



8704 Santa Monica Boulevard
Suite 200

West Hollywood, CA 90069

310.271.8845 t 310.271.8846 f

www.thetrevorproject.org

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July 24, 2015

The Honorable Paul Krekorian
City Councilmember, District 2
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Via Email: Councilmember.Krekorian@lacity.org

Dear Councilmember Krekorian,

As someone who cares deeply about the safety of children and families in Los Angeles, and as a longtime advocate for gun control, I wholeheartedly support your common-sense gun violence prevention measures that the Los Angeles City Council will discuss on Tuesday, July 28, 2015.

I urge the City Council to pass these two measures right away. I know they have been vetted numerous times by City Council committees, the full City Council, and the City Attorney. Similar laws have withstood legal challenges elsewhere in California. They do not require additional scrutiny, should not be stalled and should not be weakened by tacked on exemptions. This is an opportunity for Los Angeles to again lead on ending gun violence!

The measure mandating the safe storage of handguns is a critical need. Of the 15,000 children and teens tragically killed or injured by guns each year, 60 percent happen in their home or in the home of a close friend or family member. If guns had been locked up, safe and securely, many of these deaths would have been prevented. As the Executive Director and CEO of The Trevor Project, a national organization that provides suicide crisis intervention and prevention for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning youth I know it is important to restrict access to guns that can be used to hurt oneself.

In addition the measure that will ban the possession of high-capacity magazines will close a significant loophole in California state law, which currently prohibits the sale of such magazines, but permits their possession. More than 50 percent of all mass

shootings at schools and elsewhere are carried out with guns fitted with high-capacity magazines. The terrible tragedies at Sandy Hook, Isla Vista, Aurora, and the North Valley Jewish Community Center are examples of the carnage caused by high-capacity magazines.

I applaud your efforts and urge your City Council colleagues to reject any attempts to further stall and add unnecessary exemptions to these measures. The approval of these ordinances can truly save lives.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Abbe Land', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Abbe Land



INTERNATIONAL HEALTH & EPIDEMIOLOGY RESEARCH CENTER

The Honorable Paul Krekorian

City Councilmember, District 2

Email: Councilmember.Krekorian@lacity.org

Dear Councilmember Krekorian,

As the founder, and on behalf of the International Health & Epidemiology Research Center- a non -profit organization-established in 1994- based on Los Angeles County, a health professional, an epidemiologist, a mother, creator of 'Anti-Violence Campaign", and the first recipient of the Peace Award from American public Health Association, I would like you to know, that I care very deeply about the safety of children and families in Los Angeles. I wholeheartedly support your common-sense gun violence prevention measures that the Los Angeles City Council will discuss on Tuesday, July 28, 2015.

I urge the City Council to pass these ordinances right away. They have been vetted numerous times by City Council committees, the full City Council, and the City Attorney. Similar laws have withstood legal challenges elsewhere in California. They do not require additional scrutiny, should not be stalled and should not be weakened by tacked on exemptions!

Mandating the safe storage of handguns is a critical need. Of the 15,000 children and teens tragically killed or injured by guns each year, more than 60 percent happen in their home or in the home of a close friend or family member. If guns had been locked up, safe and securely, many of these deaths would have been prevented.

In the ongoing research study that our organization is doing, over 100 infants and toddlers are injured or killed each year by guns, unlocked at home. This is alarming and real disaster.

Banning the possession of high-capacity magazines will close a significant loophole in California state law, which currently prohibits the sale of such magazines, but permits their possession. More than 50 percent of all mass shootings at schools and elsewhere are carried out with guns fitted with high-capacity magazines. The terrible tragedies at Sandy Hook, Isla Vista, Aurora, and the North Valley Jewish Community Center are examples of the carnage caused by high-capacity magazines. In the first 204 days in 2015, there have been 204 mass shooting so far, most by high- capacity magazines. This is horrible, and certainly unacceptable. One is too many.

I applaud your efforts and urge your City Council colleagues to reject any attempts to further stall and add unnecessary exemptions to these measures!

