



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

THE GOVERNOR

June 10, 2022

The Honorable Rob Kauffman
312 Main Capitol Building
PO Box 202089
Harrisburg PA 17120

The Honorable Tim Briggs
302 Main Capitol Building
P.O. Box 202149
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Chairman Kauffman, Chairman Briggs & members of the House Judiciary Committee,

I applaud the committee for meeting June 13 to take up bills to address gun violence. I believe that the commonwealth's greatest resource is its citizens, and I appreciate that you are taking this step because of serious concerns raised by our constituents.

I have committed to doing everything I can to bring peace to our communities, but ultimately, sensible gun laws save lives and the General Assembly must act to make statutory changes. It is unconscionable that guns are now the leading cause of death in children and teenagers in this country. Communities across the commonwealth – urban, suburban and rural – have experienced the horror of gun violence. We must do our part to prevent these tragedies.

My administration supports the four bills on the committee's agenda to address gun violence in their current form. Responsible gun ownership is a right; however, guns kill more children in the United States than anything else. I ask members to please support these bills in their current form to allow the full House to debate and pass these important measures.

House Bill 699 (Fitzgerald): An Act amending Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) providing for safe storage of firearm when not in use.

House Bill 770 (Gainey): An Act amending Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) prohibiting certain assault weapons.

House Bill 1538 (Frankel): An Act amending Titles 18 (Crimes and Offenses) and 53 (Municipalities Generally) further providing for limitation on the regulation of firearms and ammunition, and on municipal powers.



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House Bill 1903 (Stephens): An Act amending Titles 18 (Crimes and Offenses) and 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) further providing for persons not to possess, use, manufacture, control, sell or transfer firearms and for abandonment of firearms, weapons or ammunition, and adding provisions relating to extreme risk protection orders.

It is critical that the General Assembly pass meaningful gun control legislation in the wake of deadly mass shootings across the United States. If the aforementioned bills became law, they would not infringe upon the rights of law-abiding gun owners. This is not about taking guns away from those who lawfully own and operate them, it's about ensuring guns are appropriately locked up and kept out of the hands of those who are more apt to cause harm.

Please pass House Bills 669, 770, 1538 and 1903 cleanly and without unnecessary procedural hurdles. We can no longer afford to do nothing. Every day that we delay, lives are on the line. Pennsylvanians are counting on you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tom Wolf".

TOM WOLF
Governor

CC

Representative Kate A. Klunk
Representative Barry J. Jozwiak
Representative Paul Schemel
Representative Timothy R. Bonner
Representative Matthew D. Dowling
Representative Torren C. Ecker
Representative Johnathan D. Hershey
Representative Joshua D. Kail
Representative Jerry Knowles
Representative Andrew Lewis
Representative Natalie Mihalek
Representative David R. Millard

Representative Jim Rigby
Representative Todd Stephens
Representative Jason Dawkins
Representative Liz Hanbidge
Representative Joseph C. Hohenstein
Representative Emily Kinhead
Representative Summer Lee
Representative Christopher M. Rabb
Representative Melissa L. Shusterman
Representative Jared G. Solomon
Representative Mike Zabel