm homicide, suicide and firearm trafficking. The Florida Legislature should build upon the important gun violence legislation passed following the Parkland mass shooting and pass a comprehensive background check law.

Sincerely,

Ronan O'Flanagan

September 12, 2019

Sen. Aaron Bean
The Florida Senate
405 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Bean,

I hope this letter finds you well. I'm writing to you today on the topic of gun violence. Let me start by saying I fancy myself as an independent, voting for both Obama and Trump in recent years as an example. I'm typically not heavily involved in politics, but on this matter, I feel passionate and hope that you take time to read and consider the below.

For the benefit of our community and especially our nation's youth, I implore you to take action against gun violence on September 16th in the Senate Infrastructure Committee meeting. I personally have two children in Duval County Public Schools and my opinions are shared with almost all other parents I speak with. I understand special interest groups and your desire to appeal to the majority who will supply the votes needed to maintain your position. But there are several seemingly simple steps that can be taken to improve the current gun violence epidemic.

I believe in common sense laws, and ask that you push for the following, at a minimum:

- Mandatory background checks on all gun sales, including online and gun show transactions
- Additional resources to improve record keeping and law enforcement's ability to identify, track and prosecute those with violent criminal histories
- Vehicle gun-storage laws (I know for a fact local law enforcement is in big favor of this)
- Additional education resources to identify and help those with mental health issues, along with programs aimed at addressing both in-person and virtual bullying
- Banning assault rifles

I thank you for your time and consideration of the above. I will be closely following the actions you take this week and in the future, and promise to vote, and encourage others to vote, based on the actions you take, or don't take, to improve the lives and safety of our communities.

Sincerely,

Michael Collins
424 Hopkins Street
Neptune Beach, FL 32266

September 12, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair
Florida Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee
418 Senate Building
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Senator Lee:

My name is Jill Martinez and I'm writing to support your efforts to consider gun violence prevention legislation. As a practicing psychiatrist, I see the impact of gun violence in my work commonly. Whether it be domestic violence, assault and trauma, or suicides, all aspects of my work are impacted by gun violence. I'm incredibly grateful for the passage of Extreme Risk Protection Orders, which I can use to keep people safe when I see a risk of possible gun violence, but I also urge you and your committee to expand this to requiring criminal back group checks on all gun sales.

As you lead the effort to consider legislation this session to prevent gun violence, including mass shootings, I write to express my support for passing a state law to require criminal background checks on all gun sales. Fifteen states have passed laws to require background checks on all gun sales. Background check laws —by point-of-sale check and/or permit— are associated with lower rates of firearm homicide, suicide and firearm trafficking. The Florida Legislature should build upon the important gun violence legislation passed following the Parkland mass shooting and pass a comprehensive background check law.

Sincerely,

Jill Husson Martinez, MD
Board Certified Psychiatrist
Fort Myers, FL

September 17, 2019

Senator Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee:

I am writing to express my hope that you and your fellow senators will consider implementing stricter gun safety measures and enforceable laws that will limit gun violence in Florida.

As an active board member of an independent private school in North Florida, the safety and the security of our children, our teachers, our administration staff, our parents or grandparents, our caregivers, and EVERYONE who comes on to our campus is our upmost concern.

We can put up taller fences, more security cameras, implement shelter in-place or "safe room" procedures in active shooter situations, but what we will not be able to stop or prevent in the future is having a is an assailant armed with military grade firearms coming on to our campus and executing our kids and shattering our community.

Additionally, the cost to prevent someone from doing these heinous acts places the burden on the families that are only trying to provide a better education for their children. Increasing tuition fees for a physical barrier or a camera that only has to be replaced and maintained in the future, versus those funds going directly into a STEM, or a music, or an art, or a computer science program, or right back to the educators and teachers themselves is a losing proposition for all.

There are many common sense solutions to address gun violence in our state. I ask you to consider taking action on the following:

1. **Background Checks on ALL gun sales.**

   Our current background checks system has many loopholes that allow people, who would not have otherwise been able to purchase a firearm to do so. These loopholes lead directly to guns ending up in the wrong hands – i.e. criminals, domestic abusers or those with mental illness. As you know, background checks are currently required for the purchase of firearms from licensed gun sellers, but anyone can purchase a firearm online or at a gun show where no background check is required. In a single year, there were nearly 100,000 online gun sale ads on Armlist.com in Florida that would not require a background check. One in seven prospective Florida buyers on that one website would have failed a background check. The overwhelming

majority of Americans, including responsible gun owners, support the expansion of background check requirements.

2. **A ban on assault weapons and high capacity magazines.**

   These are weapons of war. For no reason would any American require a weapon of this magnitude for hunting or personal protection. States with restrictions on magazine size experience mass shootings at less than half the rate of states without restrictions.

3. **Expansion of our existing Red Flag law to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders.**

   When a person is in crisis and poses a threat to themselves or others, it is often their loved ones or law enforcement who first see the signs of such a threat. I am thankful that our state has a Red Flag law in which law enforcement can petition to temporarily remove firearms from those who show signs of harm to themselves or others. I would like to see the appeal process for Extreme Risk Protection Orders be extended to family members in addition to law enforcement.

4. **Repeal arming teachers from the Marjorie Stoneman Douglas School Safety Act.**

   Teachers are resoundingly against having guns in the classroom. We need to allow our teachers to do the honorable job they were trained for. Arming teachers and staff is strongly opposed by school safety experts like law enforcement. As of now, only seven out of the 67 districts in our state have considered adopting this portion of the guardian program. I believe that, administrators, students nor parents want guns in schools and absolutely do not want teachers serving as armed personnel.

As a society, community and government we've made tough decisions that aren't always the most popular choice, but they are the ones that make the most sense 3, 5, 10 years down the road. Can you even fathom not putting your children or your neighbors' grandkids in a car seat or even a seatbelt? We implemented and enforced those laws over the years and saved tens of thousands of lives. I urge you to make the same choices that our predecessors did before us and act on this epidemic around gun safety and sensible gun laws to protect everyone in this state, and to set an example for the rest of the country.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Peter Christamtsis
377 8th Street
Atlantic Beach, FL 32233

September 17, 2019

Senator Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee:

I am writing to express my extreme and impassioned desire for sensible gun legislation. I am a mother and I refuse to let my daughter grow up in a country that will not regulate a weapon that causes mass destruction, especially when a precedent has been set for other dangerous items to be regulated, and when the facts clearly state that we are in a humanitarian crisis. We need to trust that you are looking out for our and their best interest. Our children are hiding in closets, bathrooms, and behind furniture because no one has yet to fully stand up for them and their right to live peacefully and with trust in their elders in government.

There are many common sense solutions to address gun violence in our state. I ask you to consider taking action on the following:

Our current background checks system has many loopholes that allow people, who would not have otherwise been able to purchase a firearm to do so. These loopholes lead directly to guns ending up in the wrong hands – i.e. criminals, domestic abusers or those with mental illness. The overwhelming majority of Americans, including responsible gun owners, support the expansion of background check requirements.

I fully support a ban of military style weapons and high capacity magazines. These are weapons of war. For no reason would any American require a weapon of this magnitude for hunting or personal protection. States with restrictions on magazine size experience mass shootings at less than half the rate of states without restrictions.

I am thankful that our state has a Red Flag law in which law enforcement can petition to temporarily remove firearms from those who show signs of harm to themselves or others. I would like to see the appeal process for Extreme Risk Protection Orders be extended to family members in addition to law enforcement.

Teachers are resoundingly against having guns in the classroom. We need to allow our teachers to do the honorable job they were trained for. Arming teachers and staff is strongly opposed by school safety experts like law enforcement. As of now, only seven out of the 67 districts in our state have considered adopting this portion of the guardian program. I believe that, administrators, students nor parents want guns in schools and absolutely do not want teachers serving as armed personnel. I hope you repeal arming teachers and staff from the Marjorie Stoneman Douglas Act.

One-hundred Americans are shot and killed every day in our country, and this committee has the power to make an impact on gun violence in our state. Please do so.

Sincerely,
Meredith Tousey Matthews
Atlantic Beach, FL

September 17, 2019

Senator Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee:

We are writing to express our intense hope that the Florida Senate takes steps to design regulatory framework for gun safety in Florida. As soon as possible, without delay, sir.

Sensible gun legislation does not mean that "We are coming for your guns." It means designing safeguards against horrific gun violence that is undermining our sense of safety in our communities, our schools, our houses of worship...basically, everywhere and everyday. We feel unsafe.

Recently our 4 year old grandson, sitting in his car seat, suddenly said, "I have to hold my hands up." We asked "Why?" He responded "For when the bad guys shoot." We didn't know what to say to such interrupted innocence.

As you are aware, 145 CEOS of retail and other companies (including Twitter) have signed a letter urging the US Senate to act for meaningful gun safety regulations in an effort to reduce 100 daily gun deaths in this country. One plan is to expand the Red Flag alert system and implement background checks on ALL gun sales with no loopholes. This plan can work in Florida.

Mass shootings are the number one public health crisis facing us now. Ninety per cent of Americans agree that background checks on all guns can greatly reduce horrible gun violence and deaths. These assault weapons and high capacity magazines are killing machines. We stand little to no chance of recovery from an assault weapon attack. There is no vaccine.

Thank you and the committee for taking the time to address gun violence in the state of Florida. We look forward to seeing progress and meaningful action taken after the Senate Infrastructure Committee meeting on September 16th.

May we all work together for a safe and healthy Florida.

Sincerely,

Cornelia Sims Rappoport, RN, BA
Joel Martin Rappoport, MS
1554 Sand Dollar Circle
Neptune Beach, FL 32266

September 12, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair
Florida Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee
418 Senate Building
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Senator Lee:

I am writing to you as a Florida resident and the parent of a high school student. As you know, gun violence is a serious problem in our state and nation with nearly 100 Americans dying every day due to senseless ats of gun violence. In Florida alone, we have experienced two fo the most horrific mass shootings in history in Orlando and Parkland. As a mom, I should not be afraid to send my daughter to school each day, but I am. This should not be our reality. We should all feel safe to live lives free from gun violence in our state and comunities.

As you lead the effort to consider legislation this session to prevent gun violence, including mass shootings, I write to express my support for passing a state law to require criminal background checks on all gun sales. Florida state law currently does not require background checks on unlicensed gun sales, leaving a massive loophole in place that makes it far too easy for criminals, people prohibited from having guns because of mental illness, and others with dangerous histories to get their hands on guns through private, online or gun show sales. Fifteen states have passed laws to require background checks on all gun sales. Background check laws —by point-of-sale check and/or permit— are associated with lower rates of firearm homicide, suicide and firearm trafficking. The Florida Legislature should build upon the important gun violence legislation passed following the Parkland mass shooting and pass a comprehensive background check law.

Sincerely,

Abigail Maretsky
9162 Bay Hill Blvd
Orlando, FL 32819
407.579.7278

Sen. Tom Lee
Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Senator Lee,

Thank you to the committee for taking the time to address the gun violence crises in Florida and beyond. As Florida has led the way with Red Flag Laws, we can continue to lead with common-sense solutions to this ongoing crises.

As a parent and grandparent, I simply, but profoundly wish my children to grow up in a safe Florida, free from the danger of being murdered or crippled by a firearm. I am sure that you and your committee members hope for the same.

Specifically, I support the following measures:

- Background checks on all gun sales, to include the online gun marketplace called Armslist.com. In 2018 there were 1.2 million gun ads on this site where no background check was required. Prohibited people go to unlicensed gun dealers at a high rate. Let's close this loophole.
- Ban on assault weapons and high capacity magazines.
  The recent Dayton, Ohio shooter used a rifle capable of holding 100 rounds. He killed 9 people in 30 seconds. In the last 10 years, the four deadliest shootings in America involved high-capacity magazines. No hunter hunts with an assault rifle. No fisherman fishes with an assault rifle. No mom or dad needs an assault rifle behind the front seat of their Toyota. Let's take weapons of war off the streets and leave them in the hands of the Marine Corp.
- Reinstate the language that prohibits classroom teachers from serving as school guardians.
  73% of classroom teachers oppose arming school staff. 63% of parents of school aged children oppose arming teachers. (everytownresearch.org)
  My grandchildren, aged 5 and 9 years, attend public school in Titusville, FL. I want their teachers to have one responsibility, teaching. School security needs to be the responsibility of trained Resource Officers and/or local Police Departments, not the Gym coach or the English teacher. Let's listen to the majority of Floridians and make our kids safe.

Senator Lee, let's me proactive on safe gun measures and not reactive, while silently anticipating the next act of gun violence in our State. Let's legislate to keep guns out of the hands of people who would otherwise be prohibited. Let's keep the weapons of war in the hands of our military and out of the shopping mall. Let's allow our teachers to give of their best selves and teach, and leave law enforcement to those who are trained to do so.

I anticipate and am grateful in advance for all that you and your committee can do to move us in the direction of common sense safe gun legislation.

Sincerely,
Ken Holt
Satellite Beach, FL

September 12, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair
Florida Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee
418 Senate Building
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Senator Lee:

I am the grandmother of two small children in Cape Canaveral, Florida, and I am very concerned about gun violence. As you lead the effort to consider legislation this session to prevent gun violence, including mass shootings, please work to ban assault weapons and high capacity magazines.

There is no reason for a person to own a weapon of war and we've seen time and time again how destructive these guns are. In fact, 58 percent of mass shootings between 2009 and 2017 were committed with firearms equipped with high-capacity magazines.

Sincerely,

Gina Brice
Cape Canaveral, FL 32920

September 12, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair
Florida Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee
418 Senate Building
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Senator Lee:

I am a father of two small children in Winter Garden, Florida, and I am very concerned about gun violence. As you lead the effort to consider legislation this session to prevent gun violence, including mass shootings, please work to pass a state law to require criminal background checks on all gun sales.

The majority of Americans support this measure. In fact, 93 percent of American voters support requiring background checks on all gun sales, including 89 percent of Republicans and 87 percent of gun owners. An investigation found that in 2018 alone, there were nearly 1.2 million gun ads on an online gun marketplace called Armslist.com for gun sales where no background check was legally required. And research shows that prohibited people seek guns in those unlicensed gun sales at a disproportionate rate.

Fifteen states have passed laws to require background checks on all gun sales. Background check laws — by point-of-sale check and/or permit— are associated with lower rates of firearm homicide, suicide and firearm trafficking. The Florida Legislature should build upon the important gun violence legislation passed following the Parkland mass shooting and pass a comprehensive background check law.

Sincerely,

Jonah Egolf
Winter Garden, FL 34787

September 12, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair
Florida Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee
418 Senate Building
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Senator Lee:

I am the grandmother of four small children and a preschool teacher in Melbourne, Florida, and I am very concerned about gun violence. As you lead the effort to consider legislation this session to prevent gun violence, including mass shootings, please work to ban assault weapons and high capacity magazines.

I do not think people should be allowed to own weapons that are made for war. And many recent mass shootings have been committed with these guns. In fact, 58 percent of mass shootings between 2009 and 2017 were committed with firearms equipped with high-capacity magazines.

As a teacher, I would also ask that you reinstate the language that that prohibited classroom teachers from serving as school guardians I speak for myself and my fellow teachers when I say we do not want guns in our classrooms. A March 2018 survey of almost 500 U.S. teachers found that 73 percent oppose proposals to arm school staff. Another survey found that 63 percent of parents of elementary, middle, and high school students oppose arming teachers.

Sincerely,

Patricia Egolf
Melbourne, FL 32935

September 12, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee;

I understand that the Infrastructure and Security Committee will be focusing on ways to address gun violence and hate crimes during its September meeting. While the recent wave of mass shootings has served to focus our attention on this topic, in reality, one hundred Americans lose their lives to gun violence in their own neighborhoods each and every day. As this is a vitally important topic near and dear to my heart, I thank you for spearheading this discussion.

As you move forward with the discussion, particularly as it relates to hate crimes, it is my hope that you will consider revisions to the existing 'Stand Your Ground' Law. As written, in the current law, the burden of proof falls to the plaintiff and requires that the state disprove the defense which is difficult, if not impossible, for prosecutors to overcome. Additionally, the existing law is flawed and serves to exacerbate hate crimes in that it provides latitude to initiate a confrontation, then respond with deadly force. This can be corrected by placing the burden of proof for a stand your ground defense on the defendant.

Again, my thanks for spearheading the discussion and for your dedication to preserving the health, safety and welfare of us all.

Sincerely,

Debra Miller

Debra Miller
Davie, Florida

Dear Senator Lee,

I'm an alumni of MSD class of 94. I'm a current member of the community. We need reform to stop the copious amounts of heinous crimes being committed with assault rifles.

We need background checks on all gun sales!!!!

There needs to be a ban on assault weapons and high capacity magazines.

Have a heart. Everyone is being affected by gun violence in one way or another and it is a horrible burden to bear for ourselves and especially for our children. We need red flag laws to allow family members to petition for extreme risk protection orders.

Teachers should be prohibited from carrying weapons.

We need the DOA to have greater discretion to deny licenses to those individuals who present a public safety threat!

If someone has been convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence, they should be forced to surrender firearms!

Firearm dealers need to be required to notify law enforcement if someone fails a background check.

If even some of these steps are taken, future gun violence can be prevented and fewer people will have to suffer the effects of gun violence.

I feel so strongly that something can and should be done. Anything less is negligent!

Sincerely,

Lauren Laski

Senator Tom Lee

Chair, Infrastructure & Security

The Florida Senate

418 Senate Building

404 South Monroe Street

Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee and Members of the Senate Infrastructure & Security Committee,

As you prepare to come back to work, I am writing to express my concern about gun legislation and the epidemic of gun violence in this state and beyond. Every step we take toward less gun violence in the state of Florida and the country in general, is a positive step toward truly caring for and serving our communities within the state. The time has long passed for these conversations and actions to begin, so I am grateful to anyone who is bold & brave enough to catch up with what the people in the state of Florida truly want – better gun laws.

