



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
MASSACHUSETTS SENATE

SENATOR MICHAEL O. MOORE

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Chair
Joint Committee on Public Safety
and Homeland Security
Bonding, Capital Expenditures
and State Assets

Vice Chair
FINANCIAL SERVICES

Senate Ways and Means
Labor and Workforce
Development

August 15, 2019

The Honorable Lou D'Allesandro, National Chair
Council of State Governments
State House, Room 117
107 North Main Street
Concord, NH 03301

The Honorable Joan Ballweg, National Chair-Elect
Council of State Governments
State Capitol, Room 210 North
Post Office Box 8952
Madison, WI 53708

The Honorable Joe Scarnati, Co-Chair
CSG Eastern Regional Conference
Senate Box 203025
292 Main Capitol
Harrisburg, PA 17120

The Honorable Ryan E. Mackenzie, Co-Chair
CSG Eastern Regional Conference
160A East Wing
Post Office Box 202134
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Chair D'Allesandro, Chair-Elect Ballweg and Regional Co-Chairs Scarnati and Mackenzie:

I am writing with regard to an urgent crisis facing our Nation and to request that the Council of State Governments (CSG) and the Eastern Regional Conference 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 CSG 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