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COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Andy Beshear
GOVERNOR

Capitol Building, Suite 100
700 Capitol Avenue
Frankfort, KY 40601
(502) 564-2611
Fax: (502) 564-2517

VETO MESSAGE FROM THE
GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
REGARDING HOUSE BILL 78 OF THE 2026 REGULAR SESSION

I, Andy Beshear, Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, pursuant to the authority granted under section 88 of the Kentucky Constitution, do hereby veto the following:

House Bill 78 of the 2026 Regular Session of the General Assembly in its entirety.

Instead of working to reduce gun violence, the General Assembly passed House Bill 78 to shield firearms manufacturers and sellers from liability for gun violence committed by their customers. House Bill 78 then punishes victims who attempt to bring a lawsuit in violation of the Act.

Justice for victims requires our courts and our legal process to bring the facts to light so that anyone with responsibility for violent acts may be held accountable. House Bill 78 prioritizes immunity for gun dealers over the safety of the Commonwealth's citizens. In honor of my friend Tommy Elliott and the four other victims whose lives were claimed in a mass shooting in the Commonwealth just three short years ago, I am vetoing this bill.

For these reasons, I am vetoing House Bill 78.

This, the 2nd day of April, 2026.

A handwritten signature of Andy Beshear in black ink, written over a horizontal line.

Andy Beshear
Governor