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IRA I. SILVERSTEIN STATE SENATOR · 8TH DISTRICT

March 6, 2018

The Honorable Bruce Rauner
Office of the Governor
207 State House
Springfield, Illinois 62706

Dear Governor Rauner:

I urge you to sign Senate Bill 1657, the Gun Dealer Licensing Act passed by both chambers of the General Assembly. The bill is what I consider a minimal step toward solving our state's problem of too many guns on our streets.

Let me share with you that I have received emails from and spoken with victims of the Parkland, Florida tragedy. They make a compelling case for our society to move forward with as many commonsense gun measures as possible. I consider SB1657 one step in that direction.

The Gun Dealer Licensing Act encourages smarter practices for sellers of weapons including inspections, video surveillance and training for employees on conducting background checks, identifying and stopping straw purchases, and how to properly store guns to prevent thefts. It will assist authorities in taking control more effectively on violence and corrupt gun dealers.

In states that have enacted similar licensing requirements, guns used in crimes have been reduced up to 65%. While there are no guarantees, this bill will certainly keep some illegal guns off the streets and spare lives of potential victims, and that is an important outcome.

This is a commonsense measure. The epidemic of violence in Chicago and the flow of illegal guns coming into Illinois from other states can be stemmed. Twenty-one percent of guns taken by Chicago police were sold in Indiana, and if they won't tighten their own laws, we must act to protect our own people. We must address the number of guns flowing into our city and state that are used in crimes.

The time to act is now. I encourage you to sign Senate Bill 1657 and put Illinois on the path to be smarter and safer regarding illegal guns and dealers who buy and sell them.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ira I. Silverstein".

Ira I. Silverstein