The Honorable Mike McGuire  
California State Senate, 2nd District  
State Capitol, Room 5061  
Sacramento, CA 95814  

Re: SR 61 (McGuire) Gun violence prevention  
   City of Beverly Hills – SUPPORT  

Dear Senator McGuire,

On behalf of the City of Beverly Hills, I am pleased to write in SUPPORT of SR 61, your resolution which calls on Congress to take action to ban assault weapons in order to protect all Americans from senseless gun violence. The City of Beverly Hills supports common sense federal gun safety legislation and strongly agrees with the call for greater federal, state and local coordination to combat all forms of hate crimes.

Mass shootings result in more deaths and injuries when assault weapons and high-capacity magazines are used. Between 2009 and 2018, the five deadliest mass shooting incidents in the United States all involved the use of assault weapons and high-capacity magazines: Las Vegas, Orlando, Newtown, Sutherland Springs, and Parkland.

SR 61 states a number of factors contribute to the occurrence of mass shootings, including unregulated access to military-style assault weapons and high-capacity magazines, nonstandardized background checks, failing to require private gun sales to go through licensed dealers, needed improvements to our mental health system, and the growth of the white-supremacist terror movement.

The resolution goes on to note the criminal use of guns and related gun violence has become a public health matter of epidemic proportions, causing children and families across the country to endure the loss of loved ones to gun violence, get caught in the crossfire of firearm-related domestic violence, and live in fear of being struck by random bullets.

Since 2013, the City Council has expressed an interest in supporting stronger firearm regulations. Over the last seven years, the City Council has authorized the Mayor to sign letters of support for various federal legislative bills, which would ban importing, manufacturing, or selling assault weapons. Furthermore, our City adopted a resolution on March 17, 2020 to urge Congress to pass an assault weapons ban as well as develop a comprehensive federal approach to reduce and prevent gun violence. We have also sent a letter of support to Senator Dianne Feinstein on S.66 – Assault Weapons Ban of 2019, a bill she authored to make it a federal crime to import, sell, manufacture, transfer, or possess a semiautomatic assault weapon or large capacity ammunition feeding device.
The City of Beverly Hills stands ready to work with Senator McGuire and the 28 coauthors of SR 61 to call upon Congress to ban the sale, manufacture, importation, and possession of assault weapons. We agree with this call for immediate federal action to develop holistic remedies to address of gun violence resulting from the use of assault weapons.

Sincerely,

Lester J. Friedman
Mayor, City of Beverly Hills

cc: Members and Consultants, Senate Public Safety Committee
    The Honorable Ben Allen, 26th Senate District
    The Honorable Richard Bloom, 50th Assembly District
    Andrew K. Antwih, Shaw / Yoder / Antwih, Inc.