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November 3, 2015

Dear Governor Rauner and Members of the Illinois General Assembly:

As organizations working for peace, we believe that state oversight of gun dealers is a critical step toward improving public safety.

While the vast majority of gun dealers operate responsibly, a small and unscrupulous group of them are disproportionately responsible for the sale of guns that victimize 1,300 Americans each and every day. In fact, 90% of crime guns in the United States can be traced to only 5% of gun dealers – some of the most notorious of which are based right here in Illinois.

The financial cost increasingly drains public resources as well. The price of one murder costs an average of \$441,000 in direct costs—including law enforcement, medical expenses, court costs, and prison—of which 87% is paid by taxpayers. Each gun death averages about \$6 million in total costs.

Open Communities works to make our north suburban Chicago communities just, inclusive and diverse. To make our communities a safe place to work and live, **we urge you to support legislation mandating state licensing of gun dealers.** We would like to see:

- Law enforcement inspections
- Background checks for employees
- Videotaping of all gun sales
- Video surveillance and improved security
- Restrictions on the location of gun dealers and ranges

We hope we can count on you to establish greater accountability for gun dealers. We believe this is a crucial step in saving not only our financial resources but in fact, the lives of our citizens.

Thank you in advance for your leadership.

Sincerely,

Gail Schechter
 Executive Director

