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Via Electronic and US Mail

The Honorable Kathy Hochul

Governor of New York State

Executive Chamber

State Capitol

Albany, New York 12224

Re: State of the State Announcement on Ghost Guns

Dear Governor Hochul,

I am writing on behalf of the New York State Bar Association to express our support for amending New York law to further protect New Yorkers from 3D printed guns and ghost guns. The New York State Bar Association has long supported sensible, evidence-based gun safety measures at both the state and federal levels. The Association's 2020 Task Force on Mass Shootings and Assault Weapons recommended support for legislation designed to prevent the manufacture, sale, and transport of ghost guns.¹ We commend you for prioritizing this issue as a State of the State initiative.

When our Task Force issued its report, 3-D printing technology had not yet advanced to the point where it could reliably produce functional firearms or easily replicable component parts. That has changed. The ability to print critical firearm components, including parts that can be used to modify existing weapons and, in some cases, facilitate automatic fire, presents a rapidly evolving public safety challenge that demands a coordinated and technically informed response. As you noted, New York has experienced a 60 percent reduction in gun violence over the past four years. That progress reflects the impact of sustained, evidence-based legislative and enforcement efforts. At the same time, rapid advances in 3-D printing technology have introduced new challenges,

¹ New York State Bar Association, *Report of the Task Force on Mass Shootings and Assault Weapons*. 10. <https://nysba.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Final-Report-11.5.2020-Task-Force-on-Mass-Shootings-and-Assault-Weapons-With-cover-FINAL-HOD-approval-and-staff-memos-deleted.pdf> (Approved by the House of Delegates on November 7, 2020)


particularly the proliferation of untraceable, homemade firearms that fall outside traditional regulatory frameworks.

As a statewide organization representing attorneys across every area of practice, the New York State Bar Association brings together expertise in criminal law, technology, constitutional law, and regulatory policy. We stand ready to serve as a resource as these proposals move forward. We can assess legal frameworks, implementation considerations, and potential unintended consequences, to ensure that these measures are both effective and durable.

Thank you for your leadership in continuing to prioritize the safety of New Yorkers and their families. We look forward to working collaboratively to address the evolving challenges posed by emerging firearm technologies.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me or Government Relations Director Matthew Pennello at mpennello@nysba.org, 518-487-5748, with any questions or for further discussion about this important policy.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Kathleen M. Sweet". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Kathleen" being more prominent and the last name "Sweet" following in a similar style.

Kathleen M. Sweet
President

Cc: Brian M. Mahanna, Esq., Counsel to the Governor
Jackie Bray, Director of State Operations
Sabrina Bierer, Deputy Secretary, Public Safety