

# United States Senate

November 22, 2021

Council President Nury Martinez  
Los Angeles City Council  
City Hall  
200 N Spring St, Suite 470  
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Council President Martinez:

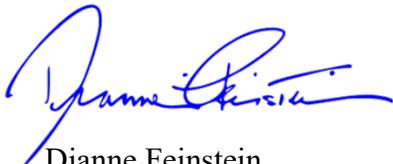
We write in support of Los Angeles City Councilmembers Paul Koretz and Paul Krekorian’s ordinance to prohibit ghost guns in Los Angeles. This ordinance is an important effort to help keep unserialized and untraceable firearms, known as “ghost guns,” off our streets. Similar initiatives have already been implemented in San Diego and San Francisco, and we commend the Los Angeles City Council for considering a similar measure.

Ghost guns pose a significant threat to public safety, creating a loophole through which individuals who are barred from possessing firearms can evade regular, routine background checks. According to a report on California gun crimes in the *New York Times*, “[g]host guns have accounted for 25 to 50 percent of the firearms recovered at crime scenes” in California over the past 18 months.<sup>1</sup> The Los Angeles Police Department alone has had an approximate 400 percent increase in ghost gun recoveries since 2017 and it is expected that this trend will continue to grow.<sup>2</sup> A relevant example of how dangerous these weapons can be is the tragic shooting of two Los Angeles County Deputies last September. Ordinances like the one put forward by Councilmembers Koretz and Krekorian are essential to public safety.

As the Los Angeles Police Department has stated, ghost guns are an epidemic across the nation. That is why we are proud to support federal legislation such as the “Untraceable Firearms Act” and the “3D Printed Gun Safety Act”. As we work to pass these important pieces of legislation, we applaud the Los Angeles City Council’s efforts to tackle this issue.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. We look forward to continuing to work with you on a state and federal level to help protect public safety.

Sincerely,



Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senator



Alex Padilla  
United States Senator

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<sup>1</sup> ‘Ghost Guns’: Firearms Kits Bought Online Fuel Epidemic of Violence, *New York Times* ([November 14, 2021](#))

<sup>2</sup> LAPD declares ‘ghost guns’ an ‘epidemic,’ citing 400% increase in seizures, *Los Angeles Times* ([October 15, 2021](#))