We owe it to our next generation. Let's Los Angeles to be a good example for the rest of the Nation!

Sincerely,

Dr. Farideh Kioumehr

Recipient, APHA Sidel-Levy Award of Peace

Founder & Executive Director

International Health & Epidemiology Research Center

Project: "Anti Violence Campaign for Peace"

www.iherc.org

E-mail:info@iherc.org

Tel:(818)788-2662 OR (818)244-4674, CELL (818)326-1979

"I have a dream that one day we all live in a peaceful world"

**Patricia Maisch
Tucson, Arizona**

July 28, 2015

Dear distinguished members of the Los Angeles City Council:

How many of you have been witness to a mass shooting? Well I have, and this letter is written to share that very personal experience with you in the hope it will provide some clarity and resolve in your efforts to reduce gun violence in our society.

I am a survivor of an active shooting tragedy on January 8, 2011 in Tucson Arizona, where my Representative, Gabby Giffords, was holding one of her Congress on Your Corner events. A young man with a gun opened fire that beautiful morning and took the lives of Dorothy Morris, Phyllis Schneck, Dorwin Stoddard, Judge John Roll, Gabe Zimmerman and beautiful little Christina-Taylor Green, just 9 years old.

Some think the number of rounds in a magazine doesn't matter. I can affirm to you that, without a doubt, it does. Some believe that the seconds it takes to change a magazine won't make a difference in saving lives, but I tell you it most certainly can.

Here are some numbers that matter to those of us at the Congress on Your Corner. **33 is the number of bullets in the magazine** used by the shooter. **13 is the number of wounded, physically**, that day. **6 is the number of persons brutally murdered** on a Tucson sidewalk. **19 is the number of seconds** it took that young man with a gun to slaughter 6, physically injure 13, and emotionally injure countless others. When those 19 seconds of rapid fire turned to 20 seconds, two brave men, Roger Salzgaber and Bill Badger, tackled the young man with a gun.

High capacity magazines definitely made a difference in the Tucson mass shooting. That first high capacity magazine coupled with a semi-automatic weapon gave horrific killing capability to the shooter. The shooter was stopped, not by the "so called" good guy with a gun, but by two ordinary citizens, good guys without guns that day. The shooter was reloading with a second 33 round magazine when Roger and Bill tackled him and brought him down on the sidewalk right next to me. Their heroism gave me the opportunity to grab a third magazine with 10 rounds, *possibly* preventing more victims of his shooting rampage. That young man with a gun was ready, willing and nearly able to continue slaughtering innocents had he not been stopped **at the very moment he was changing his magazine.**

IF THE FIRST MAGAZINE OUR SHOOTER UNLOADED HAD ONLY HELD 10 ROUNDS AND TWO GOOD GUYS WITHOUT GUNS TACKLED HIM AT THAT POINT, A BEAUTIFUL LITTLE GIRL NAMED CHRISTINA-TAYLOR GREEN TODAY MIGHT BE ARGUING WITH HER MOTHER ABOUT HER BACK TO SCHOOL WARDROBE.

We owe it to Christina-Taylor Green and all of those TAKEN in Tucson, Aurora, Sandy Hook, Oak Creek, The Navy Yard, Columbine, Virginia Tech, Fort Hood, in your backyard of San Ysidro and Isla Vista and Santa Monica, to name just a few, and on our streets and in our neighborhoods, to pass this law.

Thank you for considering my words about gun violence numbers.

