



# Washington State Fraternal Order of Police

## For Immediate Release

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### **Washington State Fraternal Order of Police Opposes I-1639** *Broad-reaching policy does not meet goals of making communities safer*

**(Tacoma, WA, October 23, 2018)** The Washington Fraternal Order of Police (WAFOP) opposes I-1639 and urges voters to reject the initiative at the ballot.

The Washington Fraternal Order of Police stands with our state's other law enforcement groups in opposing Initiative 1639. Washington should review sensible, law enforcement informed legislation to reduce gun violence and not enact broad reaching laws that will not meet the desired outcome of making our communities safer.

In addition to not meeting it's intended goals there are provisions in I-1639 that adversely impact law enforcement including;

- The annual verification process will become backlogged by adding pistols to the qualifying firearms and not providing a funding mechanism for this mandate.
- I-1639 would turn legal gun owners ages 18-20 into illegal gun owners and local officers would be put in the position of seizing guns those guns. In effect turning the law enforcement community against some of it's most law-abiding and contemporaneously trained citizens and gun owners.
- I-1639 does not provide exemptions for law enforcement officers under the "community endangerment" provisions for both loaded and unloaded firearms.

I-1639 will not meet its intent in reducing gun violence. Instead it will target law abiding gun owners and reclassify legally owned firearms into illegally owned weapons. A true effort to address gun violence will focus on societal causes like mental health, addiction and crime.

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The Washington State Fraternal Order of Police (WAFOP) is a 501(c)8 non profit organization which represents over 2,600 law enforcement officers in the state. Our motto is "Cops helping Cops".