



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

MASSACHUSETTS SENATE

SENATOR MICHAEL O. MOORE

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Chair
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FINANCIAL SERVICES

Senate Ways and Means
Labor and Workforce
Development

August 15, 2019

The Honorable Robin J. Vos, President
National Conference of State Legislatures
Post Office Box 8953
Madison, Wisconsin 53708

The Honorable Roger E. Goodman, Co-Chair
Law, Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee
National Conference of State Legislatures
Post Office Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504

The Honorable Eric K. Hutchings, Co-Chair
Law, Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee
National Conference of State Legislatures
5438 West Stony Ridge Circle
Kearns, UT 84118

Dear President Vos and Co-Chairs Goodman and Hutchings:

I am writing with regard to an urgent crisis facing our Nation and to request that the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) and the Law, Criminal Justice and Public Safety Standing Committee support the prioritization of legislation to curb incidents of gun violence in the United States.

Each year, thousands of American lives are claimed by gun violence and, of particular concern, are the increasing number of mass shootings happening in our schools and public spaces. It is high time that the Nation's preeminent association of state lawmakers come together to take action and encourage our federal counterparts to enact meaningful reforms that will protect thousands of innocent lives.

This is not a partisan issue. As a proud Democrat, I have long supported the rights of law-abiding gun owners and understand the importance of protecting and preserving our Second Amendment rights from infringement. As a former law enforcement officer and sponsor of an annual firearm safety training and education course for local residents, I also recognize why the resulting attention to federal and state gun policies has served as a source of frustration for law-abiding gun owners.

However, the widespread violence that has plagued our Nation in places such as El Paso and Dayton is unacceptable and should be of concern to all Americans. There is widespread agreement that our Nation can, and should, do more to help prevent further firearm-related tragedies. Those who are unfit to own or use a firearm should be prevented from creating an unsafe environment for themselves or others.

As state legislators, we not only have the opportunity to advance bills in our respective legislatures, but also to promote progress at the federal level on collective issues such as gun violence. As such, I am writing to request that NCSL take steps to endorse reforms to the federal firearms laws that have proven to effectively reduce incidences of gun violence.

There is tremendous potential to advance commonsense laws at the federal level such as background checks, licensing requirements and firearm restrictions— including a renewal of the assault weapons ban. Focusing squarely on the mental health aspect of gun violence does not confront the reality about the need for public policy changes to prevent the sale, dissemination and acquisition of firearms by individuals who want to inflict harm.

Even within my home of Massachusetts— a state with some of the most restrictive gun laws in the country—there is still opportunity to take other proactive steps to curb gun violence which is why I am proud to have filed legislation that will help promote education and raise awareness about hate crimes and incidents of bias in our public schools, and to provide members of the law enforcement community with the tools needed to carry out their mission to protect the public.

Thank you for time and thoughtful attention to the matters highlighted within this letter. I understand the sensitive nature of this topic and hope that together we can advocate for the passage of commonsense laws to promote public safety and security. If you have any questions, or if I may offer and additional information regarding this request, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Sincerely,



MICHAEL O. MOORE

State Senator

Second Worcester District