



Abbie Kamin

Houston City Council Member, District C
Chair, Public Safety & Homeland Security Committee

April 8, 2021

The Honorable James White
Chairman, Homeland Security & Public Safety Committee
Texas House
Austin, Texas 78711-2068

Re: Various Bills Pertaining to Common-Sense Firearm Safety

Dear Chairman White and Members of the Committee:

Since the 86th Legislature adjourned on May 27, 2019, 110 Texans have been killed in mass shootings. And still, we have yet to see meaningful reforms to firearm laws in Texas, even common-sense regulations like requiring universal background checks to keep guns out of the hands of criminals and domestic abusers. As Chair of the City of Houston's Public Safety & Homeland Security Committee, I am concerned about the rise in gun violence that is plaguing our City, especially when many of the victims have been children or teenagers. As a City, we are doing everything we can to combat violent crime, but it is time for the State to step up and protect Texans' lives.

I am writing in support of the following bills and encourage other common-sense gun reforms that are being taken up by the committee:

- House Bill 118 by Rep. Lina Ortega would require a national criminal background check for private gun transfers, addressing one of the major loopholes in our current laws. This bill is a sensible solution to prevent guns from falling into the hands of those who are not able to legally purchase one.
- House Bill 880 by Rep. Gina Hinojosa would make it a criminal offense to make a false or misleading statement in order to illegally acquire a firearm, and furthermore, would require licensed dealers to notify DPS when an individual who is prohibited by the NICS background check tries to illegally acquire a firearm. This measure would aid our local law enforcement to be able to investigate and potentially even catch these individuals before they commit a violent crime.

I also write in opposition to the following bills:

- House Bill 2112 and House Bill 3628, by Reps. Will Metcalf and Matt Schaefer, would eliminate the common-sense requirement that a holster for an openly-carried handgun must be either a belt or a shoulder holster. The current requirement is to ensure that gun holders responsibly secure their weapons, and this change is not only unnecessary but also dangerous.



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I hope the committee will support reasonable changes to improve public safety and prevent criminals from using loopholes to acquire weapons. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

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