

CENTER TO PREVENT HANDGUN VIOLENCE

March 9, 2001

The Honorable _____
Attorney General for the State of _____

Dear Attorney General _____:

Enclosed for your review is a copy of our report, "Targeting Safety: How State Attorneys General Can Act Now to Save Lives." As you know, gun violence is a significant problem facing our nation. The daily shootings in our streets, in our homes, and all too often in our schools, serve as constant and grim reminders of this national tragedy. Although solutions to this tragic problem are varied and complicated, one central truth has emerged: the prevention of gun violence requires greater attention to the design of guns themselves. Safer guns can save lives, particularly young lives.

This special report outlines steps one state attorney general has taken to address the need for safer guns. The Massachusetts Attorney General's office implemented important gun safety standards pursuant to a state statute modeled after the Federal Trade Commission Act. Our research indicates that your office may also have the ability to implement gun safety regulations pursuant to powers provided by a similar state statute. These powers would enable you to address gun safety *without the need for new statutes*.

The gun safety standards implemented by the state of Massachusetts are common sense consumer product safety measures that will help save lives. I urge you to implement similar safety measures for your state. As the report explains, the Massachusetts safety standards, as well as other gun safety measures, provide important ways to keep Americans safe.

Sincerely,

Michael D. Barnes
President