



# 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 86<sup>th</sup> 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,

*Abbie Kamin*

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