



CITY OF OAKLAND

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#LoveLife

REBECCA KAPLAN

NIKKI FORTUNATO BAS

Vice Mayor

Council President

District At-Large

District 2

Date: June 23, 2022

To: Members of City Council and Members of the Public

From: Vice Mayor Kaplan and Council President Fortunato Bas

Re: **Resolution Supporting House Resolution 7910 (Nadler), “Protecting Our Kids Act”, Which Makes Various Changes To Federal Firearms Laws, Including Establishing New Criminal Offenses And Expanding The Types Of Weapons And Devices That Are Subject To Regulation In Order To Quell Senseless Acts Of Gun Violence**

Dear Colleagues on the City Council and Members of the Public,

In recent weeks, 31 people have been murdered and another 20 injured at the hands of two 18-year-olds legally armed with semiautomatic assault rifles. Tragically, these mass murders are illustrative of the issues our country faces with gun violence. While Oakland has enacted some of the strongest firearms safety laws in California, and California has the strongest state gun laws, both are being undermined by weak national and neighbor state gun laws. In order to better align federal law with our strong local gun safety laws, this resolution would extend the City’s support to House Resolution 7910, Protecting Our Kids Act, which takes numerous measures to address gun violence, gun safety, responsible gun ownership, regulation of certain firearms and components, gun trafficking, and public safety.

Today, more Americans carry guns, legally and illegally, than ever before with nearly 400 million firearms circulating in America¹. According to the Gun Violence Archive, the country recorded 692 mass shootings with four or more injuries in 2021, up from 610 in 2020 and 417 in 2019². While garnering major public attention, firearm safety goes beyond mass shootings and are a daily threat to communities, as firearm deaths replaced motor vehicle accidents as the leading cause of death for Americans ages 1 to 19 in 2020, according to an analysis of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention data published in the New England Journal of Medicine.

¹ U.S. House Committee on Judiciary. *Protecting Our Kids Act (To Accompany H.R. 7910)*; (REPT. 117–346).

<https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/CRPT-117hrpt346/pdf/CRPT-117hrpt346-pt1.pdf>

² Gun Violence Archive 2022, published as of June 21, 2022. <https://www.gunviolencearchive.org/>

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We know gun violence affects certain communities at disparate rates. For example, gun violence is responsible for a more than four-year reduction in life expectancy for Black men in America³. In communities of color, gun violence is often driven by two factors: easy access to guns and a small group of people at high risk of engaging in violence—sometimes no more than 0.25% to 1% of the city’s population⁴.

Most of the cities chronically impacted by gun violence, Oakland as a prime example, does not have many, if any, federally licensed gun dealers within their city limits. Instead, gun dealers typically sit outside these communities, frequently in less diverse and more affluent suburbs, and profit from irresponsible or illegal sales that drive guns into cities that later turn up at crime scenes. H.R. 7910, the “Protecting Our Kids Act” would employ a variety of strategies to effectively reduce gun violence across the country by raising the age that certain semiautomatic firearms can lawfully be possessed, limiting the accessibility of large capacity magazines, prohibiting straw purchasing, promoting the safe storage of firearms, and building on existing regulations to take ghost guns and bump stocks out of our communities.

Given that Oakland already prohibits possession of large-capacity magazines, unsecured firearms, and ammunition in unattended vehicles, requires the safe storage of firearms in residences, and prohibits nonexempt persons from owning ghost guns, we are wholly supportive H.R. 7910, the Protecting Our Kids Act, which takes important steps to increase gun safety nationally, as we have done locally.

³ Kalesan B, Vyliparambil MA, Zuo Y, Siracuse JJ, Fagan JA, Branas CC, Galea S. *Cross-sectional study of loss of life expectancy at different ages related to firearm deaths among black and white Americans*. *BMJ Evid Based Med*. 2019 Apr; 24(2): 55-58. doi: 10.1136/bmjebm-2018-111103. Epub 2018 Dec 4. PMID: 30514715.

⁴ Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence, *Crime Guns in Impacted Communities*, available at <https://brady-static.s3.amazonaws.com/Report/crime-guns-in-impacted-communities/CrimeGunsInImpactedCommunities-report.pdf>

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