

The Personalized Handgun Safety Act of 2013

A Solution Both Gun Owners and Gun Safety Advocates Should Embrace

Representative Carolyn Maloney (D-NY):

“We should be using all the tools available to help reduce gun violence. Technology now exists to ensure a gun is used only by the actual authorized user of a weapon-- and that will be a game-changer in the cause of keeping guns out of the hands of children and criminals. That’s why I’m proud to co-sponsor the Personalized Handgun Safety Act being introduced by my friend John Tierney.”

“Many of the senseless deaths that occur daily can be prevented. Half of all gun-owning households in the United States do not lock up their firearms, including 40 percent of households with children under the age of 18. This is a national shame that calls not just for greater parental responsibility, but for more effective handgun safety measures, and that’s why I support this bill. Congress has an urgent responsibility to strengthen gun safety laws to prevent these tragic deaths,” said **Rep. Jackie Speier** (D-CA), Vice Chair of the congressional Gun Violence Prevention Task Force.

Marian Wright Edelman, President, Children’s Defense Fund:

“The Children’s Defense Fund Action Council supports Congressman Tierney’s Personalized Handgun Safety Act, which will ensure the safer use of guns and protect children. A child or teen dies or is injured by a gun every 30 minutes; a child or teen is killed by a gun every three hours and 15 minutes. The personalization technology required by Congressman Tierney’s bill will help to prevent these tragedies. CDF urges members of Congress to act to support this and all other common sense gun safety measures to protect children, not guns including universal background checks and a ban on assault weapons and high capacity ammunition magazines.”

Lynnette Alameddine from Saugus whose son Ross was killed during the Virginia Tech shooting:

“If one life can be saved by the personalized handgun, and a family does not have to have their lives shattered forever, then it's worth it. Life is precious.”

Shannon Watts, Founder, Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America:

“Gun violence has become a public health crisis in America. This epidemic is a disease and its spread can only be stopped through a variety of innovative treatments, including personalization technology. As a country, we must do everything in our power to prevent the senseless deaths that occur daily due to gun violence. Our organization is grateful to Rep. Tierney for working on behalf of American mothers and families to find a solution.”

John Rosenthal, Founder, Stop Handgun Violence:

“With over 30,000 Americans killed by guns each year and 87 killed every day, think of all the lives and never ending grief that could have been saved in the last 10 years if this common sense and readily available technology was brought to market in the United States. We cannot allow the gun lobby to continue to stand in the way of saving lives and common sense legislation like this, proposals that simply make guns safer. Along with Congressman Tierney, I will continue to press for action on this and other legislation that will make our families and communities safer.”

Essex District Attorney Jonathan Blodgett:

“This legislation would thwart gang members and drug dealers who use ‘community guns’ to perpetrate the majority of the violent crimes that my office prosecutes. By limiting access to illegal firearms, this bill will help reduce crime and save lives.”

Mayor Kimberley Driscoll, Salem:

“I applaud Congressman Tierney for being a leader and advocate for innovative measures aimed at reducing gun violence. With the recent disappointing vote on universal background checks in the Senate, it’s well past time for some form of comprehensive, federal action to help curb gun violence.”

Mayor Donna D. Holaday, Newburyport:

“As a member of Mayors Against Illegal Guns, I cannot express the depth of my disappointment with Congress and their failure to pass legislation at a minimum on background checks for all gun purchases. I am pleased that Congressman Tierney has drafted the Personalized Handgun Safety Act. This act will develop and mandate smart technology with all handguns within two years. The personalized technology has been utilized in other Asian and European countries and it is time for the US to step up to prevent accidental deaths of children and prevent use of firearms by criminals.”

Chief James W. Cormier, Reading Chief of Police:

“Legislation such as that proposed by Congressman Tierney that would require ‘personalizing’ handguns has the potential to have a paradigm shift in our society with regards to public safety. Imagine a gun that is designed to be used by only one person, no unauthorized uses by children or criminals. Think of the many tragic events that involve firearms, very few are carried out with the perpetrators own gun, they are usually using guns stolen or liberated from another. With the technological capabilities we now have available to us, Congressman Tierney’s proposal is only common sense, why wouldn’t we do it?”

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