I write you as a woman, mother, former educator, and a survivor of domestic violence. I am someone who has spent a lifetime caring for and keeping children safe, not just the four that I birthed, but every single child as well that passed through my classroom door. I am someone who lived with an abuser who owned a gun. I can't think of many situations more frightening than going to bed every night and wondering if he would shoot me on that particular night. It was terrifying. I care about keeping people safe, as they should be, and I hope that all of you can make this your number one priority as well. Because truly, what are we without one another?

In the state of Florida we have boldly enacted Red Flag laws or Extreme Risk Protection orders, but we can do even better. You have the power to expand these laws to include giving family members the ability to petition law enforcement when they see the signs that a loved one poses a threat to themselves and/or others. While having a law that allows Law Enforcement to remove these weapons from individuals experiencing troubled times is an incredibly powerful first step, who knows these individuals best? Who sees their day to day behavior? Who can pick up on these warning signs first? Without a doubt it is family. They deserve to have the right to be a major piece of this process. Lives will be saved.

Law Enforcement would have never known about my ex-spouse or his gun. When it came down to it and my life was truly in danger, it would have been friends and family that would have saved my life.

In America, 93% of the voters agree with there being a background check on EVERY single gun purchase that occurs. No more loopholes for gun shows and internet sales. A 2018 investigation showed that there were 1.2 million gun ads on Armslist.com with NO legally required background check. It is mind blowing that from the get go this has not been the case. What makes more sense than making sure only people truly qualified and stable have weapons in their hands? Literally nothing. What are you all waiting for? Now is the time to speak up for the 93% and pass Universal background checks.

While there are so many aspects of this conversation that I could mention, prohibiting teachers from being armed, requiring safe storage of guns by law, requiring safety training for gun purchases, requiring gun dealers to report failed background checks to law enforcement, repealing the stand your ground law, I know that your time is limited. I urge you, however, to seriously discuss the banning of assault weapons and high capacity magazines. With these tools of destruction, a shooter is able to eliminate a large number of humans in a disgustingly short period of time and the trend seems to be rising. From 2009-2017 58% of mass shootings were committed with firearms equipped with high capacity magazines. In this modern day, should such items even exist on store shelves? You have the power and responsibility to do the work of your constituents. I truly hope you see that as sacred and make a concerted effort to work for us and with us in creating a culture that is safe for all Floridians, for all Americans.

I thank you for your time, effort and expediency in dealing with the issues of gun violence in this state. Make us proud.

Shelley Brisson - St. Petersburg, FL 33710

September 14, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee:

I am a Florida resident who is very concerned about my own safety and that of my family and friends. It is my understanding that you and your Committee have been tasked with reviewing hate crimes and gun violence and introducing legislation in the next session to address your findings.

Please consider the expansion of red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders. When a person is in crisis, their loved ones, not law enforcement, are often the first to see signs that they pose a threat. An expanded Extreme Risk law would allow family members to petition a court for an extreme risk protection order to temporarily remove guns from dangerous situations and prohibit the purchase or possession of firearms while the order is in effect. The law passed last year that allows law enforcement to petition the court has helped but it is not enough. Allowing family members who are more familiar with threats and dangers to petition the court directly would make all of us safer, whether we are Florida residents or visitors to our state.

Also, please consider crafting legislation that requires those convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence to surrender firearms temporarily under the same requirements as under ERPOs. In an average month, at least 52 American women are shot and killed by an intimate partner, and many more are injured. And often, the children are either harmed or also killed, and/or suffer the trauma of witnessing these events or losing both parents simultaneously. We must do more to prevent these tragedies.

These simple expanded protections will surely save the lives of many Floridians. I ask you to consider these as we attempt to be safer in our homes and communities throughout the state.

My thanks in advance for your efforts on behalf of all Floridians.

Sincerely,

Sara Browning

Sara Browning
3871 Holly Dr.
Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410

September 14, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee,

As the Infrastructure and Security Committee focuses on ways to address gun violence and hate crimes during its September meeting(s), my family and I are asking you to consider these priorities:

Particularly as it relates to hate crimes, it is my hope that you will consider revisions to the existing Stand Your Ground Law. Under the current law, the burden of proof falls to the plaintiff and requires that the state disprove the defense which is difficult, if not impossible, for prosecutors to overcome. Additionally, the existing law is flawed and serves to exacerbate hate crimes in that it provides latitude to initiate a confrontation, then respond with deadly force. This can be corrected by placing the burden of proof for a stand your ground defense on the defendant.

Additionally, require gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement - From 2007 to 2017, at least 82,000 guns were reported stolen and never found in Florida. Not knowing a gun is stolen hinders criminal investigations and law enforcement's ability to track gun-trafficking networks. Stolen gun reports also serve as a deterrent to inter-state gun-trafficking. This is a simple measure of accountability that assists law enforcement do its job.

These proposals would have a positive effect in making Florida safer and would not diminish Florida residents' rights under the 2nd Amendment. It's a win-win for all of us. Please give them strong consideration.

Thank you for helping to keep us safe.

Sincerely,

Fred Browning

Fred Browning
3871 Holly Dr.
Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee;

Thank you for your work and ongoing concern for the health and safety of all Floridians. As you and the Committee move forward with discussion and creation of legislation that will address hate crimes and gun violence, please consider the following.

Since retirement of the federal ban on assault weapons in 1994, we have seen a drastic increase in the number of deaths associated with mass shootings. While we cannot presume that the rise in incidents can be attributed to assault weapons, we can say with all certainty that more deaths occur per incident when assault weapons are involved. Most recently, the Dayton Ohio shooter used a high-capacity drum magazine holding 100 rounds. Although law enforcement quickly intervened to stop the shooting, within 30 seconds 9 people had been shot and killed, largely due to the magazine capacity. Thus, while a ban on assault weapons may not impact the frequency of mass shootings, it would certainly help to decrease the number of deaths.

In the area of gun safety, please improve the safety standards associated with the training that is required prior to the purchase of a firearm. From 2014 through today, across America, 1,296 children have been killed or injured by guns. Many of these incidents result from accidents associated with the failure of the owner to safely store a weapon. While today's reality may require that we as parents ask whether there is a gun in the house each time we organize a play date, it's imperative that we be assured that those guns are safely stored.

As always, my thanks for your consideration dedication to safeguarding all Floridians.

Sincerely,

Name: Christine Barrett
Address: 311 Natchez Court, Jupiter, FL 33477

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee;

I am a Florida resident who is very concerned about my own safety and that of my family and friends. It is my understanding that you and your committee have been tasked with reviewing hate crimes and gun violence and introducing legislation in the next session to address your findings.

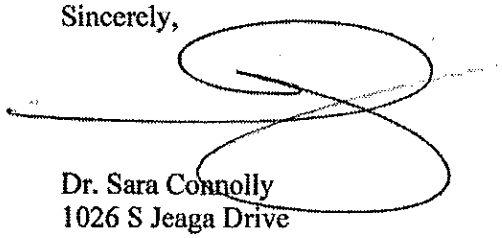
Please consider the expansion of red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders. When a person is in crisis, their loved ones, not law enforcement, are often the first to see signs that they pose a threat. An expanded Extreme Risk law would allow family members to petition a court for an extreme risk protection order to temporarily remove guns from dangerous situations and prohibit the purchase or possession of firearms while the order is in effect. The law passed last year that allows law enforcement to petition the court has helped but it is not enough. Allowing family members who are more familiar with threats and dangers to petition the court directly would make all of us safer, whether we are Florida residents or visitors to our state.

Also, please consider crafting legislation that requires those convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence to surrender firearms temporarily under the same requirements as under ERPOs. In an average month, at least 52 American women are shot and killed by an intimate partner, and many more are injured. And often, the children are either harmed or also killed, and/or suffer the trauma of witnessing these events or losing both parents simultaneously. We must do more to prevent these tragedies.

These simple expanded protections will surely save the lives of many Floridians. I ask you to consider these as we attempt to be safer in our homes and communities throughout the state.

My thanks in advance for your efforts on behalf of all Floridians.

Sincerely,



Dr. Sara Connolly
1026 S Jeaga Drive
Jupiter, FL 33458

Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee:

I heard that Senator Galvano instructed you as Chair of The Infrastructure Committee to address hate crime and gun violence. I couldn't be more grateful about that. Gun violence is a dramatic epidemic in our country, especially in counties with urban neighborhoods like Miami Dade, where we endure shooting almost every single day.

I am writing to you from Miami-Dade County in the hopes of letting you know what issues I would like the Florida legislature to focus on next year in terms of gun violence prevention. My priorities are as follows:

1. Background checks on all gun sales

Most Florida voters support requiring background checks on all gun sales, including 89 percent of Republicans and 87 percent of gun owners. We still have not closed the unlicensed gun sale loophole which means that prohibited buyers can take advantage of this loophole and get armed illegally in person and via internet. This loophole guts the public safety impact of **all** our laws. Criminals, underage buyers and people subject to Extreme Risk Orders can simply circumvent the law and purchase a firearm from an unlicensed seller and skip a background check altogether. It is like going to TSA, skipping the line and being allowed through a side door. Crazy!

2. Ban on high capacity magazines

The August 2019 Dayton, Ohio shooter used a rifle equipped with a high-capacity drum magazine capable of holding 100 rounds. Though law enforcement stopped the shooting in about 30 seconds, the shooter was able to fire dozens of shots—and kill 9 people—largely because of the magazine capacity. Over the past decade, **the four deadliest mass shootings in America involved the use of high-capacity magazines. In fact, 58 percent of mass shootings between 2009 and 2017 were committed with firearms equipped with high-capacity magazines**. Limiting magazine capacity would make **ALL** guns less lethal.

3. Require firearms dealers to notify law enforcement when a customer fails a background check

Failed attempts to purchase guns can foreshadow future criminal activity. People who fail background checks are 28 percent more likely to be arrested in the five years following the denial than in the five years before it. Law enforcement wants to know and should know when prohibited individuals are attempting to purchase guns.

4. Expansion of red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders

When a person is in crisis, loved ones are often the first to see signs that they pose a threat to themselves or others. An Extreme Risk law allows them to petition a court for an order to temporarily remove guns from dangerous situations and prohibit the purchase or possession of firearms while the order is in effect.

5. Require gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement and make responsible storage laws stricter so stolen guns are kept off the streets.

From 2007 to 2017, at least 82,000 guns were reported stolen and never found in Florida. Law enforcement has said over and over that they want to know if a stolen gun is on the street. Here in Miami Dade we need solutions for our urban violence NOW – please raise the bar to make it more difficult for guns to be stolen and for law enforcement to be informed.

Thank you for your time and dedication to our state. I am grateful that you are working hard on saving Floridians lives.

Sincerely,

Name: Scott Kielbaey

Address: 9444 SW 69th court, Pinecrest 33156

September, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair
Florida Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee
418 Senate Building
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Senator Lee:

As you lead the effort to consider legislation this session to prevent gun violence, including mass shootings, I write to express my support for passing a state law to require criminal background checks on all gun sales. Florida state law currently does not require background checks on unlicensed gun sales, leaving a massive loophole in place that makes it far too easy for criminals, people prohibited from having guns because of mental illness, and others with dangerous histories to get their hands on guns through private, online or gun show sales. Fifteen states have passed laws to require background checks on all gun sales. Background check laws —by point-of-sale check and/or permit— are associated with lower rates of firearm homicide, suicide and firearm trafficking. The Florida Legislature should build upon the important gun violence legislation passed following the Parkland mass shooting and pass a comprehensive background check law.

Sincerely,

Prudence Gerlot
Melrose, FL

September, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair
Florida Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee
418 Senate Building
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Senator Lee:

As you lead the effort to consider legislation this session to prevent gun violence, including mass shootings, I write to express my support for passing a state law to require criminal background checks on all gun sales. Florida state law currently does not require background checks on unlicensed gun sales, leaving a massive loophole in place that makes it far too easy for criminals, people prohibited from having guns because of mental illness, and others with dangerous histories to get their hands on guns through private, online or gun show sales. Fifteen states have passed laws to require background checks on all gun sales. Background check laws —by point-of-sale check and/or permit— are associated with lower rates of firearm homicide, suicide and firearm trafficking. The Florida Legislature should build upon the important gun violence legislation passed following the Parkland mass shooting and pass a comprehensive background check law.

Sincerely,

Patrick J. Stevens
Melrose, FL. 32666

September, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair
Florida Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee
418 Senate Building
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Senator Lee:

As you lead the effort to consider legislation this session to prevent gun violence, including mass shootings, I write to express my support for passing a state law to require criminal background checks on all gun sales. Florida state law currently does not require background checks on unlicensed gun sales, leaving a massive loophole in place that makes it far too easy for criminals, people prohibited from having guns because of mental illness, and others with dangerous histories to get their hands on guns through private, online or gun show sales. Fifteen states have passed laws to require background checks on all gun sales. Background check laws —by point-of-sale check and/or permit— are associated with lower rates of firearm homicide, suicide and firearm trafficking. The Florida Legislature should build upon the important gun violence legislation passed following the Parkland mass shooting and pass a comprehensive background check law.

Sincerely,

Arlene Epperson
Melrose, FL 32666

Mary-Jo Valentino
4817 Hawkshead Park
Sarasota, FL 34241
347 678 2334
mj@electrolibrary.com

September 14, 2019

Senator Tom Lee
Chair of the Infrastructure Committee
418 Senate Office Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-110

Dear Senator Lee:

I am a resident of Sarasota and a mother of two, including a five year old who has just started public kindergarten. I am a concerned citizen writing to urge you to prioritize gun sense legislation.

Please support legislation that would require criminal background checks on all gun sales in Florida, including online gun sales and gun show sales. **Background checks save lives. An October 2018 Pew Research Center poll found that 85% of Americans support requiring a background check on all gun buyers, including 91% of Democrats and 79% of Republicans**. In a country that has become polarized, it would seem that this is one area where parties can come together to represent and protect their constituents. In addition, I support a ban on assault weapons and limiting high capacity magazines; expanding the red flag law; reevaluating the training for those participating in the guardian program in schools; and reinforcing safe gun storage in households with minors. I am asking that you prioritize the safety of families and children.

The idea of my children having to experience lockdown drills is something I have tried not to think about since becoming a mother. It is nauseating and awful to think of the possibility of the drill, much less a real shooting. It is our responsibility to protect our children's lives and the innocence of childhood itself.

In summary, I strongly urge you to protect our children through common sense gun legislation.

Sincerely,

Mary-Jo Valentino
Sarasota, FL 34241

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

August 14, 2019

Dear Senator Lee,

As the Infrastructure and Security Committee focuses on ways to address gun violence and hate crimes during its September meeting(s), my family and I are asking you to consider these priorities:

1.) Require a background checks on every firearm purchase in the State of Florida – Over 90% of Americans support requiring background checks on all gun sales. An investigation found that in 2018 alone, there were nearly 1.2 million firearm ads on an online gun marketplace called Armslist.com for gun sales where no background check was legally required. And research shows that prohibited people seek guns in those unlicensed gun sales at a disproportionate rate.

2.) Require the timely reporting of criminal and mental health records to NICS - Hundreds of thousands of prohibiting criminal and mental health records are missing from the NICS background check system, potentially enabling prohibited people to pass a background check. This is a critical fail that is required to be fixed in order to make background check legislation effective. Legislation to make this reporting mandatory will make us safer.

3.) Require gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement - From 2007 to 2017, at least 82,000 guns were reported stolen and never found in Florida. Not knowing a gun is stolen hinders criminal investigations and law enforcement's ability to track gun-trafficking networks. Stolen gun reports also serve as a deterrent to inter-state gun-trafficking. This is a simple measure of accountability that assists law enforcement do its job.

These three (3) proposals would have a positive effect in making Florida safer and would not diminish Florida residents' rights under the 2nd Amendment. It's a win-win for all of us. Please give them strong consideration.

Thank you for helping to keep us safe.

Sincerely,



Angie Wegner
235 Gardenia Isle Drive
Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33418

September 14, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee;
I am a Florida resident who is very concerned about my own safety and that of my family and friends. It is my understanding that you and your Committee have been tasked with reviewing hate crimes and gun violence and introducing legislation in the next session to address your findings.

Please consider the expansion of red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders. When a person is in crisis, their loved ones, not law enforcement, are often the first to see signs that they pose a threat. An expanded Extreme Risk law would allow family members to petition a court for an extreme risk protection order to temporarily remove guns from dangerous situations and prohibit the purchase or possession of firearms while the order is in effect. The law passed last year that allows law enforcement to petition the court has helped but it is not enough. Allowing family members who are more familiar with threats and dangers to petition the court directly would make all of us safer, whether we are Florida residents or visitors to our state.

Also, please consider crafting legislation that requires those convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence to surrender firearms temporarily under the same requirements as under ERPOs. In an average month, at least 52 American women are shot and killed by an intimate partner, and many more are injured. And often, the children are either harmed or also killed, and/or suffer the trauma of witnessing these events or losing both parents simultaneously. We must do more to prevent these tragedies.

These simple expanded protections will surely save the lives of many Floridians. I ask you to consider these as we attempt to be safer in our homes and communities throughout the state.

My thanks in advance for your efforts on behalf of all Floridians.

As a woman, single mom, and survivor of domestic abuse I urge you to make these laws and protect the vulnerable. Families are depending on you to do the right thing!

Sincerely,
Janine Marley

4280 Hazel Ave Unit C
PBG, FL 33410

September 14, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee,

As the Infrastructure and Security Committee focuses on ways to address gun violence and hate crimes during its September meeting(s), my family and I are asking you to consider these priorities:

1.) Require a background checks on every firearm purchase in the State of Florida – Over 90% of Americans support requiring background checks on all gun sales. An investigation found that in 2018 alone, there were nearly 1.2 million firearm ads on an online gun marketplace called Armslist.com for gun sales where no background check was legally required. And research shows that prohibited people seek guns in those unlicensed gun sales at a disproportionate rate.

