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**House of Representatives**  
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

August 5, 2019

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Speaker Mike Turzai  
Room 139, Main Capitol  
PO Box 202028  
Harrisburg PA 17120

Majority Leader Bryan Cutler  
Room 110, Main Capitol  
PO Box 202100  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Chairman Rob Kauffman  
Room 312, Main Capitol  
PO Box 202089  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

RE: Reducing Gun Violence

Speaker Turzai, Leader Cutler and Chairman Kauffman:

The shootings this weekend that took dozens of innocent lives should provide a stark reminder of the continuing need for policy makers to address gun violence across this country. While the most recent events occurred outside of Pennsylvania, sadly, there is no shortage of gun violence in our own Commonwealth to remind us we still have much work to do here.

In the wake of the tragedies this weekend, leading Republicans, including President Trump, and Democrats across the country are calling for states to adopt, among other proposals, Extreme Risk Protection Orders, a mechanism to disarm people who evidence shows are a danger to themselves or others. Extreme Risk Protection Orders are an evidence-based approach that studies show has saved lives in other states and are now available in seventeen states and the District of Columbia. My bill, HB 1075, would allow Judges to hear evidence and disarm people in crisis before they commit tragic acts of violence upon innocent victims.

While this subject often provokes substantial policy debates, I know we all agree that the loss of one innocent life to gun violence is a tragedy that we must work to prevent. Fortunately, there is no shortage of proposed legislation to address this issue and there very well may be many other ideas worth consideration that have not yet been introduced. Surely, with all the data and the policy experts available to us we can have a meaningful dialogue and discussion on policies that would serve to help reduce the bloodshed.

As you formulate the fall agenda for the House of Representatives, I respectfully request you prioritize a discussion about gun violence and how we can help reduce the number of lives lost to gun violence each year in Pennsylvania, including HB 1075.

Sincerely Yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Todd Stephens".

Todd Stephens  
PA House of Representatives  
151<sup>st</sup> Legislative District