

To: Senator Chris Wilson and Representative A. Cory Malow and members of the House Judiciary Committee

From: Helen Droitsch, Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense and Utah resident

Re: SB 115 – public comment.

I am not in favor of this legislation. Here are the reasons why:

This legislation prevents local officials from enacting gun safety laws without fear of being sued. It would allow anyone affected by the local laws on permits or other local actions to sue that local government body if they choose to try and pass any gun safety regulation. Moreover, anyone affected by following local laws could collect damages and fees. Such state control over it would override the local police in their efforts to limit the use of local permit laws and to continue to override any local laws in effect to limit the indiscriminate use of firearms.

SB 115 is an extreme proposal that would tie the hands of local Utah officials and those who contract with the government by further prohibiting them from taking steps to prevent gun violence in their communities. By preempting those who contract to use a government venue from regulating firearms, this bill would prohibit places like sporting events, music venues, and hospitals from being able to ban firearms in their facilities

Existing Utah law already prevents counties, municipalities and local officials from creating local laws or rules that regulate firearms in almost any way. The proposed legislation drastically expands the current law – well beyond what is necessary to address any concerns with some of the minor actions that municipalities are permitted to take. The bill would enrich gun lobby lawyers and groups by allowing them to sue municipalities in Utah and collect damages regardless if those groups are even located in Utah.

Please vote no on SB 115.