2.) Require the timely reporting of criminal and mental health records to NICS - Hundreds of thousands of prohibiting criminal and mental health records are missing from the NICS background check system, potentially enabling prohibited people to pass a background check. This is a critical fail that is required to be fixed in order to make background check legislation effective. Legislation to make this reporting mandatory will make us safer.

3.) Require gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement - From 2007 to 2017, at least 82,000 guns were reported stolen and never found in Florida. Not knowing a gun is stolen hinders criminal investigations and law enforcement's ability to track gun-trafficking networks. Stolen gun reports also serve as a deterrent to inter-state gun-trafficking. This is a simple measure of accountability that assists law enforcement do its job.

These three (3) proposals would have a positive effect in making Florida safer and would not diminish Florida residents' rights under the 2nd Amendment. It's a win-win for all of us. Please give them strong consideration.

Thank you for helping to keep us safe.

Sincerely

Teresa Courage
810 Juno Ocean Walk 403B
Juno Beach FL 33408

Senator Tom Lee

Chairman, Infrastructure and Security

The Florida Senate

418 Senate Building

404 S Monroe Street

Tallahassee, Fl 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee:

My name is Shannon and my mother asked me to write to you about an issue she cares deeply about. That is gun safety. As a mother myself I too care about this issue. It is important that we feel safe when we send our children to school or if we go out to the movies or shopping at Wal-Mart. These places may seem familiar because they have all been a place where gun violence has taken place. If your committee can stop one act of gun violence, then it is worth it.

I can ask you to strength background checks. I can ask you to expand red flag legislation and I can ask you not to arm teachers. I can never ask you to revive a life that was taken by a gun. I can not ask you to take away the pain a family feels. You would be powerless to do so. But those things I can ask you to do, background checks, red flag laws and not arming teachers are all within your power to do. So, I ask that you consider doing those things within your power to keep us safe.

Sincerely

Shannon Scott

Senator Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Senator Lee,

I'm writing on behalf of the Alachua County Council of PTA's. As part of Florida PTA, we represent over 3,000 PTA members throughout our district. As advocates for all children, we have a strong interest in ensuring the safety of our children, both within and outside of school property.

We understand the Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee will be discussing gun safety at an upcoming meeting. We would like to provide you and your committee members with some statistics and requests.

- Every day across the United States, seven children and teens (ages 0 – 19) die from gun violence.
- Experts estimate that currently one third of guns are acquired through transactions exempt from background checks, including gun show and internet purchases.
- Eighteen states already have legislation requiring background checks at least for handgun purchases at gun shows.
- 87% of American gun owners (including 89% of Republicans) and NRA members support background checks as consistent with their Second Amendment rights.
- The August 2019 Dayton, Ohio shooter used a rifle equipped with a high-capacity drum magazine capable of holding 100 rounds. Though law enforcement stopped the shooting in about 30 seconds, the shooter was able to fire dozens of shots—and kill 9 people—largely because of the magazine capacity. Over the past decade, the four deadliest mass shootings in America involved the use of high-capacity magazines. In fact, 58 percent of mass shootings between 2009 and 2017 were committed with firearms equipped with high-capacity magazines.
- A March 2018 survey of almost 500 U.S. teachers found that 73 percent oppose proposals to arm school staff. A March 2019 survey of Florida PTA members found that 78% of PTA members feel the same.

Therefore, PTA requests that the Florida legislature consider the following legislative actions in order to protect children in our state:

- For the safety of all children, Florida should close the "gun show loophole" and implement universal background checks.
- Provide all relevant records to the FBI's National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS).
- Outlaw military style semi-automatic weapons.
- Reinstate the bill that prohibited classroom teachers from serving as school guardians.

We feel these measures will go a long way in ensuring the safety of our children, while still allowing gun owners to preserve their rights.

I would be happy to discuss our positions with you further if desired. Please feel free to contact me at the information listed below. We appreciate your taking the time to listen to our concerns.

Regards,

Megan Hendricks

Megan Hendricks
Legislative Chair, Alachua County Council of PTA's
Legislation@accpta.org

Sen. TomLee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee,

I am writing to you as a concerned parent and a registered voter in Pinellas County, Florida. Thank you, and the committee, for taking the time to address the gun violence crisis in Florida.

I do believe that gun violence is a crisis, and while there have been some positive steps forward, there is more that can be done to successfully diminish the gun violence epidemic that is affecting not only Florida, but our entire country.

The first, and easiest, solution is to require comprehensive background checks on all gun sales, not only for licensed dealers, but for private sales as well.

The second most important step to preventing further gun violence is to repeal the portion of the Marjorie Stoneman Douglas Act that allows arming of classroom teachers. It is my belief, and data supports it, that arming teachers makes children less safe.

Another key step would be to further strengthen existing Red Flag Laws, and expand them by allowing family members to report when loved ones are exhibiting signs of being a danger to themselves and others.

Lastly, please repeal "Stand Your Ground" laws, which have only served to increase completely unwarranted killings and injuries.

Thank you again for your attention to this extremely important issue.

Sincerely,
Mabel E. D. MacMillan
9099 127th Lane
Seminole, FL 33776

September 14, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee;

Thank you for your work and ongoing concern for the health and safety of all Floridians. As you and the Committee move forward with discussion and creation of legislation that willaddress hate crimes and gun violence, please consider the following.

Since retirement of the federal ban on assault weapons in 1994, we have seen a drastic increase in the number of deaths associated with mass shootings. While we cannot presume that the rise in incidents can be attributed to assault weapons, we can say with all certainty that more deaths occur per incident when assault weapons are involved. Most recently, the Dayton Ohio shooter used a high-capacity drum magazine holding 100 rounds. Although law enforcement quickly intervened to stop the shooting, within 30 seconds 9 people had been shot and killed, largely due to the magazine capacity. Thus, while a ban on assault weapons may not impact the frequency of mass shootings, it would certainly help to decrease the number of deaths.

In the area of gun safety, please improve the safety standards associated with the training that is required prior to the purchase of a firearm. From 2014 through today, across America, 1,296 children have been killed or injured by guns. Many of these incidents result from accidents associated with the failure of the owner to safely store a weapon. While today's reality may require that we as parents ask whether there is a gun in the houseeach time we organize a play date, it's imperative that we be assured that those guns are safely stored.

As always, my thanks for your consideration dedication tosafeguarding all Floridians.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Hemmingway
8242 Emerald Avenue
Parkland, FL 33076

9/14/19

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee;
I am a Florida resident who is very concerned about my own safety and that of my family and friends. It is my understanding that you and your Committee have been tasked with reviewing hate crimes and gun violence and introducing legislation in the next session to address your findings. Please consider the expansion of red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders. When a person is in crisis, their loved ones, not law enforcement, are often the first to see signs that they pose a threat. An expanded Extreme Risk law would allow family members to petition a court for an extreme risk protection order to temporarily remove guns from dangerous situations and prohibit the purchase or possession of firearms while the order is in effect. The law passed last year that allows law enforcement to petition the court has helped but it is not enough. Allowing family members who are more familiar with threats and dangers to petition the court directly would make all of us safer, whether we are Florida residents or visitors to our state.
Also, please consider crafting legislation that requires those convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence to surrender firearms temporarily under the same requirements as under ERPOs. In an average month, at least 52 American women are shot and killed by an intimate partner, and many more are injured. And often, the children are either harmed or also killed, and/or suffer the trauma of witnessing these events or losing both parents simultaneously. We must do more to prevent these tragedies.
These simple expanded protections will surely save the lives of many Floridians. I ask you to consider these as we attempt to be safer in our homes and communities throughout the state.
My thanks in advance for your efforts on behalf of all Floridians.
Sincerely,
Kira Alvarez

6096 Foster Street
Jupiter FL 33458

September 14, 2019

Dear Senator Lee and Infrastructure Committee,

My name is Ashley Murphy and I am a volunteer for Moms Demand Action. I live in Sarasota, Florida with my husband and my two small children. I am writing you today because I feel very strongly about ensuring that the Florida legislature prioritizes three pieces of firearm legislation in the upcoming session.

Banning assault weapons is a legislative act that had an impact on our nation 20 years ago, before the dawn of the "generation lockdown" and countless headlines of mass shootings involving AR-15 and AK-47 guns. At minimum, I ask that the legislature commit to allowing the citizens of Florida to decide that this issue is worthy of constitutional amendment and support it being put on the ballot should the number of petition signatures required be properly obtained.

I also urge the legislature to support proposed legislation for updating background check laws to include the sale of firearms via the Internet or at gun shows. Currently, we have people who are able to purchase firearms legally who would not pass a background check and thus, should not have access to weapons that are designed to kill. This is not a constitutional infringement – this is a responsible, necessary act by lawmakers to reduce the number of people with violent histories, malicious intent or and/or dangerous mental illnesses from legally obtaining a gun. This is an action to protect the residents of Florida – plain and simple. We are required to go through necessary assessments and meet certain requirements to obtain a license when we drive a vehicle – treating the purchase of a potentially deadly weapon with that same standard seems like the sensible thing to do.

Finally, expanding red flag laws to include allowing family members to file an Extreme Risk Protection Order would allow family members to file for the temporary removal of firearms from someone who has demonstrated a potential threat to themselves or others. Our red flag law saves lives every day in Florida, but we can do better. Family members should have the ability to invoke this protective law as well.

Thank you very much for your consideration of this proposal. Improving the lives of Floridians should be an important goal of elected officials and I hope that you will support legislation regarding these issues in order to do so.

Best regards,

Ashley Murphy
Sarasota, Florida

September 14, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair
Florida Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee
418 Senate Building
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Senator Lee:

I am writing to you to request your support in passing a state law to requiring background checks on all gun sales. Florida state law currently does not require background checks on unlicensed gun sales, leaving a massive loophole in place that makes it far too easy for criminals, people prohibited from having guns because of mental illness, and others with dangerous histories to get their hands on guns through private, online or gun show sales. Even with a solid "red-flag"' law, as shown in Odessa, Texas, a shooter can go to a gun show or private sale and purchase a firearm. Fifteen states have passed laws to require background checks on all gun sales. Background check laws —by point-of-sale check and/or permit— are associated with lower rates of firearm homicide, suicide and firearm trafficking. The Florida Legislature should build upon the important gun violence legislation passed following the Parkland mass shooting and pass a comprehensive background check law.

Thank you so much for representing your constituants by passing strong background check legislation.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Craig

Kimberly Craig
14888 Indigo Lakes Drive
Naples, FL 34119
720-232-0029

Sen. Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Senator Lee,

Thank you are taking the time to explore the ways in which gun violence can be addressed in Florida. I hope you and your colleagues will consider the proposals below, all of which are backed by hard evidence. The following actions have saved lives all over the country and will do the same here in Florida.

1. **Require background checks on *all* gun sales (including gun shows and personal sales).** 93% of all Americans support this, including 87% of gun owners. Background checks are simple, effective and again and again they have prevented dangerous people from doing great harm.
2. **Repeal the portion of the Marjorie Stoneman Douglas act that allows teachers to be armed.** Arming teachers is overwhelmingly opposed by educators, parents and law enforcement and carries tremendous risk to students. The majority of Florida's school districts recognize this and have opted out for that reason. This is a misguided, dangerous measure that merits repealing.
3. **Ban assault weapons and high-capacity magazines.** This ban was in place once (and before that it was supported by President Reagan), and *it worked.* In the decade after the ban ended, there was a 347% increase in fatalities in gun massacres. The ban saved lives and should be back in place. A strong majority of Americans — up to 70% — favors such a ban.
4. **Expand red flag laws to allow family members to petition for extreme risk protection orders.** When a person is in crisis, loved ones and law enforcement are often the first to see a threat. An Extreme Risk Protection law allows them to petition a court to temporarily remove guns from dangerous situations and prevent the purchase of firearms while the order is in effect.

I sincerely hope you'll enact these evidenced-based proposals to keep our communities safe and to prevent gun violence. Please help save the lives of those you are elected to represent. We cannot afford any more lives lost, and we know these measures work.

Thank you,
Jaswinder Kaur
Oviedo, FL 32766

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee;

I am a Florida resident who is very concerned about my own safety and that of my family and friends. It is my understanding that you and your Committee have been tasked with reviewing hate crimes and gun violence and introducing legislation in the next session to address your findings.

Please consider the expansion of red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders. When a person is in crisis, their loved ones, not law enforcement, are often the first to see signs that they pose a threat. An expanded Extreme Risk law would allow family members to petition a court for an extreme risk protection order to temporarily remove guns from dangerous situations and prohibit the purchase or possession of firearms while the order is in effect. The law passed last year that allows law enforcement to petition the court has helped but it is not enough. Allowing family members who are more familiar with threats and dangers to petition the court directly would make all of us safer, whether we are Florida residents or visitors to our state.

Also, please consider crafting legislation that requires those convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence to surrender firearms temporarily under the same requirements as under ERPOs. In an average month, at least 52 American women are shot and killed by an intimate partner, and many more are injured. And often, the children are either harmed or also killed, and/or suffer the trauma of witnessing these events or losing both parents simultaneously. We must do more to prevent these tragedies.

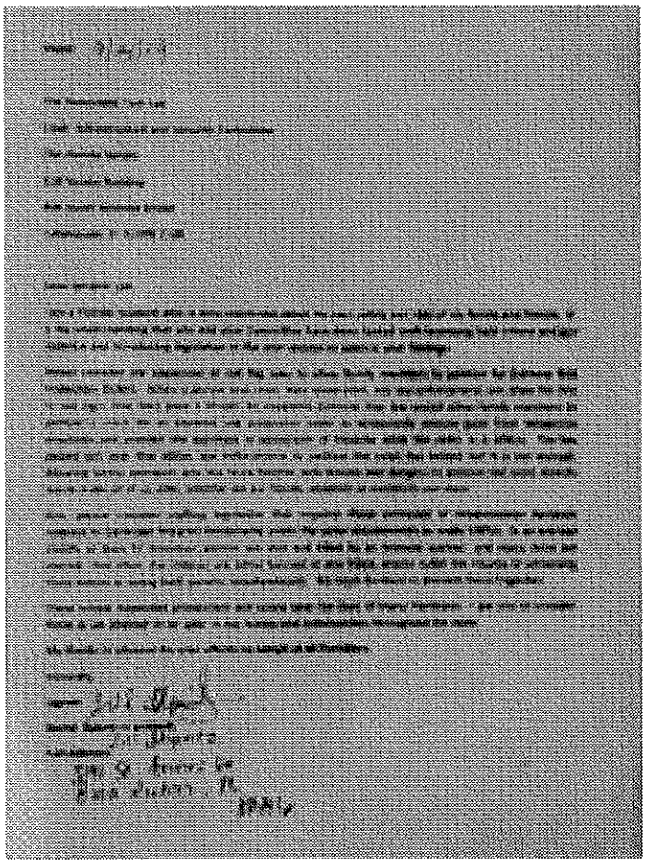
These simple expanded protections will surely save the lives of many Floridians. I ask you to consider these as we attempt to be safer in our homes and communities throughout the state.

My thanks in advance for your efforts on behalf of all Floridians.

Sincerely,

Nonka O'Neil

6488 Marbletree Lane,
Lake Worth, Fl 33467



Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee:

I heard that Senator Galvano instructed you as Chair of The Infrastructure Committee to address hate crime and gun violence. I couldn't be more grateful about that. Gun violence is a dramatic epidemic in our country, especially in counties with urban neighborhoods like Miami Dade, where we endure shooting almost every single day.

I am writing to you from Miami-Dade County in the hopes of letting you know what issues I would like the Florida legislature to focus on next year in terms of gun violence prevention. My priorities are as follows:

1. Background checks on all gun sales

Most Florida voters support requiring background checks on all gun sales, including 89 percent of Republicans and 87 percent of gun owners. We still have not closed the unlicensed gun sale loophole which means that prohibited buyers can take advantage of this loophole and get armed illegally in person and via internet. This loophole guts the public safety impact of **all** our laws. Criminals, underage buyers and people subject to Extreme Risk Orders can simply circumvent the law and purchase a firearm from an unlicensed seller and skip a background check altogether. It is like going to TSA, skipping the line and being allowed through a side door. Crazy!

2. Ban on high capacity magazines

The August 2019 Dayton, Ohio shooter used a rifle equipped with a high-capacity drum magazine capable of holding 100 rounds. Though law enforcement stopped the shooting in about 30 seconds, the shooter was able to fire dozens of shots—and kill 9 people—largely because of the magazine capacity. Over the past decade, **the four deadliest mass shootings in America involved the use of high-capacity magazines. In fact, 58 percent of mass shootings between 2009 and 2017 were committed with firearms equipped with high-capacity magazines**. Limiting magazine capacity would make **ALL** guns less lethal.

3. Require firearms dealers to notify law enforcement when a customer fails a background check

Failed attempts to purchase guns can foreshadow future criminal activity. People who fail background checks are 28 percent more likely to be arrested in the five years following the denial than in the five years before it. Law enforcement wants to know and should know when prohibited individuals are attempting to purchase guns.

4. Expansion of red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders

When a person is in crisis, loved ones are often the first to see signs that they pose a threat to themselves or others. An Extreme Risk law allows them to petition a court for an order to temporarily remove guns from dangerous situations and prohibit the purchase or possession of firearms while the order is in effect.

5. Require gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement and make responsible storage laws stricter so stolen guns are kept off the streets.

From 2007 to 2017, at least 82,000 guns were reported stolen and never found in Florida. Law enforcement has said over and over that they want to know if a stolen gun is on the street. Here in Miami Dade we need solutions for our urban violence NOW – please raise the bar to make it more difficult for guns to be stolen and for law enforcement to be informed.

Thank you for your time and dedication to our state. I am grateful that you are working hard on saving Floridians lives.

