



CITY OF HOUSTON

Sylvester Turner

Mayor

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April 8, 2021

The Honorable Bryan Hughes
Chairman, Senate State Affairs Committee
Texas Senate
Austin, Texas 78711-2068

Re: Against Senate Bill 18

Dear Chairman Hughes,

The State of Texas is already one of the most permissive states in the country regarding gun rights. The City of Houston supports commonsense gun laws that require background checks to keep them out of the hands of people convicted of crimes.

Senate Bill 18 by Sen. Brandon Creighton, establishes that firearm and ammunition manufacturers, distributors, wholesalers, suppliers and retailers are essential businesses that shall not be prohibited by state or local officials from operating during a declared disaster or emergency.

Texas has very easy access to firearms. We feel this law is unnecessary to protect the 2nd Amendment rights of Houstonians. Public safety will not be enhanced by congregating more people to manufacture more guns during a declared disaster or emergency, especially a pandemic.

I hope you will resist calls to loosen already permissive gun laws and consider some reasonable restrictions that will help keep guns out of the hands of people who are established lawbreakers.

Sincerely,

Bill Kelly
Director of Government Relations, Mayor's Office – City of Houston