



**MAYORS AGAINST  
ILLEGAL GUNS**

June 10, 2015

Senate President Stephen M. Sweeney  
935 Kings Highway, Suite 400  
West Deptford, NJ 08086

Republican Leader Thomas H. Kean Jr.  
425 North Ave. East, Suite C  
Westfield, NJ 07090

Assembly Speaker Vincent Prieto  
1 Harmon Plaza, Suite 205  
Secaucus, NJ 07094

Republican Leader John M. Bramnick  
251 North Ave. West, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Westfield, NJ 07090

Re: New Jersey mayors urge passage of SB 2786/AB 4218

Dear Senate President Sweeney, Leader Kean, Speaker Prieto and Leader Bramnick:

The New Jersey coalition of Mayors Against Illegal Guns writes to ask that you support SB 2786/AB 4218, which would save lives by requiring dangerous domestic abusers to turn in guns that they own illegally. We are a bipartisan coalition of more than 80 mayors from big urban centers and small rural towns who support the Second Amendment while recognizing that we can do more to keep guns out of the hands of dangerous people. As mayors, the public safety of our communities is our highest priority, and this bill would help protect the lives of our citizens and the law enforcement officers who keep us safe.

Mayors answer the calls in the middle of the night when a police officer or a child is shot. We see firsthand the devastation that gun violence brings, not only to the victims and their families, but to entire neighborhoods and communities. Although New Jersey has strong gun laws and one of the lowest gun violence rates in the country, there are still more than 270 gun homicides every year.

Senate Bill 2786/Assembly Bill 4218 would help protect women by closing a gap in current law that enables prohibited domestic abusers to continue to access their guns. New Jersey prohibits dangerous abusers from possessing guns if they are convicted of domestic violence crimes or offenses or are under final restraining orders. However, current state law does not require that these abusers turn in the guns that they already own—even though they are prohibited from having them. As a result, an abuser can go directly to his home from court or prison and continue to have access to his guns in the home—and potentially use them to cause more harm to his family. SB 2786/AB 4218 would close this dangerous gap in the law by requiring every domestic abuser to turn in all of his guns, something that 15 states already require for final restraining orders subjects and 10 states already require for convicted abusers.<sup>1</sup>

These policies are consistent with the priorities of New Jersey voters. According to a poll of likely voters conducted by Survey USA for Everytown for Gun Safety, 82% of voters support a policy that would ensure people turn in any guns they own once they are prohibited from having them due to a domestic violence conviction or a final domestic violence protective order.<sup>2</sup>



# MAYORS AGAINST ILLEGAL GUNS

Clearly, these numbers show that residents of our state want us to work together to close these dangerous loopholes and make our state a safer place for all of our residents. That is why we strongly urge the legislature to pass SB 2786/AB 4218, which will keep guns out of the hands of domestic abusers.

Sincerely,

## **The New Jersey coalition of Mayors Against Illegal Guns**

Aberdeen Mayor Fred Tagliarini	Longport Mayor Nicholas Russo
Atlantic City Mayor Donald Guardian	Madison Mayor Robert Conley
Audubon Mayor John Ward	Mahwah Mayor William Laforet
Belmar Mayor Matthew Doherty	Manville Mayor Angelo Corradino
Bridgeton Mayor Albert Kelly	Maplewood Mayor Vic DeLuca
Caldwell Mayor Ann Dassing	Marlboro Mayor Jonathan Hornik
Camden Mayor Dana Redd	Milford Mayor James Gallos
Cherry Hill Township Mayor Chuck Cahn	Millstone Borough Mayor Raymond Heck
Chesilhurst Mayor Michael Blunt	Montclair Mayor Robert Jackson
Clinton Mayor Janice Kovach	Moonachie Mayor Dennis Vaccaro
Collingswood Mayor M. James Maley	Morristown Mayor Timothy Dougherty
Delran Mayor Kenneth Paris	Newark Mayor Ras Baraka
Dover Mayor James Dodd	New Brunswick Mayor James Cahill
East Amwell Mayor David Wang-Iverson	New Hanover Township Mayor Dennis Roohr
East Newark Mayor Joseph Smith	North Brunswick Mayor Francis Womack
East Orange Mayor Lester Taylor	North Haledon Mayor Randy George
Elizabeth Mayor J. Christian Bollwage	North Plainfield Mayor Michael Giordano
Fanwood Mayor Colleen Mahr	Oakland Mayor Linda Schwager
Fort Lee Mayor Mark Sokolich	Ocean Gate Mayor Paul Kennedy
Frenchtown Mayor Warren Cooper	Old Bridge Mayor Owen Henry
Gloucester Township Mayor David Mayer	Orange Mayor Dwayne Warren
Guttenberg Mayor Gerald Drasheff	Oxford Mayor Marc Pasquini
Hackettstown Mayor Maria DiGiovanni	Palisades Park Mayor James Rotundo
Haledon Mayor Domenick Stampone	Passaic Mayor Alex Blanco
Harrison Mayor James Fife	Paterson Mayor Jose Torres
Hasbrouck Heights Mayor Rose Heck	Paulsboro Mayor W. Jeffery Hamilton
Hawthorne Mayor Richard Goldberg	Perth Amboy Mayor Wilda Diaz
Highland Park Mayor Gayle Brill Mittler	Phillipsburg Mayor Harry Wyant
Hillside Mayor Angela Garretson	Plainfield Mayor Adrian Mapp
Hoboken Mayor Dawn Zimmer	Pleasantville Mayor Jesse Tweedle
Hope Township Mayor Timothy McDonough	Princeton Mayor Liz Lempert
Hopewell Mayor Paul Anzano	Rahway Mayor Samson Steinman
Jersey City Mayor Steven Fulop	Red Bank Mayor Pasquale Menna
Lambertville Mayor David DelVecchio	Ridgefield Mayor Anthony Suarez
Leonia Mayor John DeSimone	Ridgewood Mayor Paul Aronsohn
Little Ferry Mayor Mauro Raguseo	River Edge Mayor Sandy Moscaritolo
Logan Township Mayor Frank Minor	Robbinsville Mayor Dave Fried



# MAYORS AGAINST ILLEGAL GUNS

Secaucus Mayor Michael Gonnelli  
South Brunswick Mayor Frank Gambatese  
Spotswood Mayor Nicholas Poliseno  
Tenafly Mayor Peter Rustin  
Upper Saddle River Mayor Joanne Minichetti  
Waldwick Mayor Thomas Giordano  
Weehawken Township Mayor Richard Turner

West Orange Mayor Robert Parisi  
West Windsor Mayor Shing-Fu Hsueh  
Westwood Mayor John Birkner Jr.  
Wildwood Mayor Ernest Troiano Jr.  
Woodbridge Township Mayor John McCormac  
Woodcliff Lake Mayor Jeffrey Goldsmith  
Woodland Park Mayor Keith Kazmark

CC: Senate Law and Public Safety Committee Chair Linda R. Greenstein, Vice-Chair Peter J. Barnes, Senator Christopher Bateman, Senator James W. Holzapfel and Senator Nicholas J. Sacco

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<sup>1</sup> For restraining order subjects: CA, CO, CT, HI, IA, IL, MA, MD, MN, NC, NH, NY, TN, WA, and WI. For

<sup>2</sup> <http://bit.ly/1JchUGL>