Sincerely,

Name: Yuliha Linhares

Address: 9444 SW 69th court, Pinecrest 33156

September 15, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee,

As the Infrastructure and Security Committee focuses on ways to address gun violence and hate crimes during its September meeting(s), I am asking you to consider these priorities:

1) Require a background check on every firearm purchase in the State of Florida – Over 90% of Americans support requiring background checks on all gun sales. An investigation found that in 2018 alone, there were nearly 1.2 million firearm ads on an online gun marketplace called Armslist.com for gun sales where no background check was legally required. And research shows that prohibited people seek guns in those unlicensed gun sales at a disproportionate rate. **In fact, the recent shooting in Odessa, Texas was committed by a gunman that failed a background check and acquired the firearm through an unlicensed sale. This loophole must be closed.**

2) Require the timely reporting of criminal and mental health records to NICS – Hundreds of thousands of prohibiting criminal and mental health records are missing from the NICS background check system, potentially enabling prohibited people to pass a background check. This is a critical fail that is required to be fixed in order to make background check legislation effective. Legislation to make this reporting mandatory will make us safer.

3) Require gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement – From 2007 to 2017, at least 82,000 guns were reported stolen and never found in Florida. Not knowing a gun is stolen hinders criminal investigations and law enforcement's ability to track gun-trafficking networks. Stolen gun reports also serve as a deterrent to inter-state gun-trafficking. This is a simple measure of accountability that assists law enforcement in doing their job.

These three (3) proposals would have a positive effect in making Florida safer and would not diminish Florida residents' rights under the 2nd Amendment. These are common sense measures that will keep Floridians safer and I urge you to give them strong consideration. Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

Lauren Eskra

Lauren Eskra
113 Gulfstream Road
North Palm Beach, FL 33408

September 15, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee,

As the Infrastructure and Security Committee focuses on ways to address gun violence and hate crimes during its September meeting(s), I am asking you to consider these priorities:

1) Require a background check on every firearm purchase in the State of Florida – Over 90% of Americans support requiring background checks on all gun sales. An investigation found that in 2018 alone, there were nearly 1.2 million firearm ads on an online gun marketplace called Armslist.com for gun sales where no background check was legally required. And research shows that prohibited people seek guns in those unlicensed gun sales at a disproportionate rate. **In fact, the recent shooting in Odessa, Texas was committed by a gunman that failed a background check and acquired the firearm through an unlicensed sale. This loophole must be closed.**

2) Require the timely reporting of criminal and mental health records to NICS – Hundreds of thousands of prohibiting criminal and mental health records are missing from the NICS background check system, potentially enabling prohibited people to pass a background check. This is a critical fail that is required to be fixed in order to make background check legislation effective. Legislation to make this reporting mandatory will make us safer.

3) Require gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement – From 2007 to 2017, at least 82,000 guns were reported stolen and never found in Florida. Not knowing a gun is stolen hinders criminal investigations and law enforcement's ability to track gun-trafficking networks. Stolen gun reports also serve as a deterrent to inter-state gun-trafficking. This is a simple measure of accountability that assists law enforcement in doing their job.

These three (3) proposals would have a positive effect in making Florida safer and would not diminish Florida residents' rights under the 2nd Amendment. These are common sense measures that will keep Floridians safer and I urge you to give them strong consideration. Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

Michael Eskra
113 Gulfstream Road
North Palm Beach, FL 33408

support in passing a state law requiring comprehensive background checks on every gun sale.

Florida state law currently does not require background checks on unlicensed gun sales, leaving a massive loophole in place that makes it far too easy for criminals, people prohibited from having guns because of mental illness, and others with dangerous pasts to own a gun through private, online or gun show sales. Background check laws are associated with lower rates of firearm homicide, suicide and firearm trafficking.

Over 90% of Americans support a background check on every gun sale and this includes responsible gun owners.

Thank you for your attention.

Julie Kelly

Julie Kelly

Lake Worth

Palm Beach County

support in passing a state law requiring comprehensive background checks on every gun sale.

Florida state law currently does not require background checks on unlicensed gun sales, leaving a massive loophole in place that makes it far too easy for criminals, people prohibited from having guns because of mental illness, and others with dangerous pasts to own a gun through private, online or gun show sales. Background check laws are associated with lower rates of firearm homicide, suicide and firearm trafficking.

Over 90% of Americans support a background check on every gun sale and this includes responsible gun owners.

Thank you for your attention.

Barry L Goldman

Barry Goldman

Lake Worth

Palm Beach County

Sen. Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Sen Lee –

I am a mother of 4 sons ages 13-20 and I am very concerned about gun violence in Florida. Below are my personal priorities:

Background checks on all gun sales[1]

93 percent of American voters support requiring background checks on all gun sales, including 89 percent of Republicans and 87 percent of gun owners. An investigation found that in 2018 alone, there were nearly 1.2 million gun ads on an online gun marketplace called Armslist.com for gun sales where no background check was legally required. And research shows that prohibited people seek guns in those unlicensed gun sales at a disproportionate rate.

Ban on assault weapons and high capacity magazines[2]

The August 2019 Dayton, Ohio shooter used a rifle equipped with a high-capacity drum magazine capable of holding 100 rounds. Though law enforcement stopped the shooting in about 30 seconds, the shooter was able to fire dozens of shots—and kill 9 people—largely because of the magazine capacity. Over the past decade, the four deadliest mass shootings in America involved the use of high-capacity magazines. In fact, 58 percent of mass shootings between 2009 and 2017 were committed with firearms equipped with high-capacity magazines.[5]

Expansion of red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders[3]

When a person is in crisis, loved ones and law enforcement are often the first to see signs that they pose a threat. An Extreme Risk law allows them to petition a court for an extreme risk protection order to temporarily remove guns from dangerous situations and prohibit the purchase or possession of firearms while the order is in effect.

Reinstate the language in §30.15 that prohibited classroom teachers from serving as school guardians[4]

A March 2018 survey of almost 500 U.S. teachers found that 73 percent oppose proposals to arm school staff. Another survey found that 63 percent of parents of elementary, middle, and high school students oppose arming teachers.

Require firearms dealers to notify law enforcement when a customer fails a background check[5]

Failed attempts to purchase guns can foreshadow future criminal activity. People who fail background checks are 28 percent more likely to be arrested in the five years following the denial than in the five years before it. Law enforcement should know when prohibited individuals are attempting to purchase guns.

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[1] https://everytownresearch.org/background-checks-save-lives-protect-communities/
[2] https://everytown.org/learn/h-r-1186-prohibiting-high-capacity-magazines-would-reduce-the-devastation-of-gun-violence/
[3] https://everytownresearch.org/extreme-risk-laws/
[4] https://everytownresearch.org/arming-teachers-introduces-new-risks-into-schools/
[5] https://www.thetrace.org/2018/03/florida-lie-and-try-loophole-background-check-denials/

Prohibit concealed carry licensees from carrying firearms in additional sensitive places, such as daycares, public playgrounds, and at public demonstrations[6]

Florida's list of "sensitive" places is fairly small, and despite the NRA talking point, data from 2009-2016 shows that only 10 percent of the 156 mass shootings during that period happened in a "gun free zone."

Require safe storage of guns in vehicles and Require gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement[7]

From 2007 to 2017, at least 82,000 guns were reported stolen and never found in Florida.

Require safety training prior to purchasing a firearm[8]

Gun buyers should be educated on firearm safety, including safe storage. Every year almost 350 children shoot themselves or someone else unintentionally. Most of these shootings take place inside a home where a gun was not properly secured.

Require the timely reporting of criminal and mental health records to NICS[9]

Hundreds of thousands of prohibiting mental health records are missing from the NICS background check system, potentially enabling prohibited people to pass a background check.

Repeal preemption[10]

Efforts by municipalities to regulate where guns can be carried and fired have been struck down on the basis of Florida's preemption statute.

Return the burden of proof for stand your ground defense to the defendant[11]

> Florida's Stand Your Ground defense, which requires the state to disprove the defense before trial, is very difficult for prosecutors to overcome.

Lori Broadhurst
3056 Illinois Place
Gulf Breeze, FL 32563

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[6] https://www.freshfromflorida.com/Consumer-Resources/Concealed-Weapon-License/Possession-Restrictions
[7] https://projects.tampabay.com/projects/2017/special-report/unlocked-loaded/stolen-guns/
[8] https://everytownresearch.org/secure-storage/
[9] https://everytownresearch.org/reports/fatal-gaps-mental-health-records/
[10] https://everytownresearch.org/fact-sheet-preemption-laws/
[11] https://slate.com/news-and-politics/2019/01/florida-stand-your-ground-law-just-got-way-worse.html

Sept. 14, 2019

Dear Senator:

I was happy to learn that this Monday you will be meeting to discuss Gun Sense in Florida. Passing gun legislation is a topic that most of your constituents feel is a necessity and that it needs to be addressed now. Background checks are overwhelming supported by the people.

I have been collecting signatures for putting the banning of assault weapons on the Florida ballot. I must say that the vast majority of people that I have asked are more than willing to sign the petition. They feel that it is long overdue. The people want to be heard.

Please listen to them. After all, isn't that what your job is supposedly all about?

Sincerely,
Janice Stapleton
Poinciana

September 12, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee,

As the Infrastructure and Security Committee focuses on ways to address gun violence and hate crimes during its September meeting(s), my family and I are asking you to consider these priorities:

1.) Require a background checks on every firearm purchase in the State of Florida – Over 90% of Americans support requiring background checks on all gun sales. We have lost far too many people in our country due to lax background checks.

2.) Require the timely reporting of criminal and mental health records to NICS - Hundreds of thousands of prohibiting criminal and mental health records are missing from the NICS background check system, potentially enabling prohibited people to pass a background check. This is a critical fail that is required to be fixed in order to make background check legislation effective. Legislation to make this reporting mandatory will make us safer.

3.) Require gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement - From 2007 to 2017, at least 82,000 guns were reported stolen and never found in Florida. Not knowing a gun is stolen hinders criminal investigations and law enforcement's ability to track gun-trafficking networks. Stolen gun reports also serve as a deterrent to inter-state gun-trafficking. This is a simple measure of accountability that assists law enforcement do its job.

We will be watching closely regarding how you and our political representatives stand on gun safety in the coming months and hope you will support these proposals to make our country safer for our children and all citizens.

These three (3) proposals would have a positive effect in making Florida safer and would not diminish Florida residents' rights under the 2nd Amendment. It's a win-win for all of us. Please give them strong consideration.

Thank you for helping to keep us safe.

Sincerely,

5090 Dalehurst Dr.
Cocoa FL 32926

Barbara Wheeler

Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Infrastructure and Security Committee:

I am writing to thank you for your work on gun violence and to ask you to support the commonsense gun reform so **desperately** needed in our state. Based on the experiences here in Miami Dade County, I believe the following changes would be the most impactful in preventing gun violence:

1. Background checks on all gun sales

Most Florida voters support requiring background checks on all gun sales, including 89 percent of Republicans and 87 percent of gun owners. We still have not closed the unlicensed gun sale loophole which means that prohibited buyers can take advantage of this loophole and get armed illegally in person and via internet. This loophole guts the public safety impact of **all** our laws. Criminals, underage buyers and people subject to Extreme Risk Orders can simply circumvent the law and purchase a firearm from an unlicensed seller and skip a background check altogether. It is like going to TSA, skipping the line and being allowed through a side door. Crazy!

2. Ban on high capacity magazines

The August 2019 Dayton, Ohio shooter used a rifle equipped with a high-capacity drum magazine capable of holding 100 rounds. Though law enforcement stopped the shooting in about 30 seconds, the shooter was able to fire dozens of shots—and kill 9 people—largely because of the magazine capacity. Over the past decade, **the four deadliest mass shootings in America involved the use of high-capacity magazines. In fact, 58 percent of mass shootings between 2009 and 2017 were committed with firearms equipped with high-capacity magazines**. Limiting magazine capacity would make ALL guns less lethal.

3. Require firearms dealers to notify law enforcement when a customer fails a background check

Failed attempts to purchase guns can foreshadow future criminal activity. People who fail background checks are 28 percent more likely to be arrested in the five years following the denial than in the five years before it. Law enforcement wants to know and should know when prohibited individuals are attempting to purchase guns.

4. Expansion of red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders

When a person is in crisis, loved ones are often the first to see signs that they pose a threat to themselves or others. An Extreme Risk law allows them to petition a court for an order to temporarily remove guns from dangerous situations and prohibit the purchase or possession of firearms while the order is in effect.

5. Require gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement and make responsible storage laws stricter so stolen guns are kept off the streets.

From 2007 to 2017, at least 82,000 guns were reported stolen and never found in Florida. Law enforcement has said over and over that they want to know if a stolen gun is on the street. Here in Miami Dade we need solutions for our urban violence NOW – please raise the bar to make it more difficult for guns to be stolen and for law enforcement to be informed.

The bottom line is that **too** many Floridians are killed with guns. The impact of this violence is heartbreaking and impacts our residents, tourist industry, hospitals and economy through gun trafficking, suicide, domestic violence, injury and death. I ask that you focus on the above priorities to save lives and that you don't wait.

Thank you for your time and attention,
Name : Aida Wright
Address:6375 Chapman Field Drive, Miami FL 33156
Phone: 305-202-3114

Sen. Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

September 14, 2019

Dear Senator Tom Lee,

I am writing you as a Floridian resident with serious concerns for the safety of my loved ones in this state. The gun violence epidemic has gotten steadily worse, year after year, with nearly 100 Americans dying every single day due to homicides, unintentional shootings, and suicide by gun. As a mother and grandmother, I'm terrified of the direction this country is going in, but I know change is possible. I'm grateful you are exploring solutions. Here are some common sense ideas I implore you to consider:

- Background Checks on all Gun Sales – States that have implemented this simple measure have reduced gun homicides and suicides by gun. It's painfully simple to understand that not having this law enables a clear workaround for those who wouldn't be able to pass a background check to purchase in person or online from an unlicensed seller.
- Expand Red Flag Laws – This law, already used frequently in Florida, to allow firearms to be temporarily removed from those who pose a risk to themselves or others could be even stronger if we allowed family members to ability to use it.
- Ban Assault Weapons and High Capacity Magazines – With assault weapons being the weapon of choice for every mass shooting, this seems like a no brainer. They do not serve any real purpose for hunting or home protection. In my view, the fact that is it used to kill as many people as possible (9 in 30 seconds in Dayton, OH) should make it illegal for a civilian to own and operate.
- Repeal Arming Teachers – Since passing this bill, the vast majority of schools, teachers, parents, and school boards have opted out the program. They know it will make them and their kids less safe. More guns don't stop guns. It only reduces the reaction time of actual law enforcement, increases the risk of escalations, and could lead to unintentional shootings (which have happened around the country). There's no evidence that arming teachers discourages shootings or decreases gun violence in any form.
- Repeal Stand Your Ground – In the years since this law was enacted, homicide rates have increased dramatically in Florida since there is less fear of repercussions. Incidents like the one in Clearwater may have been avoided if the shooter was not emboldened by this law.
- Prohibit the Printing of 3D guns – These cruder guns can avoid detection and also provide a way around background checks.
- Require those Convicted of Misdemeanor Domestic Violence to Surrender Firearms – Each month, an average of 52 women are killed by an intimate partner. They should not be armed.

I appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,

Barbara Cummings
16611 Rockwell Heights Lane

Clermont, Florida 34711

September, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair
Florida Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee
418 Senate Building
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Senator Lee:

I'm writing as a grandfather of two and father of two, concerned about the welfare of our communities. I've been a Florida resident for over 30 years. I am a retired custom home builder and currently working as a realtor. It's my job to help new home buyers feel safe in their chosen neighborhoods, to do that we must have gun reform. As Floridians, I know we are strong enough and wise enough to create a safer world for our children and ourselves.

As you lead the effort to consider legislation this session to prevent gun violence, including mass shootings, I write to express my support for passing a state law to require criminal background checks on all gun sales. Florida state law currently does not require background checks on unlicensed gun sales, leaving a massive loophole in place that makes it far too easy for criminals, people prohibited from having guns because of mental illness, and others with dangerous histories to get their hands on guns through private, online or gun show sales. Fifteen states have passed laws to require background checks on all gun sales. Background check laws —by point-of-sale check and/or permit— are associated with lower rates of firearm homicide, suicide and firearm trafficking. The Florida Legislature should build upon the important gun violence legislation passed following the Parkland mass shooting and pass a comprehensive background check law.

Sincerely,

Brian Dunn
Realtor
Sarasota, FL

September 10, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair
Florida Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee
418 Senate Building
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Senator Lee:

As your committee convenes to consider legislation to prevent gun violence, I write as one of the fastest growing constituencies in the state of Florida, that of gun violence survivors. I am not going into the details of how my life has changed since my loved one was killed. I want to share my support for several laws, none of which is a stand-alone total solution, however implemented in combination are the beginnings of a gun violence prevention plan will result in a reduction of injuries and the saving of lives.

First and foremost is the requirement for a background check on all gun sales which is supported by 93 percent of American voters considering the research that shows prohibited people seek guns via unlicensed sales at a disproportionate rate this law is needed to help end those prohibited sales.

Requiring firearm dealers to notify law enforcement when a customer fails a background check will send a warning. Failed attempts to purchase guns can foreshadow future criminal activity. People who fail background checks are 28 percent more likely to be arrested in the five years following the denial than in the five years before it. Law enforcement should know when prohibited individuals are attempting to purchase guns.

When a person is in crisis, loved ones and law enforcement are often the first to see signs that they pose a threat. An Extreme Risk law allows them to petition a court for an extreme risk protection order to temporarily remove guns from dangerous situations and prohibit the purchase or possession of firearms while the order is in effect.

My personal experience with the effects of the implementation of school safety laws prompt my support for a change to this law reinstating the prohibition of classroom teachers from serving as school guardians. In addition, a March 2018 survey of almost 500 U.S. teachers found that 73 percent oppose proposals to arm school staff. Another survey found that 63

percent of parents of elementary, middle, and high school students oppose arming teachers.

