

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

327 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
PHONE: (202) 225-2095
FAX: (202) 225-5609

101 YGNACIO VALLEY ROAD, SUITE 210
WALNUT CREEK, CA 94596
PHONE: (925) 933-2660
FAX: (925) 933-2677

440 CIVIC CENTER PLAZA, 2ND FLOOR
RICHMOND, CA 94804
PHONE: (510) 620-1000
FAX: (510) 620-1005

December 23, 2015

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Thank you for your strong commitment to reducing gun violence and your unwavering leadership on this critical issue. I write to request your consideration of additional executive actions to improve transparency and accountability at federal law enforcement agencies related to firearm safety practices and protocols.

Following the mass shooting in Newtown, Connecticut, you authored a series of executive actions to address gun violence in the U.S. constituting meaningful steps towards addressing significant gaps in our existing gun laws. Simultaneously, you called on Congress to act; however, despite the pleas of Americans from across the political spectrum, including many of my colleagues, the current environment and intractability of gun violence issues in Congress has only intensified the ongoing legislative stalemate.

In the last six months, at least two fatal shootings have occurred in the San Francisco Bay area using stolen federal law enforcement service weapons. The lives of Kathryn Steinle and Antonio Ramos were tragically cut short in separate incidents by criminals using firearms stolen from the unattended vehicles of federal law enforcement agents.¹² Further, this year there have been several incidents reported in the media of federal law enforcement officers either having their service weapons stolen or misplacing them, including by the Capitol Police.³⁴ As recently as this week, the Washington Post reported that a Secret Service Agent's service weapon was stolen from his car.⁵ Unfortunately, these harrowing stories highlight an oversight gap in federal

¹ Lee Romney and Joel Rubin, "Gun allegedly used in S.F. shooting was reported stolen from ranger's car," *Los Angeles Times*, July 8, 2015, <http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-sf-shooting-20150708-story.html>.

² Tyler, Carolyn, "Source: Gun stolen from federal officer used to kill Oakland muralist," *ABC7News*, November 24, 2015, <http://abc7news.com/news/gun-stolen-from-federal-officer-used-to-kill-oakland-muralist/1097864/>.

³ Holly Yan, Deirdre Walsh, and Ted Barrett, "Capitol police get more training after leaving guns in bathroom stalls," *CNN*, May 21, 2015, <http://www.cnn.com/2015/05/21/politics/capitol-police-leave-guns-in-bathroom-stalls/>.

⁴ Fabian, Jordan, "WH staffer charged for allegedly shooting at Capitol Police boyfriend," *The Hill*, August 10, 2015, <http://thehill.com/homenews/administration/250751-wh-staffer-charged-with-domestic-violence>.

⁵ Peter Morris, Kevin Liptak and Kristen Holmes, "First on CNN: Secret Service agent's gun, badge stolen near White House," *CNN*, December 22, 2015, <http://www.cnn.com/2015/12/22/politics/secret-service-gun-badge-stolen-dc/index.html>.

regulations through which federal law enforcement agencies are not necessarily required to safely store and lock their firearms when they are not in use.

I strongly encourage you to address this troubling issue by issuing executive actions directing all federal law enforcement agencies to establish protocols and procedures for the securing of firearms when they are not in use. This commonsense measure would greatly improve federal agency accountability and protect the lives of law enforcement officers and citizens.

I also request that you expand upon one of your previous executive actions indicating that lost or stolen firearms from federally licensed gun dealers should be reported to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF). It is also important to include federal law enforcement agencies to the list of organizations required to report to ATF. Not only would this enhancement improve public safety, but information collected from this effort will reinforce potential directives regarding requirements for the safe and secure storage of firearms by federal law enforcement officers.

These reforms are simple, reasonable, and will help save lives in California and across the nation. I sincerely appreciate your continued focus on reducing gun violence in America. I look forward to working with you on this important issue.

Sincerely,



Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress