

August 9, 2023

The Honorable Anthony Portantino
California State Senate
1021 O Street, Suite 7830 | Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 2 (Portantino) Firearms
City of Palo Alto – Notice of Support**

Dear Senator Portantino,

On behalf of the City of Palo Alto, I write in strong support of your SB 2, which creates a new issuing process for concealed carry weapons (CCW) licenses following the U.S. Supreme Court ruling in *New York Rifle and Pistol Association v. Bruen* from June of 2022. The City of Palo Alto stands committed to working with your office and relevant stakeholders to advance this critical piece of legislation. On March 6, 2023, the Council unanimously approved an emergency ordinance to restrict concealed firearms from being carried in certain locations deemed sensitive, while also holding open the possibility of adding to the list of restricted locations in the future.

SB 2 would broadly reform the state's concealed carry laws, including by restricting the carrying of firearms in sensitive places, reforming the CCW licensing regime to standardize the process statewide and identify disqualified applicants, setting the minimum age to obtain a CCW license at 21, and imposing new gun storage and safety training requirements.

The reforms included in SB 2 are a direct response to the U.S. Supreme Court's reckless decision in the *Bruen* Case. The case specifically addressed the constitutionality of a New York State law requiring CCW applicants to show "proper cause" or a special need distinguishable from the general public, along with good moral character in order to successfully apply for a license. The Supreme Court ultimately ruled it an unconstitutional violation of the 2nd amendment, thus severely limiting local authority for regulating gun licenses.

In Santa Clara County alone, studies have shown that the age-adjusted firearm death rate in the county was 4.8 people per 100,000 in 2020, the highest rate in the past decade. The unfortunate reality is that when guns and their associated licenses are all too easy to obtain, harm is easier to inflict upon others or oneself.

SB 2 positions the state of California to strengthen its gun laws in the face of this ruling by establishing common-sense policies to restrict the places where CCW license holders can carry and ensure that licenses are only permitted to individuals of age and in good standing with state and federal laws. Let's be clear—strong concealed carry permit systems save lives.

The City of Palo Alto applauds your leadership on this issue and is pleased to support SB 2.

Sincerely,



Lydia Kou
Mayor, City of Palo Alto