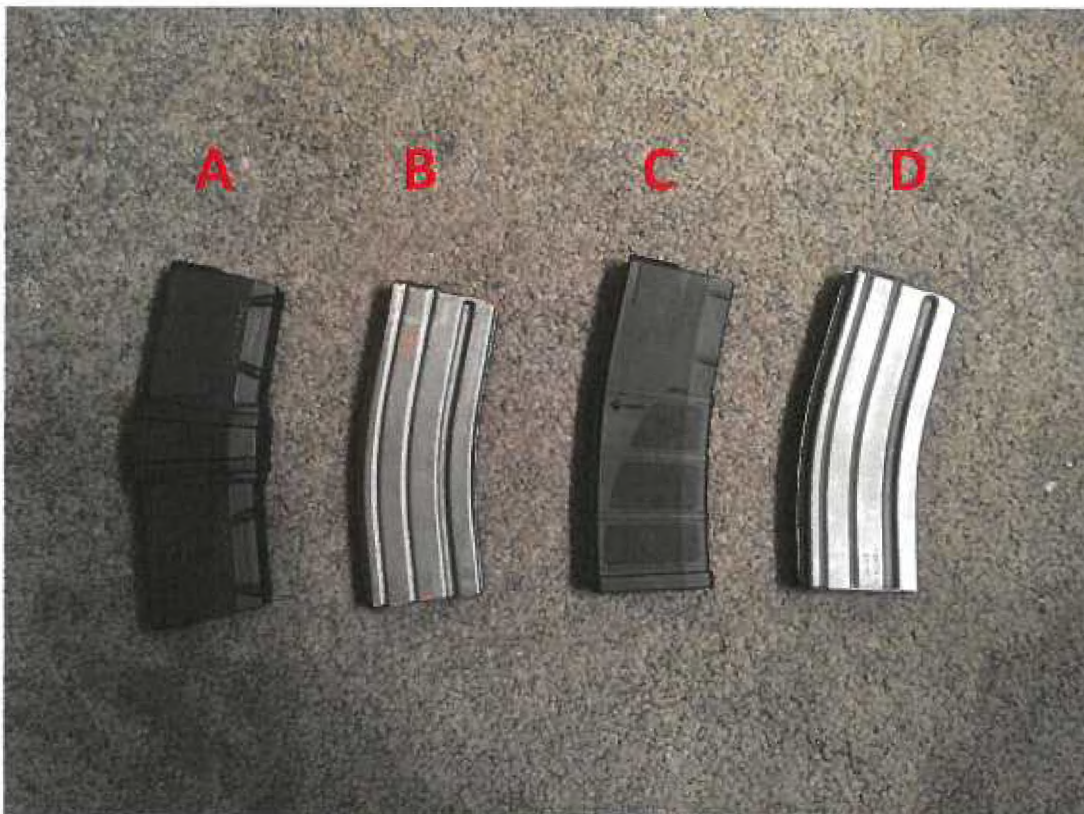
Signed:

Patricia Maisch

Are you really going to make us criminals?



Which one is high capacity?



The Smart Tech Challenges Foundation is a 501(c)3 organization with the mission of promoting firearms safety through innovation and educating the public about the life-saving potential for smart firearms safety technology. We are not a lobbying organization and do not advocate for specific policies.

Safe firearms storage is as essential to community safety as the act of owning a firearm itself. As an organization, we have an interest in nurturing and promoting innovative safety technologies that provide gun owners security features meant to prevent unintentional shootings, which all too often lead to accidental injury and death. We regularly work with those leading the field of innovation in the safe storage industry. Based on our communication with both the firearms safety innovation community and the firearms owning community, the Foundation believes that the public is best served by policies that *actively* promote safe storage and prevent the tragedies that arise when a firearm is misused by an unauthorized individual.

By requiring that L.A. City residents safely lock up their handguns, or disable them with a trigger lock when they are not being used, we can prevent senseless deaths, especially among children. We believe policies that apply to the safe storage of firearms *should* apply to everyone.

Law enforcement officers -- active duty, reserve, and retired -- are in a unique position to demonstrate that safety measures are critical, and work under even the most extreme scenarios. Providing exemptions to safe storage policies undermines the power of that example. Law enforcement officers should continue to be leaders in firearms safety, serving as role models for both best practices and for safety accessories and storage items.

Through our work we have identified and promoted many technologies that address the concerns of our police union, that keep a firearm safely stored when not in use but still allow for quick and effortless access to that firearm. These mechanical and technological solutions can both keep firearms safely stored, and also be readily accessed by authorized users, negating the need to exempt individuals from adhering to safe storage policies.