

Utah Parents Against Gun Violence
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Office of Governor Gary Herbert
360 N. State Street Ste. 2000
P.O. Box 14220
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-2220

Dear Governor Herbert,

Thank you for recognizing publicly that Utah's present concealed carry permit process should not be eliminated, as HB 76 would do. The current process includes the safeguards provided by a current criminal background check and some teaching of familiarity with the law involving use of firearms. A key role of government is protecting the public. The present system of background checking is necessary to keep guns out of the hands of felons and mentally unwell. Lives will be saved by maintaining this law.

A new poll commissioned by the BYU Center for the Study of Elections and Democracy found that 82% of Utahns support universal background checks for gun purchases. Utah citizens know they deserve better attention to public safety from gun violence. It is comforting to know that you are not inclined to approve the changes suggested in HB 76.

This bill is an inappropriate response after the massacres of Newtown, Aurora and our own Trolley Square. Giving up permitting is not only a giant step backward, it will also increase the unnecessarily high rate of homicide, suicide and domestic violence. Our liberal gun laws paint Utah as an unsafe place for new businesses to relocate; these laws could also decrease tourism and affect our ability to attract important business conferences.

HB 76 relies on the assumption that people who will choose to conceal carry are law abiding citizens, and that having many of these gun owners in public will make us all more safe. Vigilantism is no substitute for laws that help **prevent** gun violence. The conversation among many legislators at the State Capitol is currently about **crossfire in the classroom**, and **crossfire in the general public**. The conversation should be about **public safety** and **prevention**. Children in Utah deserve much better.

Please help us keep Utah schools and neighborhoods safe and let the Legislature know that you will veto this bill, because it would eliminate one of the important protections against guns in the hands of the wrong people.

Respectfully,

Utah Parents Against Gun Violence

League of Women Voters of Utah

The American Association of University Women

Gun Sense: Action for Gun Violence Prevention

Alliance for a Better UTAH

Rape Recovery Center

Gun Violence Prevention Center of Utah