



Testimony in support of
H.2437/S.1562 An Act Relative to Crime Gun Data Reporting and Analysis
Submitted to the Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security
By Jennifer Muroff, LWVMA Legislative Specialist
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The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts supports H.2437/S.1562 An Act relative to crime gun data reporting and analysis, which establishes a formal mechanism to require the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (EOPSS) to analyze crime gun trace data held in Massachusetts. Such a report will help determine how crime guns are getting to our streets and what Massachusetts can do to stem the tide of illegal guns used in crimes.

EOPSS has been collecting crime gun trace data since enactment of the 2014 Massachusetts comprehensive gun reform legislation, and was required to analyze that data per a FY2018 budget amendment. Although that analysis was performed, it was quite limited in scope and failed to address many important areas. Moreover, the budget amendment requirement was a one-time analysis. This bill requires a more thorough analysis of crime gun trace data every other year to stay on top of ever-changing patterns of gun trafficking. As Senate Majority Leader Creem, lead sponsor of the Senate bill, said, “Good data leads to good policy.”

Under this bill, EOPSS will be required to develop a biennial report analyzing the firearms trace data held by the firearms records bureau. It will also help Massachusetts determine how many crime guns originated in multiple handgun sales. This report will offer analysis into whether or not more regulation of firearms sales is necessary.

The League of Women Voters believes that the proliferation of handguns and semi-automatic assault weapons in the United States is a major health and safety threat to all. The League supports strong measures to limit the accessibility and regulate the ownership of these weapons by private citizens. The League supports regulating firearms for consumer safety.

The League supports licensing procedures for gun ownership by private citizens to include a waiting period for background checks, personal identity verification, gun safety education, and annual license renewal—most of which we have in Massachusetts. The League supports allocation of resources to better regulate and monitor gun dealers. We won't know how and if we need to regulate gun dealers if we don't access and assess the data we already have.

The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts, representing 47 local Leagues from Cape Cod to the Berkshires, believes this bill will provide important information to impact the proliferation of guns in the state. We reassert our demand for common sense gun safety legislation at the local, state, and federal levels to allow all people to live safely and with confidence in their personal and community security. This right includes people living in communities where systemic racism and disenfranchisement contribute to a near constant threat of gun violence.



Curbing gun violence is a critical matter of public safety, public health, and public confidence. We urge you to report this bill out of committee favorably and quickly.

Thank you for your consideration.