The Honorable Laura Friedman  
California State Assembly, 43rd District  
State Capitol, Room 2137  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 276 (Friedman) Pupil safety: parental notification: firearm safety laws.  
City of Beverly Hills – Support

Dear Assembly Member Friedman,

On behalf of the City of Beverly Hills, I am pleased to write to you in SUPPORT of your AB 276, which will require a school district, county office of education, and charter school to inform parents and guardians of students of California’s child access prevention laws and laws relating to the safe storage of firearms.

Firearms are the second leading cause of death among children and youth and firearm-related injuries were the second leading cause of death among children and teens. Of the 3,143 children and adolescents who died from firearm related injuries in 2016, 59 percent were homicides, 35 percent were suicides, and 4 percent were unintentional injuries, such as the accidental discharge of a firearm. Between 2013 and 2016, there was a 28 percent increase in the rate of firearm deaths among children. In 2017 a total of 18,201 children and teens were injured by guns. This was a 6 percent increase from the prior year. Of these, 83 percent were the result of assaults, 15 percent were accidental, and 2 percent were self-inflicted.

Children and teens are 15 times more likely to die from a firearm related injury than children in 31 other high-income countries combined. Firearm related deaths also disproportionately affect children and teens of color. In 2017, black children and teens accounted for 41 percent of all child and teen gun deaths despite being representing 14 percent of this age group. The gun death rate for black children (11.2 deaths per 100,000) was nearly four times the rate for white children. American Indian/Alaskan Native children and teens had the second highest gun death rate at 5.6 deaths per 100,000.

Since 2013, the City Council has expressed an interest in supporting stronger firearm regulations and in restricting access to firearms within the home. The City is very concerned about firearm-related deaths and injuries. Communicating important information about how to safely store firearms so children are not able to readily access them is critical in preventing childhood deaths and injuries related to the discharge of a firearm.
For these reasons, the City of Beverly Hills is pleased to SUPPORT your AB 276. Thank you for authoring this important measure.

Sincerely,

Lester J. Friedman
Mayor, City of Beverly Hills

cc:   Members and Consultants, Senate Public Safety Committee
      Members and Consultants, Senate Education Committee
      Members and Consultants, Senate Appropriations Committee
      The Honorable Ben Allen, 26th Senate District
      The Honorable Richard Bloom, 50th Assembly District
      Andrew K. Antwih, Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange