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To: Chairman King and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

Subject: House Bill 2278

Inference to HB 2278 I would support the changes that are being considered. Firearms are a prime target for criminals when burglarizing a home or a vehicle. The firearms are then sold on the street to be used for any number of reasons. I have been a police officer for over 20 years and in almost every home burglary where there are firearms in the residence the thief's have removed or attempted to remove the firearms. I and my officers have come across stolen firearms during our duties and at this time if the value is under \$1000.00 they are treated as a misdemeanor. There is a big difference between a stolen television and a stolen firearm, but currently they are treated as the same property with the same penalties.

I support the enhancements because I feel that punishment for someone who commits a theft or possess a stolen firearm should be greater because a firearm is a deadly instrument. Will it stop all burglaries, no. However, I do believe that it will deter some criminals from taking and possessing illegally obtained firearms because of the penalties involved.

Sincerely,

Steven L. Wayman  
Chief of Police  
City of Lansing