As you consider gun violence solutions, I would like your committee to consider those of us whose lives change with the shooting of a loved one. We are not often considered despite the horrendous effects on our lives. For every person killed or wounded by a gun there are 2, 4, 10, 20 others whose lives are impacted. Using the established statistic that 100 lives are taken every day and approximately 200 are wounded, multiply those 300 lives by2,4.10 or 20 and you can see how quickly thousands of Floridians find their lives turned upside down by gun violence.

Sincerely,

Chryl Anderson
Florida Survivor Membership Lead
Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America

1842 Paine Ave
Jacksonville, 32211
904.330.4558
cyandersonfl@gmail.com

Dear Senator Lee,
As the Infrastructure and Security Committee focuses on ways to address gun violence and
hate crimes during its September meeting(s), my family and I are asking you to consider these
priorities:
1.) Require a background checks on every firearm purchase in the State of Florida – Over 90%
of Americans support requiring background checks on all gun sales. An investigation found
that in 2018 alone, there were nearly 1.2 million firearm ads on an online gun marketplace
called Armslist.com for gun sales where no background check was legally required. And research shows that prohibited people seek guns in those unlicensed gun sales at a disproportionate rate.
2.) Require the timely reporting of criminal and mental health records to NICS - Hundreds of
thousands of prohibiting criminal and mental health records are missing from the NICS background check system, potentially enabling prohibited people to pass a background check.
This is a critical fail that is required to be fixed in order to make background check legislation
effective. Legislation to make this reporting mandatory will make us safer.
3.) Require gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement - From 2007 to
2017, at least 82,000 guns were reported stolen and never found in Florida. Not knowing a gun
is stolen hinders criminal investigations and law enforcement's ability to track gun-trafficking
networks. Stolen gun reports also serve as a deterrent to inter-state gun-trafficking. This is a
simple measure of accountability that assists law enforcement do its job.
These three (3) proposals would have a positive effect in making Florida safer and would not
diminish Florida residents' rights under the 2nd Amendment. It's a win-win for all of us. Please
give them strong consideration.
Thank you for helping to keep us safe.
Sincerely,
George Joseph Kline

George Joseph Kline
133 N Village Way
Jupiter, FL 33458

September 15, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee;
Thank you for your work and ongoing concern for the health and safety of all Floridians. As a new voter, I am finally able to make my concerns heard. As you and the Committee move forward with discussion and creation of legislation that will address hate crimes and gun violence, please consider the following.

Since retirement of the federal ban on assault weapons in 1994, we have seen a drastic increase in the number of deaths associated with mass shootings. While we cannot presume that the rise in incidents can be attributed to assault weapons, we can say with all certainty that more deaths occur per incident when assault weapons are involved. Most recently, the Dayton Ohio shooter used a high-capacity drum magazine holding 100 rounds. Although law enforcement quickly intervened to stop the shooting, within 30 seconds 9 people had been shot and killed, largely due to the magazine capacity. Thus, while a ban on assault weapons may not impact the frequency of mass shootings, it would certainly help to decrease the number of deaths.

In the area of gun safety, please improve the safety standards associated with the training that is required prior to the purchase of a firearm. From 2014 through today, across America, 1,296 children have been killed or injured by guns. Many of these incidents result from accidents associated with the failure of the owner to safely store a weapon. While today's reality may require that we as parents ask whether there is a gun in the house each time we organize a play date, it's imperative that we be assured that those guns are safely stored.

As always, my thanks for your consideration dedication to safeguarding all Floridians.

Sincerely,

Reese Kline

Reese Kline
133 N Village Way
Jupiter, Fl 33458

September 15, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee;
Thank you for your work and ongoing concern for the health and safety of all Floridians. As a newly registered voter, I am finally able to make my concerns heard. As you and the Committee move forward with discussion and creation of legislation that will address hate crimes and gun violence, please consider the following.

Since retirement of the federal ban on assault weapons in 1994, we have seen a drastic increase in the number of deaths associated with mass shootings. While we cannot presume that the rise in incidents can be attributed to assault weapons, we can say with all certainty that more deaths occur per incident when assault weapons are involved. Most recently, the Dayton Ohio shooter used a high-capacity drum magazine holding 100 rounds. Although law enforcement quickly intervened to stop the shooting, within 30 seconds 9 people had been shot and killed, largely due to the magazine capacity. Thus, while a ban on assault weapons may not impact the frequency of mass shootings, it would certainly help to decrease the number of deaths.

In the area of gun safety, please improve the safety standards associated with the training that is required prior to the purchase of a firearm. From 2014 through today, across America, 1,296 children have been killed or injured by guns. Many of these incidents result from accidents associated with the failure of the owner to safely store a weapon. While today's reality may require that we as parents ask whether there is a gun in the house each time we organize a play date, it's imperative that we be assured that those guns are safely stored.

As always, my thanks for your consideration dedication to safeguarding all Floridians.
Sincerely,
George Alexander Kline

George Alexander Kline
133 N Village Way
Jupiter, Fl 33458

Dear Senator Lee,
As the Infrastructure and Security Committee focuses on ways to address gun violence and hate crimes during its September meeting(s), my family and I are asking you to consider these priorities:
1.) Require a background checks on every firearm purchase in the State of Florida – Over 90% of Americans support requiring background checks on all gun sales. An investigation found that in 2018 alone, there were nearly 1.2 million firearm ads on an online gun marketplace called Armslist.com for gun sales where no background check was legally required. And research shows that prohibited people seek guns in those unlicensed gun sales at a disproportionate rate.
2.) Require the timely reporting of criminal and mental health records to NICS - Hundreds of thousands of prohibiting criminal and mental health records are missing from the NICS background check system, potentially enabling prohibited people to pass a background check. This is a critical fail that is required to be fixed in order to make background check legislation effective. Legislation to make this reporting mandatory will make us safer.
3.) Require gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement - From 2007 to 2017, at least 82,000 guns were reported stolen and never found in Florida. Not knowing a gun is stolen hinders criminal investigations and law enforcement's ability to track gun-trafficking networks. Stolen gun reports also serve as a deterrent to inter-state gun-trafficking. This is a simple measure of accountability that assists law enforcement do its job.
These three (3) proposals would have a positive effect in making Florida safer and would not diminish Florida residents' rights under the 2nd Amendment. It's a win-win for all of us. Please give them strong consideration.
Thank you for helping to keep us safe.
Sincerely,
Stephanie Kline

Stephanie Kline
133 N Village Way
Jupiter, FL 33458

Dear Mr. Lee,
We hope you and your fellow legislators will have the courage to protect victims of domestic violence, those who could be deterred from suicide and the innocents who are required by law to attend school. The vast majority of our nation stands in favor of background checks, red flag laws, ban on high capacity magazines, locked gun safes and more. Do not abandon your responsibility to us and to the future. Leadership is not an auction. NRA lobbyists have taken their argument far enough and we all see the monster they have created.

We have a right to expect safety in our schools, our churches, our parking lots, our stores. Safety is not derivative of guns anymore than stopping at a red light is derivative of tanks in the street. In fact, civil safety is an agreement among generally law-abiding people. We have agreed to regulation of our cars, homes, elections, work safety, mining, airplanes, medical practices, postal services and child care centers. Most days, for most lives, these regulations work.

Do not abandon the innocents by hiding behind the language of "The Second Amendment Rights." We all can read the other part of the sentence, "a well-regulated militia." We are not asking to infringe on any "well-regulated militia." There is no "well-regulated militia." This killing must stop now.
Thank you,
Ruth Chase

Senator Tom Lee

Chairman, Infrastructure and Security

The Florida Senate

418 Senate Building

404 S Monroe Street

Tallahassee, Fl 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee:

I am a ten-year-old fifth grader. You may say she is not a voter. Yet, one day I as well as thousand of other fifth grades will be able to elect leaders who care about our safety. I know that you are one of those leaders. I am writing because your committee will be talking about how to solve the problems we face in Florida due to gun violence. As a student who must practice active shooter drills, I know the anxiety that I face as well as fellow students. The possibility of a real shooting is great when our gun laws are so lax that some who should not have guns are able to obtain them. This can be fixed with universal background checks. You can do that. I promise every student will thank you knowing you put our safety ahead of politics. That is all I have to say. Thank you for listening.

Sincerely,

Shaylan Dunn

September, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair
Florida Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee
418 Senate Building
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Senator Lee:

I'm writing as a father of two, concerned about the welfare of our communities. I've been a Florida resident for 15 years. I am a small business owner and Physical Therapist. It's my job to help people heal and feel well. Our communities need to feel well and safe, too. To do that we must have gun reform. As Floridians, I know we are strong enough and wise enough to create a safer world for our children and ourselves.

As you lead the effort to consider legislation this session to prevent gun violence, including mass shootings, I write to express my support for passing a state law to require criminal background checks on all gun sales. Florida state law currently does not require background checks on unlicensed gun sales, leaving a massive loophole in place that makes it far too easy for criminals, people prohibited from having guns because of mental illness, and others with dangerous histories to get their hands on guns through private, online or gun show sales. Fifteen states have passed laws to require background checks on all gun sales. Background check laws —by point-of-sale check and/or permit— are associated with lower rates of firearm homicide, suicide and firearm trafficking. The Florida Legislature should build upon the important gun violence legislation passed following the Parkland mass shooting and pass a comprehensive background check law.

Sincerely,

Fane Sigal, MPT, DPT
Owner, Bodywise Physical Therapy
Rehab Director, SDS Physical Therapy
Sarasota, FL

Infrastructure and Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Infrastructure and Security Committee:

I am writing to thank you for your work on gun violence and to ask you to support the commonsense gun reform so **desperately** needed in our state. Based on the experiences here in Miami Dade County, I believe the following changes would be the most impactful in preventing gun violence:

1. Background checks on all gun sales

Most Florida voters support requiring background checks on all gun sales, including 89 percent of Republicans and 87 percent of gun owners. We still have not closed the unlicensed gun sale loophole which means that prohibited buyers can take advantage of this loophole and get armed illegally in person and via internet. This loophole guts the public safety impact of **all** our laws. Criminals, underage buyers and people subject to Extreme Risk Orders can simply circumvent the law and purchase a firearm from an unlicensed seller and skip a background check altogether. It is like going to TSA, skipping the line and being allowed through a side door. Crazy!

2. Ban on high capacity magazines

The August 2019 Dayton, Ohio shooter used a rifle equipped with a high-capacity drum magazine capable of holding 100 rounds. Though law enforcement stopped the shooting in about 30 seconds, the shooter was able to fire dozens of shots—and kill 9 people—largely because of the magazine capacity. Over the past decade, **the four deadliest mass shootings in America involved the use of high-capacity magazines. In fact, 58 percent of mass shootings between 2009 and 2017 were committed with firearms equipped with high-capacity magazines**. Limiting magazine capacity would make **ALL** guns less lethal.

3. Require firearms dealers to notify law enforcement when a customer fails a background check

Failed attempts to purchase guns can foreshadow future criminal activity. People who fail background checks are 28 percent more likely to be arrested in the five years following the denial than in the five years before it. Law enforcement wants to know and should know when prohibited individuals are attempting to purchase guns.

4. Expansion of red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders

When a person is in crisis, loved ones are often the first to see signs that they pose a threat to themselves or others. An Extreme Risk law allows them to petition a court for an order to temporarily remove guns from dangerous situations and prohibit the purchase or possession of firearms while the order is in effect.

5. Require gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement and make responsible storage laws stricter so stolen guns are kept off the streets.

From 2007 to 2017, at least 82,000 guns were reported stolen and never found in Florida. Law enforcement has said over and over that they want to know if a stolen gun is on the street. Here in Miami Dade we need solutions for our urban violence NOW – please raise the bar to make it more difficult for guns to be stolen and for law enforcement to be informed.

The bottom line is that **too** many Floridians are killed with guns. The impact of this violence is heartbreaking and impacts our residents, tourist industry, hospitals and economy through gun trafficking, suicide, domestic violence, injury and death. I ask that you focus on the above priorities to save lives and that you don't wait.

Thank you for your time and attention,
Name : Frederick Wright
Address:6300 Chapman Field Drive, Miami Fl 33156
Phone: 305-668-8771

September 14, 2019

Tom Lee
Chair of the Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee
Florida Senate

Dear Mr. Lee,

My name is Barbara Johnson. I live in Hunters Grean in Tampa, Florida where I am a registered voter. I am writing to share my concerns regarding gun control as it currently stands. Specifically, I am concerned about the alarmingly frequent occurrence of mass slaughter of innocent children and adults who are simply trying to live their lives. As a parent, it is an appalling thought that any child may one day go off to school and not return.

It seems to me that there are several common-sense actions that could be taken which would preserve the intention of the second amendment and also protect the lives of ordinary citizens going about their daily activities. I understand your committee is meeting regarding gun violence prevention legislation. For your consideration here are some suggestions:

- Comprehensive background checks so that firearms do not end up in the wrong hands
- Gun shows should not be exempted from background checks
- Red flag laws should apply to all family members
- A ban on all assault weapons and high capacity magazines
- Repeal of arming of teachers
- Repeal of stand your ground
- Ban of concealed weapons in churches, malls, theaters and similar venues

I am aware of the recently introduced campus carry bill and I urge you to vote against it.

I appreciate your attention to this vitally important issue.

Sincerely,

Barbara Johnson

September 14, 2019

Tom Lee
Chair of the Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee
Florida Senate

Dear Mr. Lee,

My name is Joyce Carpenter and I live in Temple Terrace, Florida where I am a registered voter. I am writing to share my concerns regarding gun control as it currently stands. Specifically, I am concerned about the alarmingly frequent occurrence of mass slaughter of innocent children and adults who are simply trying to live their lives. No child's life is worth the second amendment right to bear arms as it is now interpreted. As a parent and grandparent, it is an appalling thought that my grandchild may one day attend to school and not return.

It seems to me that there are several common-sense actions that could be taken which would preserve the intention of the second amendment and also protect the lives of ordinary citizens going about their daily activities. I understand your committee is meeting regarding gun violence prevention legislation. For your consideration here are some suggestions:

- Comprehensive background checks so that firearms do not end up in the wrong hands
- Gun shows should not be exempted from background checks
- Red flag laws should apply to all family members
- A ban on all assault weapons and high capacity magazines
- Repeal of arming of teachers
- Repeal of stand your ground
- Ban of concealed weapons in churches, malls, theaters and similar venues

I am aware of the recently introduced campus carry bill and I urge you to vote against it.

I appreciate your attention to this vitally important issue.

Sincerely,

Joyce Carpenter

September 14, 2019

Tom Lee
Chair of the Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee
Florida Senate

Dear Mr. Lee,

My name is William Carpenter and I live in Temple Terrace, Florida where I am a registered voter. I am writing to share my concerns regarding gun control as it currently stands. Specifically, I am concerned about the alarmingly frequent occurrence of mass slaughter of innocent children and adults who are simply trying to live their lives. No child's life is worth the second amendment right to bear arms as it is now interpreted. I recognize that the Second Amendment was to allow citizens to take up arms against a repressive government and to allow them to defend themselves and families in their hostile environment. Indian wars are a thing of the past. Families no longer need weapons to defend themselves against Indian attacks. Our government has not been so repressive that it needs to overthrown militarily. So there is no reason why the government should not ban automatic weapons.

I appreciate your attention to this vitally important issue of banning automatic weapons.

Sincerely,

William Carpenter

Senator Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 S. Monroe St
Tallahassee, Fl 32399

Senator Lee,

I am a concerned citizen who feels that the Gun Violence Epidemic in our nation is a national emergency. To begin solving this crisis many actions need to be taken by our elected officials. Please support the following measures to address this emergency.

Universal background check legislation must be passed. 93% of Americans support background checks. Our current system allows for prohibited individuals to easily obtain firearms through loopholes in internet sales and gun shows.

Red Flag laws would allow family members to petition a court for an Extreme Risk Protection Order. This would allow law enforcement to temporarily remove guns from dangerous situations and keep guns out of the hands of those who present a threat.

Firearms dealers should be required to notify law enforcement when a customer fails a background check. Law enforcement can then investigate the individual who was prohibited from purchasing.

Support the ban of assault weapons and large capacity magazines. Military style weapons designed to kill as many people as possible have no place on the streets. The shooters in recent mass shootings used these weapons and were able kill large numbers in less than a minute because of the number of rounds in the magazine. The argument that these weapons are "fun" to shoot is no excuse for them to be on the streets.

Criminal records and mental health records should be required to be promptly reported to the NICS background check system. This data base is only as good as the information it contains. Many firearms sales have been completed to buyers prohibited from purchase due to incomplete records.

Please begin taking steps to solve our gun violence crisis.

Thank you,

Darcy Bolden
4492 Foxcroft Drive
Tallahassee, Fl

Senator Lee,

Please reconsider arming our educators. Red flag laws and background checks save lives. We can do something about gun violence in our state. Thank you for considering common sense firearm legislation.

Hannah London
Orlando, FL

Please count me as one of the majority of Americans who support a background check on every gun sale and stricter red flag laws. We need to do more to make our country safer for our families. Please vote for the current bills.

Respectfully,
Rachele Jolley

Senator Lee,

I would like to write to you to express my support to pass expanded red flag and comprehensive background laws. These laws have shown to save lives in states that have passed them. In addition, I am extremely concerned with our state allowing educators to be armed around my children. Please reconsider this as it does not make our children safer and only increases the likelihood of unintentional shootings in our schools.

Thank you,

David Lilly

33897

September 14, 2019

Tom Lee
Chair, Senate Infrastructure & Security Committee

Dear Mr. Lee:

As a substitute teacher in Bradenton, FL, I've been in many classrooms throughout Manatee Co. and know that arming teachers is a misguided idea. I ask that you repeal the legislation to arm teachers.

