

August 28, 2019



Chair Michael O. Moore
24 Beacon Street
Room 109-B
Boston, MA 02133

Chair Harold P. Naughton
24 Beacon Street
Room 167
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Chair Moore and Chair Naughton,

On behalf of the Jewish Community Relations Council, I urge the Joint Committee on Housing to **favorably report H. 3271: An Act Establishing a Smart Gun Technology Task Force and S.1388/H.2045: An Act Relative to Crime Gun Data Reporting and Analysis** out of the Committee for quick action by the Legislature.

In 2014, members of our Jewish community across Massachusetts were actively involved in the MA Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence's advocacy to pass landmark gun violence prevention legislation. We were proud to be a part of that effort and to live in a Commonwealth that can pass common sense laws to keep our residents safe.

The work of gun violence prevention has felt more urgent than ever to our Jewish community, as we have watched houses of worship - churches, mosques and synagogues - become common targets for hate crimes and mass shootings. The work of passing necessary gun violence prevention measures is needed to ensure that the conditions are not ripe for such crimes and massacres to occur in our Commonwealth.

House Bill 3271 explores the feasibility and impacts of the manufacturing and purchasing of smart guns with biometric technology for those who want to ensure their new guns cannot be used by anyone but the owner.

Additionally, we know that a significant percentage of homicides by gun occur as a result of illegally trafficked guns that end up in our city centers - in Dorchester, in Roxbury, in Mattapan. We know that many of these weapons have been obtained through straw purchasing. And so, we were heartened to see the 2014 bill require, for the first time, that all guns recovered in crime be traced, and that trace data held in a MA controlled database to help MA better determine how crime guns are reaching our streets. MA now has five years of data and it is time to analyze it.

H.2045/S.1388, requires the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security to analyze this crime gun trace data held in MA, or to supply such data to a university or non-profit researcher for analysis. Such a report will help determine how crime guns are getting to our streets and what MA can do to stem the tide of illegal guns used in crimes.

We look forward to our continued partnership towards safer communities.

Respectfully,

Aaron Agulnek
Director, Government Affairs

cc: Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security