



# City of Seattle

Mayor Jenny A. Durkan

February 13, 2020

Washington State Legislature  
416 Sid Snyder Ave SW  
Olympia, WA 98501

To the Honorable Sponsors of Senate Bill 6077 and House Bill 2240:

I want to thank you for your work to combat gun violence and help ensure Washington State can be a safe, healthy place for all our communities. We know that Washington residents overwhelmingly support commonsense gun responsibility policies, and it is beyond time we act to curb the crisis of gun violence.

As you all know, on January 22 at 5 p.m., there was a shooting in Seattle's downtown core that killed one person and injured seven others. During rush hour, this is one of our busiest corridors with families shopping, workers leaving their offices, individuals walking home, and commuters catching the bus or the light rail. Most of us have walked on this block around 5:00 p.m. on a weekday. And no one, absolutely no one in our city or country, should step out of a coffee shop or get on a bus with the fear of violence.

Thanks to the quick and diligent work of our Seattle Police Department (SPD) detectives and law enforcement partners, we were able to trace two of the shooters back to Las Vegas, where detectives found critical evidence linking the shooters to the deadly event in Seattle.

Detectives discovered that just hours before the shooting, one of the suspects purchased a high capacity magazine from a licensed gun store in South King County. The number and caliber of the shell casings recovered from the scene downtown make it obvious that the suspect turned around and immediately used that high capacity magazine on our City streets. The suspect who legally purchased the magazine was a felon with an active warrant for his arrest at the time of the shooting. The fact that he was legally able to obtain a high capacity magazine is completely unacceptable, and as you all know, completely avoidable.

The tragedy that occurred in downtown Seattle illustrates a deadly loophole that currently exists in our State's laws. Felons are prohibited from purchasing firearms, yet they can still legally purchase large capacity magazines. That is exactly what one of the Seattle shooters did on January 22, and all evidence indicates that he used that magazine 4.5 hours later to fire significantly more bullets than he otherwise would have in our downtown.

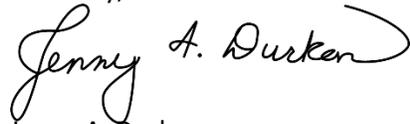
We know that gun violence is a preventable crisis – it requires political will and smart policy. Senate Bill 6077 and House Bill 2240, which would prohibit any person in Washington state from manufacturing or

selling large capacity magazines, is just that. Know that you have the City of Seattle's full support in your effort to enact this commonsense legislation.

Seattle has some of the strictest gun safety laws in the state, from our law requiring the responsible storage of firearms, to our Emergency Risk Protection Orders, which keep guns out of the hands of those who may pose a danger to themselves or others. But we can only control what's within our city's borders. We need other cities, the state, and the federal government to step up and pass commonsense gun violence prevention laws, and we need it now. People's lives are truly at stake.

Thank you all for your dedicated work. Please do not hesitate to let me know how I can be of assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jenny A. Durkan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Jenny A. Durkan  
Mayor of Seattle

CC: Bob Ferguson, Washington State Attorney General