I have volunteered in various schools since 1995, substituted since 2000, have many friends and acquaintances who are teachers and am the proud mother of a daughter who just began her 2nd year teaching. I have not met one teacher who thinks arming teachers is a good idea. In fact, many have indicated they would leave the profession if their fellow educators were armed.

I'm not sure if you have spent any time in a classroom recently. Most are vibrant, active, sometimes chaotic, learning environments. It is often difficult to remember where you placed the stapler much less where you placed a firearm, or presumably the key to the drawer where the firearm is placed because walking around with a gun in your pocket is just an invitation to catastrophe. If an active shooter were present, a good teacher's first priority would be to get the students to a safe spot. By the time she or he accessed the gun, they would all be dead.

I have participated in many lockdown drills, which vary in intensity but have thankfully, been pretty low key, and have witnessed kids crying, & panicking as I've attempted to calmly keep them quiet in a "safe" spot. I can't imagine their terror if I was holding a gun through all that. And realistically, it would not make them more safe, just more traumatized. Let's be honest. If a shooter drove though the car or bus line at dismissal or approached the playground during recess, no number of "good guys with a gun" would stop the carnage. Our kids at school are sitting ducks as are all citizens in any public setting if an individual intent on murder is present, especially if they are armed with a weapon intended for war.

What is really needed is common sense gun legislation. Banning military style weapons such as the AR 15, red flag laws, & requiring EVERY gun owners undergo a background check and be licensed, are measures that will keep us safe. And measures that the majority of Americans support.

Teachers are meeting an increasing number of needs in our schools. Please do not add the responsibility of keeping a firearm and potentially killing another human being to that list. Our job is to teach kids, please leave the gun carrying to the law enforcement professionals.

Your truly,

Cathy Duguay

September 13, 2019

Sen. Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure and Security
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee,

Thank you, and the committee, for taking the time to address gun violence in Florida. Gun violence is a crisis facing our state and Nation. As a military spouse of twenty years and prior civil servant for the Department of Defense, I am acutely aware of the damage that is caused when guns are placed in the wrong hands. It is for this reason, I that implore our leaders to enact common sense gun reforms.

While I support our 2nd Amendment rights, I do not believe they are absolute and as with any amendment, limitations may be placed for the general welfare of the public. Commonsense gun reform is not only the right thing to do, it widely supported by American citizens, including Floridians. It is time for our elected leaders to implement the will of the people and provide the leadership we desperately need during this crisis:

Require Universal Background Checks - 93 percent of American voters support requiring background checks on all gun sales, including 89 percent of Republicans and 87 percent of gun owners. An investigation found that in 2018 alone, there were nearly 1.2 million gun ads on an online gun marketplace called Armslist.com for gun sales where no background check was legally required.

Ban Assault Weapons and High Capacity Magazines – There is no place for weapons of war in the homes of private citizens! Over the past decade, the four deadliest mass shootings in America involved the use of high-capacity magazines. In fact, 58 percent of mass shootings between 2009 and 2017 were committed with firearms equipped with high-capacity magazines.

Expand Red Flag Laws - When a person is in crisis, loved ones and law enforcement are often the first to see signs that they pose a threat. An Extreme Risk law allows them to petition a court for an extreme risk protection order to temporarily remove guns from dangerous situations and prohibit the purchase or possession of firearms while the order is in effect.

Thank you,

Heather Breitenbach
Trinity, Florida

Sept 14, 2019

The Honorable Tom Lee
Chair, Infrastructure & Security Committee
The Florida Senate
418 Senate Building
404 South Monroe St.
Tallahassee FL 32399-1100

Dr. Senator Lee.

I understand your committee will be focusing on gun violence and hate crimes and I would encourage your committee to strengthen background checks, close gunshow loopholes, and private gun sales transactions.

I would also ask that you look for ways to ~~require~~ require firearms dealers to notify law enforcement when background checks fail. 28% of people who fail background checks are more likely to be arrested within 5 years.

Concerned Mommy,

THE FLORIDA SENATE

APPEARANCE RECORD

(Deliver BOTH copies of this form to the Senator or Senate Professional Staff conducting the meeting)

09/16/19
Meeting Date

Bill Number (if applicable)

Topic Infrastructure + Security Committee

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name Jillian Turanovic

Job Title Professor

Address College of Criminology, FSU 112 S. Copeland
Street

Tallahassee, FL
City *State* *Zip*

Phone 850-645-0375

Email jturanovic@fsu.edu

Speaking: ☐ For ☐ Against ☒ Information

Waive Speaking: ☐ In Support ☐ Against
(The Chair will read this information into the record.)

Representing Florida State University

Appearing at request of Chair: ☒ Yes ☐ No

Lobbyist registered with Legislature: ☐ Yes ☒ No

While it is a Senate tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this meeting. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard.

This form is part of the public record for this meeting.

S-001 (10/14/14)

THE FLORIDA SENATE

APPEARANCE RECORD

(Deliver BOTH copies of this form to the Senator or Senate Professional Staff conducting the meeting)

9/16/19
Meeting Date

Bill Number (if applicable)

Topic Infrastructure + Security Committee Meeting

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name Brendan Lantz

Job Title Professor

Address College of Criminology, FSU 112 S. Copeland
Street

Tallahasse, FL 32312
City *State* *Zip*

Phone 850-644-2379

Email blantz@fsu.edu

Speaking: ☐ For ☐ Against ☒ Information

Waive Speaking: ☐ In Support ☐ Against
(The Chair will read this information into the record.)

Representing Florida State University

Appearing at request of Chair: ☒ Yes ☐ No

Lobbyist registered with Legislature: ☐ Yes ☐ No

While it is a Senate tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this meeting. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard.

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S-001 (10/14/14)

THE FLORIDA SENATE

APPEARANCE RECORD

(Deliver BOTH copies of this form to the Senator or Senate Professional Staff conducting the meeting)

9/16/19
Meeting Date

Bill Number (if applicable)

Topic Threat Assessment and Management

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name Richard L. Swearingen

Job Title Commissioner / FDLE

Address 2331 Phillips Rd., Tallahassee, FL
Street

Tallahassee FL
City *State* *Zip*

Phone 850-410-7011

Email richard.swearingen@fdle.state.fl.us

Speaking: ☐ For ☐ Against ☐ Information

Waive Speaking: ☐ In Support ☐ Against
(The Chair will read this information into the record.)

Representing FDLE

Appearing at request of Chair: ☑ Yes ☐ No

Lobbyist registered with Legislature: ☐ Yes ☐ No

While it is a Senate tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this meeting. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard.

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S-001 (10/14/14)

THE FLORIDA SENATE

APPEARANCE RECORD

(Deliver BOTH copies of this form to the Senator or Senate Professional Staff conducting the meeting)

9/16/19
Meeting Date

Bill Number (if applicable)

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Topic _____

Name Tom Knight

Job Title Sheriff

Address 6010 Cattleridge Blvd
Street

Phone _____

Sarasota FL 34232
City *State* *Zip*

Email _____

Speaking: ☐ For ☐ Against ☐ Information

Waive Speaking: ☐ In Support ☐ Against
(The Chair will read this information into the record.)

Representing Florida Sheriffs Assoc.

Appearing at request of Chair: ☒ Yes ☐ No

Lobbyist registered with Legislature: ☐ Yes ☒ No

While it is a Senate tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this meeting. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard.

This form is part of the public record for this meeting.

S-001 (10/14/14)

Duplicate

THE FLORIDA SENATE

APPEARANCE RECORD

(Deliver BOTH copies of this form to the Senator or Senate Professional Staff conducting the meeting)

09/16/2019
Meeting Date

Bill Number (if applicable)

Topic Public Safety Workshop: Mass Attacks and Targeted Violence

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name Gary W. Hester

Job Title Government Affairs Coordinator

Address P.O. Box 14038 Phone 850-219-3640
Street

Tallahassee Florida 32317 Email garywhester@gmail.com
City *State* *Zip*

Speaking: ☐ For ☐ Against ☑ Information

Waive Speaking: ☐ In Support ☐ Against
(The Chair will read this information into the record.)

Representing Florida Police Chiefs Association

Appearing at request of Chair: ☑ Yes ☐ No

Lobbyist registered with Legislature: ☑ Yes ☐ No

While it is a Senate tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this meeting. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard.

This form is part of the public record for this meeting.

S-001 (10/14/14)

Duplicate

THE FLORIDA SENATE

APPEARANCE RECORD

(Deliver BOTH copies of this form to the Senator or Senate Professional Staff conducting the meeting)

Sept. 16, 2019
Meeting Date

N/A
Bill Number (if applicable)

N/A
Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Topic Public Safety Workshop

Name Rodney Moore

Job Title Assistant Secretary of Substance Abuse & Mental Health

Address 1317 Winewood Blvd.
Street

Phone 8504889410

Tallahassee FL 32399
City *State* *Zip*

Email rodney.moore@myflfamilies.com

Speaking: ☐ For ☐ Against ☑ Information

Waive Speaking: ☐ In Support ☐ Against
(The Chair will read this information into the record.)

Representing Department of Children & Families

Appearing at request of Chair: ☑ Yes ☐ No

Lobbyist registered with Legislature: ☐ Yes ☑ No

While it is a Senate tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this meeting. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard.

This form is part of the public record for this meeting.

S-001 (10/14/14)

THE FLORIDA SENATE

APPEARANCE RECORD

9/16/2019 (Deliver BOTH copies of this form to the Senator or Senate Professional Staff conducting the meeting)

Meeting Date

Bill Number (if applicable)

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Topic Workshop re: Mass Shootings

Name Jay Reeve

Job Title CEO, Apalachee Center

Address 2634 Capital Circle NE *Street*

Phone (850) 523-3213

Tallahassee *City* / FL *State* 32308 *Zip*

Email jay@apalacheectr.org

Speaking: ☐ For ☐ Against ☒ Information

Waive Speaking: ☐ In Support ☐ Against
(The Chair will read this information into the record.)

Representing Apalachee Center, Florida Behavioral Health Association

Appearing at request of Chair: ☒ Yes ☐ No

Lobbyist registered with Legislature: ☐ Yes ☐ No

While it is a Senate tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this meeting. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard.

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S-001 (10/14/14)

THE FLORIDA SENATE

APPEARANCE RECORD

(Deliver BOTH copies of this form to the Senator or Senate Professional Staff conducting the meeting)

9/16/19
Meeting Date

Bill Number (if applicable)

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Topic Public Safety Workshop

Name Phil Archer

Job Title State Attorney - 18th Judicial Cir.

Address 2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way Phone (321) 637-5575
Street

Viera Fl. 32940 Email
City *State* *Zip*

Speaking: ☐ For ☐ Against ☒ Information

Waive Speaking: ☐ In Support ☐ Against
(The Chair will read this information into the record.)

Representing State Attorney - 18th Jud. Cir.

Appearing at request of Chair: ☒ Yes ☐ No

Lobbyist registered with Legislature: ☐ Yes ☒ No

While it is a Senate tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this meeting. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard.

This form is part of the public record for this meeting.

S-001 (10/14/14)

THE FLORIDA SENATE

Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100

COMMITTEES:
Rules, *Vice Chair*
Appropriations
Innovation, Industry, and Technology
Judiciary

JOINT COMMITTEE:
Joint Legislative Budget Commission

SENATOR AUDREY GIBSON
Minority Leader
6th District

September 11, 2019

Senator Tom Lee, Chair
Infrastructure and Security
410 Knott Building
404 S. Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Chair Lee:

Both my caucus and I look forward to a robust discussion in the Infrastructure and Security Committee on Monday, September 16 relating to "focus on steps the Senate can take to review and better understand the various factors involved in mass shootings, in addition to, and also including, school shootings. This includes white nationalism, which appears to be a factor not only with regard to these recent mass shootings, but also with other acts of violence we have seen across the country in recent years." Further I appreciate the Presidents' willingness to bring these issues to the fore, that the Senate may address related consequences and condemnation.

I would however, like to ask you to consider the following as additional expert participants on the panel:

- Honorable Belvin Perry Jr. – Former Chief Judge, Florida Ninth Judicial Circuit Court
- Sheriff Walt McNeil – Leon County

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Audrey Gibson
State Senator
Senate District 6

101 East Union Street, Suite 104, Jacksonville, Florida 32202 (904) 359-2553
200 Senate Building, 404 South Monroe Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100 (850) 487-5006

BILL GALVANO
President of the Senate

DAVID SIMMONS
President Pro Tempore

Phil Archer
State Attorney
18th Judicial Circuit

Office of the State Attorney
2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way – Bldg D
Viera, Fl. 32940

(321) 637-5575
parcher@sa18.org

Phil was elected State Attorney of the 18th Judicial Circuit for Brevard and Seminole Counties in November of 2012 and took office on January 8, 2013. He was unopposed for re-election in 2016 and began his second term of office in 2017.

Phil served the office as an Assistant State Attorney for over 28 years in a variety of positions prior to being elected. He developed and supervised several nationally recognized programs for the office, including Operation Ceasefire, which was implemented in 2002 to combat violent firearm related crime and the Neighborhood State Attorney Initiative, which utilized community partnerships to solve neighborhood problems. Upon being elected he re-established the Economic Crime and Elder Services Division, a program he previously supervised for over 10 years. He has won numerous local awards including the Brevard County Bar Association Government Attorney Professionalism Award, the Community Partner Award from the Seminole County Bar Association, the Crimeline State Attorney and Dr. Robert Doering Award and most recently the 2018 Brevard Bar Foundation Community Leader Award.

Phil is actively involved with local Veterans organizations and has received recognition for his work with the annual Stand Down Brevard. Phil is a nationally recognized speaker on a variety of crime prevention and community prosecution topics and has lectured at the National Advocacy Center for the National District Attorneys Association. He is currently the President of the Florida Prosecuting Attorneys Association.

Phil holds a Juris Doctorate degree from Florida State University and a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Central Florida.

From: Miller, Phillip
Sent: Tuesday, September 10, 2019 4:30 PM
To: Senate District 20 (Lee) <SenateDistrict20Lee@flsenate.gov>; Senate District 08 (Perry) <SenateDistrict08Perry@flsenate.gov>; Senate District 04 (Bean) <SenateDistrict04Bea@flsenate.gov>; Senate District 16 (Hooper) <SenateDistrict16Hooper@flsenate.gov>; Senate District 07 (Hutson) <SenateDistrict07Hutson@flsenate.gov>; Senate District 13 (Stewart) <SenateDistrict13Stewart@flsenate.gov>; Senate District 40 (Taddeo) <SenateDistrict40Taddeo@flsenate.gov>; Senate District 18 (Cruz) <SenateDistrict18Cruz@flsenate.gov>
Cc: Senate Majority Office <SenateMajorityOffice@flsenate.gov>; Senate Minority Office <SenateMinorityOffice@flsenate.gov>; Senate Services Center <SenateServicesCenter1@leg.state.fl.us>; Keith, Robert <Keith.Robert@flsenate.gov>; !HSE Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee <!HSETransportationandInfrastructureSubcommittee@myfloridahouse.gov>; '!HSE Transportation and Highway Safety Subcommittee' <!HSETransportationandHighwaySafetySubcommittee@myfloridahouse.gov>; Senate Committee - Infrastructure and Security <SenateCommittee-InfrastructureandSecurity@flsenate.gov>; Senate Committee - Children, Families, and Elder Affairs <SenateCommittee-Children_Families_andElderAffairs@flsenate.gov>; Senate Committee - Criminal Justice <SenateCommittee-CriminalJustice@flsenate.gov>; Hrdlicka, Jennifer <Jennifer.Hrdlicka@LASPBS.STATE.FL.US>; Hudson, Marilyn <Hudson.Marilyn@flsenate.gov>
Subject: UPDATE RE: Infrastructure and Security Meeting 9-16-2019 1:00p

Infrastructure and Security Committee Members:

Mr. Phil Archer, State Attorney for the 18th Judicial Circuit (Brevard and Seminole Counties), is going to participate in our Infrastructure and Security Committee meeting workshop next Monday. Mr. Archer will be addressing judicial/prosecutorial issues as part of our panel discussion.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,

Phillip Miller

Staff Director

Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee

410 Knott Bldg.

Office: 850-487-5223

Miller.Phillip@flsenate.gov

September 12, 2019

Senator Linda Stewart
205 Senate Office Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee:

I am the grandmother of two small children in Cape Canaveral, Florida, and I am very concerned about gun violence. As you lead the effort to consider legislation this session to prevent gun violence, including mass shootings, please work to ban assault weapons and high capacity magazines.

There is no reason for a person to own a weapon of war and we've seen time and time again how destructive these guns are. In fact, 58 percent of mass shootings between 2009 and 2017 were committed with firearms equipped with high-capacity magazines.

Sincerely,

Gina Brice
Cape Canaveral, FL 32920

Sen. Linda Stewart, Infrastructure Committee
Florida Senate
Tallahassee, FL

Senator Stewart,

Thank you for your consideration and thoughtful work to enact legislation to prevent gun violence in Florida. Gun violence has become an epidemic in the United States, and it is up to all of us to work to protect our fellow citizens and our children.

Common sense legislative efforts are overwhelmingly supported by a majority of Americans; research shows that 93% of Americas (including 87% of Republicans) support Universal Background Checks. While licensed gun dealers must run background checks, this is not mandatory for all sellers, including online retailers and private sellers, creating a loophole wherein someone has access to purchase a weapon without a background check. A recent study showed that 1 in 7 Floridians who purchased a gun online would not have passed a background check, showing that not only will most citizens will not be affected by expanding background checks, the few who may not pass can be prevented from purchasing a weapon.

