

**Stephanie L. Kunze** State Senator 16th District

## Ohio Senate Senate Building 1 Capitol Square Columbus, Ohio 43215 (614) 466-5981

## **Committees:**

Transportation - Chairwoman
Financial Institutions and Technology
Insurance
Local Government and Elections
Rules and Reference

Dear Worthington City Council,

Thank you for your letter. I appreciate you taking the time to contact me to share your views regarding gun reform.

I would like to thank you for your candor on this very sensitive matter. As the mother of two daughters, I am heartbroken for the families across the nation that are suffering from these horrific tragedies. It seems that every week there is a story from another part of the country in which a shooter senselessly opens fire on innocent bystanders that are going about their normal lives, whether they are attending a Bible study, attending church, concerts, going to the movies or getting ready to leave school for the day.

During the past General Assembly, I have sponsored Senate Bill 43. This legislation sought to establish safeguards to help protect victims of domestic violence. One of these safeguards is prohibit a person convicted of domestic violence or assault of a family member, or a person subject to certain protection orders, from having a firearm and to establish a procedure for surrendering all firearms in the person's possession.

I have also co-sponsored the following bills in the 133<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly:

SB 182 (Thomas, Lehner) To raise minimum age to purchase firearm to 21.

SB 183 (Thomas, Lehner.) To require a firearm transfer to be made through a dealer, through a law enforcement agency, or pursuant to a specified exception, and to require a background check when a firearm is transferred.

SB 184 (Williams, Lehner) To obtain a court order temporarily limiting access to firearms.

To learn more about any of the above mentioned legislative proposals, the website to do so is: <a href="https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/search">https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/search</a>.

In the current General Assembly, I have co-sponsored Senate Bill 138, which would enact the Extreme Risk Protection Order Act. Should you like to learn more about his bill, please visit: https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-SB-138

In addition, I was supportive of the recommendations from the bipartisan gun reform commission created by Governor Kasich and was particularly moved by a meeting with Fred Guttenberg who lost his son Jaime in the Parkland mass shooting. I also was supportive of Governor DeWine's Strong Ohio legislation.

As a former elementary school secretary, I am grateful for the measures our local law enforcement and school districts working together have taken to provide additional security and am always willing to partner with them in a way to ensure safety in our schools.

Thank you, again, for your email. Please do not hesitate to contact me with follow-up concerns on this legislation, or any other matter, pending in the state capitol.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Kunze State Senator

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District 16