

DRAFT

June ____, 2022

The Honorable Stephanie Kunze
Ohio Senate
1 Capital Square, 1st Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Senator Kunze,

Four years ago, the Worthington City Council expressed concern and frustration about gun violence and urged the Ohio General Assembly to advance reasonable, rational, and fair gun control legislation and invited dialog towards this end. Since that time, the level of violence and animosity amongst people has only increased, making this an even more critical time to act. Sometimes we must remind ourselves that as elected officials our primary goal is to protect the health, safety and welfare of those who put us in positions of leadership. This is one of those times.

During the first five months of this year, there have been 233 mass shootings and 18,182 deaths from gun violence. Of those deaths, 152 were children, and an additional 315 children have been injured by guns.¹

As the elected leaders of Worthington, we take an oath to uphold the Constitution of the United States. We therefore, acknowledge the right of law-abiding citizens to keep and bear arms as set forth in the Second Amendment. However, the right to bear arms is not limitless.

In the seminal case of *D.C. v. Heller*², Justice Scalia acknowledged that the right to bear arms was not absolute. He wrote the right is “not a right to keep and carry any weapon whatsoever in any manner whatsoever and for whatever purpose.” *Heller* at 626. In fact

¹ Gun Violence Archive, 2022 www.gunviolencearchive.org

² *District of Columbia v. Heller*, 554 U.S. 570 (2008)

Congress itself passed a ban on assault weapons in 1994 only to have it expire of its own terms. Accordingly, reasonable, fair gun control legislation is not a matter of law but rather of political will.

Given this backdrop, we, the elected representatives of the Citizens of Worthington, ask that you take meaningful steps to enact responsible, reasonable gun control legislation.

Specifically we ask:

- Require universal background checks for the purchase of guns eliminating the “gun-show” loophole. 90% of Americans support background checks for all sales.
- Enacting a red flag law that will allow weapons to be confiscated from individuals exhibiting defined warning signs until the individual can show-cause why the weapons should be returned.
- For the ban of assault style weapons such as the AR-15. Of the ten deadliest shootings over the last 15 years, eight involved the use of assault style weapons.
- A prohibition on the sale of high-capacity magazines. States that ban such magazines have half as many shootings involving six or more victim deaths as states that allow them and one-third the annual number of deaths.

If the General Assembly is unwilling or unable to advance this simple request, then at a minimum we ask that you recognize that not all citizens support an unfettered right to carry any type of weapon in any place at any time and that you support the restoration of each city’s ability to carry out the wishes of their constituents by amending R.C. 9.68 and legislatively overturning *Ohioans for Concealed Carry v. Clyde*³ and *Cleveland v. State*⁴. It is our responsibility to speak not only for the rights of law-abiding gun owners but also for those who believe that reasonable restrictions are both appropriate and necessary for the general

³ *Ohioans for Concealed Carry, Inc. v. City of Clyde*, 120 Ohio St.3d 96, 2008-Ohio-4605

⁴ *City of Cleveland v. State*, 128 Ohio St.3d 135, 2010-Ohio-6318

welfare.

We therefore, ask for your support in advancing reasonable, rational, and fair gun control legislation and invite dialog towards this end.

Respectfully,

Worthington City Council

David Robinson, President

Katy Brewer, President Pro-Tem

Bonnie Michael, Council Member

Doug Smith, Council Member

Beth Kowalczyk, Council Member

Peter Bucher, Council Member

Rebecca Hermann, Council Member