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LD 2238

There can be no doubt that gun violence in the United States is a significant public health and safety issue. That is why I support the passage of LD 2224 and LD 2238. Within my own extended family there have been two instances of gun violence that resulted in injury and death. First, my niece and nephew were seriously injured and their sister killed when their mother shot them. She is in jail and the children were adopted by my sister and brother-in-law. Their trauma at a very early age is a constant challenge. Second, my daughter-in-law's niece was shot and killed by her domestic partner devastating her family and her community.

The proposed legislation will not prevent all violent acts, but they will be a step toward building safer communities.

\*Strengthening our Yellow Flag Law will make it easier to evaluate people in crisis and determine how to keep them from harming themselves or others.

\*Expanding background checks for gun purchases will help keep guns out of the hands of those not legally allowed to own them.

\*A 72 hour waiting period before a gun purchase is hardly onerous and will help prevent acts of passion or despair.

I also support any legislation that will ban the sale of assault type weapons meant for war.

Passage of these gun violence prevention measures is something we owe our children and grandchildren as well as ourselves. The gun lobby and the gun industry should not be allowed to continue cultivating an atmosphere of fear.