Many Floridians also support a ban on assault weapons and high capacity magazines, as evidenced by the ballot measure petitions crossing the state. We all know how our state has been affected by multiple mass shootings where an assault weapon was used to create maximum damage and casualties. Recently, in Dayton, OH, the shooter used a high capacity drum magazine that was designed to fire dozens of shots in a short window, killing 9 people and injuring many more. The best news is that historically, a ban on these magazines and assault weapons has been proven to prevent mass shootings. Gun violence prevention advocates know that mass shootings are what makes the most news, but every day, 100 lives are taken by gun violence and some of these deaths can be prevented by legislative action.

Another effective measure that we'd like expanded are Extreme Risk Protection Orders, whereby a family member can petition courts to temporarily remove guns from a dangerous situation and protect loved ones from harming themselves and others. Additional legislative actions that we would encourage the Senate to consider are: requiring those convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence to surrender firearms, requiring safe storage of firearms and reporting lost or stolen firearms, and prohibited concealed carry in sensitive places such as daycares and public playgrounds.

Senator Lee, as a born and raised Floridian, I am grateful for your efforts to address gun violence and enact meaningful legislation that will save lives. You have our support as we work together in a bi-partisan way to protect lives in Florida.

In Gratitude,

Mickie Cason-Boehm
Moms Demand Action Orlando
Local Data Lead

September 12, 2019

Senator Linda Stewart
205 Senate Office Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee:

I am a mother of two small children in Winter Garden, Florida, and I am very concerned about gun violence. As you lead the effort to consider legislation this session to prevent gun violence, including mass shootings, please work to pass a state law to require criminal background checks on all gun sales.

Florida state law currently does not require background checks on unlicensed gun sales, leaving a massive loophole in place that makes it far too easy for criminals, people prohibited from having guns because of mental illness, and others with dangerous histories to get their hands on guns through private, online or gun show sales.

Fifteen states have passed laws to require background checks on all gun sales. Background check laws — by point-of-sale check and/or permit— are associated with lower rates of firearm homicide, suicide and firearm trafficking. The Florida Legislature should build upon the important gun violence legislation passed following the Parkland mass shooting and pass a comprehensive background check law.

Sincerely,

Adrienne Egolf
Winter Garden, FL 34787

Dear Senator Stewart,

I am writing you as a Floridian resident with serious concerns for the safety of my loved ones in this state. The gun violence epidemic has gotten steadily worse, year after year, with nearly 100 Americans dying every single day due to homicides, unintentional shootings, and suicide by gun. As an American and a mother, I'm terrified of the direction this country is going in, but I know change is possible. I'm grateful you are exploring solutions. Here are some common sense ideas I implore you to consider:

- **Background Checks on all Gun Sales –** States that have implemented this simple measure have reduced gun homicides and suicides by gun. It's painfully simple to understand that not having this law enables a clear workaround for those who wouldn't be able to pass a background check to purchase in person or online from an unlicensed seller.
- **Expand Red Flag Laws –** This law, already used frequently in Florida, to allow firearms to be temporarily removed from those who pose a risk to themselves or others could be even stronger if we allowed family members to ability to use it.
- **Ban Assault Weapons and High Capacity Magazines –** With assault weapons being the weapon of choice for every mass shooting, this seems like a no brainer. They do not serve any real purpose for hunting or home protection. In my view, the fact that is it used to kill as many people as possible (9 in 30 seconds in Dayton, OH) should make it illegal for a civilian to own and operate.
- **Repeal Arming Teachers –** Since passing this bill, the vast majority of schools, teachers, parents, and school boards have opted out the program. They know it will make them and their kids less safe. More guns don't stop guns. It only reduces the reaction time of actual law enforcement, increases the risk of escalations, and could lead to unintentional shootings (which have happened around the country). There's no evidence that arming teachers discourages shootings or decreases gun violence in any form.
- **Repeal Stand Your Ground –** In the years since this law was enacted, homicide rates have increased dramatically in Florida since there is less fear of repercussions. Incidents like the one in Clearwater may have been avoided if the shooter was not emboldened by this law.
- **Prohibit the Printing of 3D guns –** These cruder guns can avoid detection and also provide a way around background checks.
- **Require those Convicted of Misdemeanor Domestic Violence to Surrender Firearms –** Each month, an average of 52 women are killed by an intimate partner. They should not be armed.

I appreciate your consideration.

Thank you,

Julie Gehring
15771 Avenue of the Arbors
Winter Garden, FL 34787

September 13, 2019

Senator Linda Stewart
205 Senate Office Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Stewart,

I've watched with horror at the escalating gun violence in our country and Florida. Each and every time, we hear from our legislators that something should be done. Time passes until the next mass shooting and very little if anything changes.

Please take action on these measures that can and will make a difference for us:

Background Checks on All Gun Sales[1]

93 percent of American voters support requiring background checks on all gun sales, including 89 percent of Republicans and 87 percent of gun owners. An investigation found that in 2018 alone, there were nearly 1.2 million gun ads on an online gun marketplace called Armslist.com for gun sales where no background check was legally required. And research shows that prohibited people seek guns in those unlicensed gun sales at a disproportionate rate.

Ban on Assault Weapons and High Capacity Magazines[2]

The August 2019 Dayton, Ohio shooter used a rifle equipped with a high-capacity drum magazine capable of holding 100 rounds. Though law enforcement stopped the shooting in about 30 seconds, the shooter was able to fire dozens of shots—and kill 9 people—largely because of the magazine capacity. Over the past decade, the four deadliest mass shootings in America involved the use of high-capacity magazines. In fact, 58 percent of mass shootings between 2009 and 2017 were committed with firearms equipped with high-capacity magazines.

Senator Stewart, this is a bipartisan issue and I urge you to take action to prevent further gun violence in Florida.

Sincerely,

Terri Isaacs

Terrell (Terri) Isaacs
3181 Forest Bend Rd
Apt 107
Kissimmee, FL. 34746

[1] https://everytownresearch.org/background-checks-save-lives-protect-communities/
[2] https://everytown.org/learn/h-r-1186-prohibiting-high-capacity-magazines-would-reduce-the-devastation-of-gun-violence/

September 12, 2019

Senator Linda Stewart
205 Senate Office Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee:

I am a father of two small children in Winter Garden, Florida, and I am very concerned about gun violence. As you lead the effort to consider legislation this session to prevent gun violence, including mass shootings, please work to pass a state law to require criminal background checks on all gun sales.

The majority of Americans support this measure. In fact, 93 percent of American voters support requiring background checks on all gun sales, including 89 percent of Republicans and 87 percent of gun owners. An investigation found that in 2018 alone, there were nearly 1.2 million gun ads on an online gun marketplace called Armslist.com for gun sales where no background check was legally required. And research shows that prohibited people seek guns in those unlicensed gun sales at a disproportionate rate.

Fifteen states have passed laws to require background checks on all gun sales. Background check laws — by point-of-sale check and/or permit— are associated with lower rates of firearm homicide, suicide and firearm trafficking. The Florida Legislature should build upon the important gun violence legislation passed following the Parkland mass shooting and pass a comprehensive background check law.

Sincerely,

Jonah Egolf
Winter Garden, FL 34787

September 12, 2019

Senator Linda Stewart
205 Senate Office Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Stewart:

I am writing you as a Florida resident and teacher. As you know, gun violence is a serious problem in our state and nation with nearly 100 Americans dying every day due to senseless acts of gun violence. In Florida alone we have experienced two of the most horrific mass shootings in history at the Pulse nightclub in Orlando and at Marjory Stoneman Douglass High School in Parkland, Florida. As a volunteer for Moms Demand Action, I have met too many wonderful people that have had their lives shattered by gun violence. This should not be our reality. We should all feel safe to live happy lives free from gun violence in our communities.

As you lead the effort to consider legislation this session to prevent gun violence, including mass shootings, I write to express my support for the following common-sense ideas I hope you will consider:

• Background Checks on all Gun Sales – States that have implemented this simple measure have reduced gun homicides and suicides by gun. It's painfully simple to understand that not having this law enables a clear workaround for those who wouldn't be able to pass a background check to purchase in person or online from an unlicensed seller.
• Expand Red Flag Laws – This law, already used frequently in Florida, to allow firearms to be temporarily removed from those who pose a risk to themselves or others could be even stronger if we allowed family members to ability to use it.
• Ban Assault Weapons and High Capacity Magazines – With assault weapons being the weapon of choice for every mass shooting, this seems like a no brainer. They do not serve any real purpose for hunting or home protection. In my view, the fact that is it used to kill as many people as possible (9 in 30 seconds in Dayton, OH) should make it illegal for a civilian to own and operate.
• Repeal Arming Teachers – Since passing this bill, the vast majority of schools, teachers, parents, and school boards have opted out the program. They know it will make them and their kids less safe. More guns don't stop guns. It only reduces the reaction time of actual law enforcement, increases the risk of escalations, and could lead to unintentional shootings (which have happened around the country). There's no evidence that arming teachers discourages shootings or decreases gun violence in any form.
• Repeal Stand Your Ground – In the years since this law was enacted, homicide rates have increased dramatically in Florida since there is less fear of repercussions. Incidents like the one in Clearwater may have been avoided if the shooter was not emboldened by this law.
• Prohibit the Printing of 3D guns – These cruder guns can avoid detection and also provide a way around background checks.
• Require those Convicted of Misdemeanor Domestic Violence to Surrender Firearms – Each month, an average of 52 women are killed by an intimate partner. They should not be armed.

I really appreciate all you do each day to help end gun violence, Senator Stewart.

Thank you,
Sonia Ledger
Moms Demand Action Osceola
Local Group Lead
4930 Corto Dr.
Orlando, FL 32837

September 12, 2019

Senator Linda Stewart
205 Senate Office Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lee:

I am the grandmother of four small children and a preschool teacher in Melbourne, Florida, and I am very concerned about gun violence. As you lead the effort to consider legislation this session to prevent gun violence, including mass shootings, please work to ban assault weapons and high capacity magazines.

I do not think people should be allowed to own weapons that are made for war. And many recent mass shootings have been committed with these guns. In fact, 58 percent of mass shootings between 2009 and 2017 were committed with firearms equipped with high-capacity magazines.

As a teacher, I would also ask that you reinstate the language that that prohibited classroom teachers from serving as school guardians I speak for myself and my fellow teachers when I say we do not want guns in our classrooms. A March 2018 survey of almost 500 U.S. teachers found that 73 percent oppose proposals to arm school staff. Another survey found that 63 percent of parents of elementary, middle, and high school students oppose arming teachers.

Sincerely,

Patricia Egolf
Melbourne, FL 32935

SCOTT ROOKE
1019 Spanish Wells Drive, Melbourne, FL 32940
Scott.Rooke.FL@icloud.com

September 11, 2019

Senator Linda Stewart
205 Senate Office Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Stewart:

As I reflect on this day the catastrophic loss of life 18 years ago, I felt the need to write to you to support your committee's effort to address gun violence legislation. We have reached a critical point where it is time to say "enough". We can no longer wait for a better time to discuss gun violence and must take action to prevent senseless deaths. My primary concerns on this issue are background checks at all points of sale and the protection of my children by disallowing teachers from being armed in our schools.

I spent a career in the US Marines and US Coast Guard in various security and law enforcement roles, am a parent of three school-aged children (two in currently Brevard schools and one at UF), serve as a substitute teacher, and am a curriculum developer for national emergency response training, including law enforcement and first responders. I am familiar with weapons and the casualties they can inflict in the hands of the wrong people.

93 percent of American voters support requiring background checks on all gun sales, including 89 percent of Republicans and 87 percent of gun owners according to a recent survey. An investigation found that in 2018 alone, there were nearly 1.2 million gun ads on an online gun marketplace called Armslist.com for gun sales where no background check was legally required. The current laws enable persons who would not otherwise be able to purchase weapons (due to a negative background check) to acquire them via private sales and gun shows. And research shows that prohibited people seek guns in those unlicensed gun sales at a disproportionate rate. This is unacceptable and the law must change to require background checks at every point of sale.

I would also argue that the lack of a completed background check within an arbitrary timeframe should not result in a positive sale of firearms. It is unlikely that any gun sale is time critical. Any purchaser must be cleared by background check prior to sale, as it is unlikely that law enforcement

will be able to reclaim any prohibited sale after a negative background check is found. Our law enforcement are overwhelmed, and in many cases understaffed, to meet current missions without adding the burden of reclaiming weapons sold to prohibited persons just because of government incompetency in completing background checks.

Prohibited persons are able to circumvent the current laws that unfairly require gun dealers to conduct background checks while allowing others to skip it, additionally creating an incentive to purchase from non-dealers since there is no waiting period. Enabling prohibited persons avoid background checks and gain to access guns should not be an enticement. This loophole must be closed.

In my 30+years of military and emergency response experience, I have come to know that responders, regardless of training or expertise, are not infallible. In fact, a study of the NYPD found that *"between 1998 and 2006, the average hit rate was 18 percent for gunfights. Between 1998 and 2006, the average hit rate in situations in which fire was not returned was 30 percent. In 2006, the hit rate against subjects who did not return fire was 27 percent."* The question is where are those other 82% of rounds fired back hitting? The building? Teachers or staff? Students running to get away? Collateral damage may be acceptable in some scenarios, but not in our schools…not in our communities…and not with my children in the room.

A 2017 study revealed that firearms are responsible for the death of 1,300 U.S. children each year and injure roughly 5,800 more. Firearm injuries have among the highest Case Fatality Rates of any injury. Harvard professor David Ropeik has stated that *"the likelihood of any given public school student being killed by a gun, in school, on any given day since 1999 was roughly 1 in 614,000,000."* In comparison, your likelihood of being injured or killed by an accidental discharge of a weapon is 1 in 8,379. It stands to reason that the introduction of more guns at school increases the probability of a student being injured by gunfire (unintentional or intentional).

A March 2018 survey of almost 500 U.S. teachers found that **73 percent** oppose proposals to arm school staff. Another survey found that **63 percent** of parents of elementary, middle, and high school students oppose arming teachers.

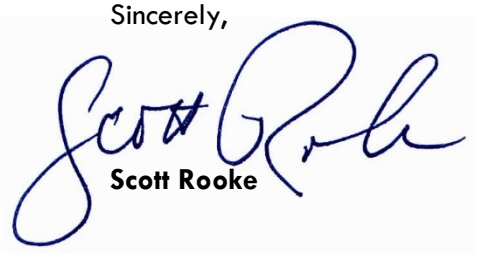
In addition to the high stress shooting scenarios anticipated for armed volunteer staff, adding more guns increases potential student access to guns, as well as opportunities for mishaps. Mistakes happen; one only need read the news to find cases where gun carriers have become complacent and forgotten their weapon in school restrooms, inadvertently discharging a weapon after dropping it, and other unintentional incidents. Recent cases in the media show that "mundane but hazardous errors are a realistic possibility, even for those expressly hired for school security and trained to

carry weapons". Concerns of loss of weapon while trying to break up a fight, forgetting to lock a weapon, unintentional discharges, etc., would appear at least superficially to be a greater risk than an active shooter scenario.

The decision to train school personnel who were not hired for security purposes instead of identifying funding for actual SROs with years of law enforcement experience is alarming. 176 hours of training does not equal 770 hours required by law for basic law enforcement training in Florida. The Governor and Legislators have indicated previously support for redirecting funding for armed staff to support additional SROs if counties opt out. This should be the path forward, in addition to finding other funding opportunities, such as surtax, grants, and cost savings elsewhere.

Simply stated, we cannot afford to wait any longer for common sense gun legislation. The common cry that we need time before taking action is a false narrative pushed by those who benefit most from the sales of weapons. As elected officials, you are supposed to represent the people, not corporations and lobby groups. I urge you to represent the voices of Florida's constituents.

Sincerely,



Scott Rooke

Sources:

https://everytownresearch.org/background-checks-save-lives-protect-communities/

https://everytownresearch.org/arming-teachers-introduces-new-risks-into-schools/

https://www.washingtonpost.com/outlook/school-shootings-are-extraordinarily-rare-why-is-fear-of-them-driving-policy/2018/03/08/f4ead9f2-2247-11e8-94da-ebf9d112159c_story.html?utm_term=.cc4cd07d8834

http://injuryfacts.nsc.org/all-injuries/preventable-death-overview/odds-of-dying/

http://www.nyc.gov/html/nypd/downloads/pdf/public_information/RAND_FirearmEvaluation.pdf.

http://homicidecenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Teachers-with-Guns-RESEARCH-REPORT-FINAL-revised-2018.pdf

http://www.easternflorida.edu/academics/degrees-certifications/postsecondary-adult-vocational-certificate/law-enforcement-officer-florida-cms.cfm

September 12, 2019

Senator Linda Stewart
205 Senate Office Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Stewart:

I am writing you as a Florida resident and mother of a young child. As you know, gun violence is a serious problem in our state and nation with nearly 100 Americans dying every day due to senseless acts of gun violence. In Florida alone we have experienced two of the most horrific mass shootings in history at the Pulse nightclub in Orlando and at Marjory Stoneman Douglass High School in Parkland, Florida. As a volunteer for Moms Demand Action, I have met too many wonderful people that have had their lives shattered by gun violence. As a mom, I am frightened to send my son to school. This should not be our reality. We should all feel safe to live happy lives free from gun violence in our communities.

As you lead the effort to consider legislation this session to prevent gun violence, including mass shootings, I write to express my support for the following common-sense ideas I hope you will consider:

• Background Checks on all Gun Sales – States that have implemented this simple measure have reduced gun homicides and suicides by gun. It's painfully simple to understand that not having this law enables a clear workaround for those who wouldn't be able to pass a background check to purchase in person or online from an unlicensed seller.
• Expand Red Flag Laws – This law, already used frequently in Florida, to allow firearms to be temporarily removed from those who pose a risk to themselves or others could be even stronger if we allowed family members to ability to use it.
• Ban Assault Weapons and High Capacity Magazines – With assault weapons being the weapon of choice for every mass shooting, this seems like a no brainer. They do not serve any real purpose for hunting or home protection. In my view, the fact that is it used to kill as many people as possible (9 in 30 seconds in Dayton, OH) should make it illegal for a civilian to own and operate.
• Repeal Arming Teachers – Since passing this bill, the vast majority of schools, teachers, parents, and school boards have opted out the program. They know it will make them and their kids less safe. More guns don't stop guns. It only reduces the reaction time of actual law enforcement, increases the risk of escalations, and could lead to unintentional shootings (which have happened around the country). There's no evidence that arming teachers discourages shootings or decreases gun violence in any form.
• Repeal Stand Your Ground – In the years since this law was enacted, homicide rates have increased dramatically in Florida since there is less fear of repercussions. Incidents like the one in Clearwater may have been avoided if the shooter was not emboldened by this law.
• Prohibit the Printing of 3D guns – These cruder guns can avoid detection and also provide a way around background checks.
• Require those Convicted of Misdemeanor Domestic Violence to Surrender Firearms – Each month, an average of 52 women are killed by an intimate partner. They should not be armed.

I really all you do each day to help end gun violence, Senator Stewart.

Thank you,
Beth Rothwell
Moms Demand Action Orlando
Social Media Lead
3707 Wilder Lane
Orlando, FL 3280

September 12, 2019

Senator Linda Stewart
205 Senate Office Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Senator Stewart:

As a mother of two grown children and a volunteer with at risk children, I am urging you to address the gun violence epidemic in our state and country. I feel this is the most important issue we are facing today. I am extremely concerned that we are raising children that are being traumatized by this gun violence and what appears to be a lack of concern from our legislature to address this issue. Then on top of that, we are traumatizing them further with active shooter drills that will not save them from a shooter with an assault weapon.

As you lead the effort to consider legislation this session to prevent gun violence, including mass shootings, I write to express my support for passing a state law to require criminal background checks on all gun sales. Florida state law currently does not require background checks on unlicensed gun sales, leaving a massive loophole in place that makes it far too easy for criminals, people prohibited from having guns because of mental illness, and others with dangerous histories to get their hands on guns through private, online or gun show sales. Fifteen states have passed laws to require background checks on all gun sales. Background check laws —by point-of-sale check and/or permit— are associated with lower rates of firearm homicide, suicide and firearm trafficking. The Florida Legislature should build upon the important gun violence legislation passed following the Parkland mass shooting and pass a comprehensive background check law.

I am also asking that you address the issue of assault weapons and large capacity magazines. As the mother of an Army officer, I understand that these are military weapons and have no place in civilian hands. We know that under Ronald Reagan there was a Federal assault weapons ban and it saved lives. The majority of Americans, close to 70%, support a ban on these weapons.

I am asking that the Florida Legislature address this issue. We can save lives. We owe it to our children to do everything we can to keep them safe.

Thank you,

Fiona E. Shannon

Fiona Shannon
Longwood, FL

Senator Linda Stewart
205 Senate Office Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Stewart:

I am writing to you as a Mom, teacher and voting citizen of Florida. The gun violence in our beautiful country has now exceeded the point of crisis. We are looking to you as an elected official to help make our home safe for our children.

I have held the hand of my sweet friend as she grieved for her niece, who was struck down in the hallway of her school. I have watched helpless, as friends mourned their loved ones who did not return from an innocent night of dancing and camaraderie. I have cried and prayed for the masses of strangers murdered with guns.

I understand those who feel concerned about the second amendment; but the key to remember is that it was put in place to protect us, not facilitate unchecked lawlessness.

I encourage you, as a leader, to promote common sense gun legislation such as:

*Background Checks on all Gun Sales
*Expand Red Flag Laws
*Ban Assault Weapons and High Capacity Magazines
*Repeal Arming Teachers Repeal Stand Your Ground
*Prohibit the Printing of 3D guns
*Require those Convicted of Misdemeanor Domestic Violence to Surrender Firearms.

Thank you for considering steps to secure a home of compassion, change and safety for us all.

Peaceful Regards,

Tanya C. Stellpflug

September 13, 2019

Senator Linda Stewart
205 Senate Office Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Senator Stewart,

As a mother of a child in Florida, and a proud constituent, I want to thank you for your passion towards ending gun violence in Florida. This has become an epidemic in the United States and I am so grateful to you for your continued bills supporting common sense legislation.

Common sense legislative efforts are overwhelmingly supported by a majority of Americans, over 90% whom support Universal Background Checks. We urge the Florida legislation to close the background check loophole where someone can purchase a weapon online or through an unlicensed seller. A recent study showed that 1 in 7 Floridians who purchased a gun online would not have passed a background check, showing that not only will most citizens will not be affected by expanding background checks, but the few who may not pass could be prevented from purchasing a weapon.

We are hopeful that your bill banning assault weapons and high capacity magazines can gain more traction as it is supported by many Floridians as evidenced by the ballot measure petitions crossing the state. We all know how our state has been affected by multiple mass shootings where an assault weapon was used to create maximum damage and casualties. Recently, in Dayton, OH, the shooter used a high capacity drum magazine that was designed to fire dozens of shots in a short window, killing 9 people and injuring many more. The best news is that historically, a ban on these magazines and assault weapons has been proven to prevent mass shootings.

Gun violence prevention advocates know that mass shootings are what makes the most news, but every day, 100 lives are taken from us from firearms and deaths that can be prevented by legislative actions. Another effective measure that we'd like expanded are Extreme Risk Protection Orders, whereby a family member can petition courts to temporarily remove guns from a dangerous situation and protect loved ones from harming themselves and others. Additional legislative actions are requiring those convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence to surrender firearms, requiring safe storage of firearms and reporting lost or stolen firearms, and prohibited concealed carry in sensitive places such as daycares and public playgrounds.

Senator Stewart, thank you again for your work to save lives in Florida by enacting gun safety legislation. You have my support as a mother, a constituent and a gun violence advocate who is working towards a better future for our children.

In Gratitude,

Danielle Veillette

Danielle Veillette
danijveillette@gmail.com
4150 Cummings St
Orlando, FL 32828

From: nbass@basstaxgroup.com <nbass@basstaxgroup.com>

Sent: Wednesday, September 11, 2019 1:50 PM

To: Lee, Tom (Web) <LEE.TOM.WEB@flsenate.gov>

Subject: Other (flsenate.gov)

Preferred Response By: Email

Neil Bass

nbass@basstaxgroup.com

11664 NW 69th Pl

Parkland, FL 33076

This address is in Senate District 29.

201-874-7478

Receive updates via email: No

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Comment or Question:

My understanding is that the Infrastructure Committee is going to hold a public meeting to discuss gun violence solutions on Monday, September 16, 2019. Although I am unable to attend the meeting, I would like you to enter this letter into the record. My daughter attended Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School when a mass shooting occurred there on February 14, 2018, so I have a great deal of sensitivity regarding the gun violence issue. The following are my some of my thoughts.

Background Checks

I believe there should be background checks on ALL sales of firearms. How is it that people can buy firearms without background checks? Is it because the NRA is opposed to universal background checks? According to the NRA's website, the NRA's opposition to background checks is due to the fact that "violent crime is at nearly an all-time low". This is an unacceptable reason for avoiding this important initiative. The fact is, 93 percent of American voters support universal background checks, which includes 89 percent of Republicans and 87 percent of gun owners.

According to the 7 percent of American voters who oppose universal background checks, gun registration and background checks are a slippery slope to confiscation. This is untrue. We register cars and we must prove proficiency to operate them. We are required to have insurance in the event we cause damage with them. It's been that way for decades, and no one is "coming to take your car". Making sure people have the barest minimum of responsibility doesn't lead to loss.

Assault Weapons and High Capacity Magazines

I believe assault weapons and high capacity magazines have no place in the hands of private citizens and should be banned. The framers of the 2nd Amendment could not have imagined the slaughter caused by today's military style assault weapons.

As with most products, the seller doesn't necessarily sell the functionality of the product, but rather how it makes the buyer feel. When it comes to guns, and especially assault weapons, the same holds true. These guns are marketed so the user will feel 'macho', 'having a man-card,' 'using a military-style weapon', etc. They make the user have a false sense of power, irrespective of its functionality. This is why assault weapons are the weapons of choice of mass shooters. This is why those weapons ought to be banned.

Unfortunately, there are lots of Americans and Floridians who own assault weapons. Many of them believe that they need assault weapons for home defense. This is untrue. A short-barreled shotgun is the best tool for home defense (or a dog). And that only counts if you're insanely proficient with it and you get incredibly lucky. The likelihood that you will get the chance to use it is next to zero. If you do, you're very likely to kill a member of your family accidentally. In a real altercation, you don't get to choose your field of fire. It happens incredibly fast, usually in the dark. If you're popping off with an assault weapon, you are going to hit things you don't intend to. Assault weapons are intended to be used on a battlefield. Battlefield tactics don't work in your house. It is a nonsense argument.

Reg Flag Laws

I believe we should expand red flag laws to allow family members to petition for Extreme Risk Protection Orders. We should be able to have guns removed from people who are at high risk of committing violent acts. When a person is in crisis, loved ones and law enforcement are often the first to see signs that they pose a threat. An Extreme Risk law allows them to petition a court for an extreme risk protection order to temporarily remove guns from dangerous situations and prohibit the purchase or possession of firearms while the order is in effect.

CourtSmart Tag Report

Room: EL 110 **Case No.:** **Type:**
Caption: Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee **Judge:**

Started: 9/16/2019 1:03:46 PM
Ends: 9/16/2019 4:01:47 PM Length: 02:58:02

1:03:44 PM Meeting called to order by Chair Lee
1:03:57 PM Roll call by AA Marilyn Hudson
1:04:04 PM Quorum present
1:04:11 PM Comments from Chair Lee
1:05:59 PM Review of legislation adopted during last session by Tim Proctor
1:08:05 PM Comments from Chair Lee
1:08:43 PM Introduction of Dr. Jillian Turanovic and Dr. Brendan Lantz, Assistant professors, FSU College of Criminology and Criminal Justice by Chair Lee
1:09:29 PM Speaker Dr. Jillian Turanovic, FSU College of Criminology and Criminal Justice
1:18:42 PM Speaker Dr. Brendan Lantz, FSU College of Criminology and Criminal Justice
1:25:01 PM Question from Chair Lee
1:25:07 PM Response from Dr. Lantz
1:25:41 PM Question from Senator Perry
1:25:47 PM Response from Dr. Lantz
1:26:45 PM Follow-up question from Senator Perry
1:26:54 PM Response from Dr. Lantz
1:27:10 PM Additional question from Senator Perry
1:27:17 PM Response from Dr. Lantz
1:27:42 PM Additional question from Senator Perry
1:27:50 PM Response from Dr. Lantz
1:28:15 PM Question from Senator Stewart
1:28:27 PM Response from Dr. Lantz
1:29:04 PM Question from Senator Cruz
1:29:14 PM Response from Dr. Turanovic
1:30:02 PM Follow-up question from Senator Cruz
1:30:11 PM Response from Dr. Turanovic
1:30:28 PM Comments/question from Chair Lee
1:31:57 PM Introduction of Commissioner Richard Swearingen by Chair Lee
1:32:23 PM Speaker Commissioner Richard Swearingen, Florida Department of Law Enforcement
1:53:13 PM Comments from Chair Lee
1:53:17 PM Question from Senator Cruz
1:53:23 PM Response from Commissioner Swearingen
1:55:01 PM Follow-up question from Senator Cruz
1:56:03 PM Response from Commissioner Swearingen
1:56:18 PM Question from Chair Lee
1:57:17 PM Response from Commissioner Swearingen
1:58:09 PM Response from Dr. Turanovic
1:58:46 PM Question from Senator Hooper
1:58:51 PM Response from Commissioner Swearingen
1:59:41 PM Question from Senator Taddeo
1:59:46 PM Response from Commissioner Swearingen
2:00:44 PM Question from Senator Stewart
2:00:54 PM Response from Commissioner Swearingen
2:02:23 PM Question from Senator Stewart to Chair Lee
2:02:41 PM Response from Chair Lee
2:03:11 PM Introduction of Sheriff Tom Knight, Sarasota County Sheriff, Florida Sheriffs Association by Chair Lee
2:03:38 PM Speaker Sheriff Tom Knight, Sarasota County, Florida Sheriffs Association
2:11:19 PM Question from Chair Lee
2:11:26 PM Response from Sheriff Knight
2:14:47 PM Introduction of Mr. Gary Hester by Chair Lee
2:15:06 PM Speaker Mr. Gary Hester, Florida Police Chiefs Association
2:22:09 PM Question from Senator Taddeo

2:22:15 PM Response from Mr. Hester
2:23:07 PM Follow-up question from Senator Taddeo
2:23:15 PM Response from Mr. Hester
2:25:03 PM Question from Senator Perry
2:25:08 PM Response from Mr. Hester
2:27:11 PM Comments from Chair Lee
2:27:22 PM Introduction of Speaker Rodney Moore by Chair Lee
2:27:41 PM Speaker Rodney Moore, Assistant Secretary for Substance Abuse and Mental Health, Department of Children and Families
2:34:33 PM Comments from Chair Lee
2:34:38 PM Introduction of Dr. Jay Reeve by Chair Lee
2:34:57 PM Speaker Dr. Jay Reeve, President and Chief Executive Officer, Apalachee Center, Inc.
2:44:52 PM Question from Senator Perry
2:44:57 PM Response from Dr. Reeve
2:46:34 PM Question from Senator Cruz
2:46:40 PM Response from Dr. Reeve
2:49:03 PM Follow-up question from Senator Cruz
2:49:10 PM Response from Dr. Reeve
2:49:21 PM Additional question from Senator Cruz
2:49:29 PM Response from Dr. Reeve
2:49:46 PM Comments from Chair Lee
2:50:03 PM Question from Senator Taddeo
2:50:10 PM Response from Dr. Reeve
2:50:26 PM Follow-up question from Senator Taddeo
2:50:33 PM Response from Dr. Reeve
2:51:29 PM Additional question from Senator Taddeo
2:51:37 PM Response from Dr. Reeve
2:52:13 PM Comments from Chair Lee
2:52:29 PM Introduction of Honorable Phil Archer by Chair Lee
2:52:45 PM Speaker Honorable Phil Archer, State Attorney for the 18th Judicial Circuit (Brevard and Seminole Counties)
2:58:58 PM Question from Senator Stewart
2:59:05 PM Response from Honorable Archer
3:00:31 PM Question from Chair Lee
3:00:35 PM Response from Honorable Archer
3:03:29 PM Comments from Chair Lee
3:04:30 PM Question from Chair Lee
3:05:31 PM Response from Dr. Reeve
3:06:24 PM Response from Dr. Turanovic
3:06:57 PM Response from Commissioner Swearingen
3:08:01 PM Comments from Chair Lee
3:08:14 PM Question from Senator Bean
3:08:36 PM Response from Honorable Archer
3:09:08 PM Additional question from Senator Bean
3:09:13 PM Response from Dr. Turanovic
3:09:24 PM Response from Honorable Archer
3:09:47 PM Question from Senator Bean
3:09:53 PM Response from Commissioner Swearingen
3:10:44 PM Question from Senator Bean
3:10:51 PM Response from Dr. Reeve
3:12:12 PM Additional question from Senator Bean
3:12:19 PM Response from Sheriff Knight
3:14:08 PM Additional question from Senator Bean
3:14:15 PM Response from Dr. Lantz
3:15:41 PM Question from Senator Bean
3:15:48 PM Response from Dr. Lantz
3:15:54 PM Response from Mr. Hester
3:17:39 PM Question from Senator Perry
3:17:44 PM Response from Dr. Lantz
3:17:58 PM Follow-up question from Senator Perry
3:18:04 PM Response from Dr. Lantz
3:18:22 PM Response from Commissioner Swearingen

3:18:33 PM Follow-up question from Senator Perry
3:18:40 PM Response from Commissioner Swearingen
3:18:54 PM Question from Senator Cruz
3:19:02 PM Response from Dr. Reeve
3:20:54 PM Question from Senator Taddeo
3:21:07 PM Additional question from Senator Taddeo
3:22:07 PM Response from Commissioner Swearingen
3:22:22 PM Response from Dr. Turanovic
3:23:02 PM Question from Chair Lee
3:23:06 PM Response from Dr. Turanovic
3:23:44 PM Follow-up question from Senator Taddeo
3:23:54 PM Response from Sheriff Knight
3:25:27 PM Response from Mr. Hester
3:26:36 PM Additional question from Senator Taddeo
3:26:57 PM Response from Dr. Lantz
3:28:37 PM Additional question from Senator Taddeo
3:28:44 PM Response from Commissioner Swearingen
3:29:39 PM Additional question from Senator Taddeo
3:29:46 PM Response from Sheriff Knight
3:30:55 PM Follow-up question from Senator Taddeo
3:31:08 PM Response from Sheriff Knight
3:31:57 PM Question from Senator Stewart
3:32:13 PM Response from Sheriff Knight
3:33:06 PM Comments from Senator Hooper
3:33:35 PM Question from Senator Hooper
3:33:46 PM Response from Commissioner Swearingen
3:35:01 PM Response from Mr. Hester
3:36:12 PM Response from Sheriff Knight
3:36:22 PM Comments from Chair Lee
3:37:17 PM Question from Chair Lee
3:39:14 PM Response from Commissioner Swearingen
3:43:02 PM Comments from Chair Lee
3:44:38 PM Response from Mr. Hester
3:46:32 PM Response from Sheriff Knight
3:49:14 PM Comments from Chair Lee
3:50:16 PM Response from Sheriff Knight
3:51:32 PM Response from Commissioner Swearingen
3:54:56 PM Comments from Chair Lee
3:55:07 PM Question from Senator Hutson
3:55:25 PM Response from Commissioner Swearingen
3:57:14 PM Response from Mr. Hester
3:58:38 PM Question from Senator Thurston
3:58:50 PM Response from Commissioner Swearingen
4:01:00 PM Comments from Chair Lee
4:01:13 PM Senator Perry moves to rise