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\*\* Alderman \*\*  
**Michele Smith**  
Chicago's 43rd Ward



## Do Not Stand Idly By - Make a Call to Stop Gun Violence

Dear Friends,

City Council has just passed laws to expand reporting requirements for firearms, increase penalties for failure to report as required, and increase penalties for other types of firearms-related violations, such as possession of an unregistered gun.

**Now it is time to get some of those laws passed on a federal level.** There are two key bills that will be considered in the U.S. Senate very soon. Call our Senators, who are co-sponsors of the bill, to tell them you support their efforts.

**S. 54, the Stop Illegal Trafficking in Firearms Act of 2013**, co-sponsored by our Senators Durbin and Kirk, prohibits the trafficking and straw purchase of firearms, with violators facing stiff sentences if they had reasonable cause to believe that any firearm would be used to commit a crime of violence. The bill also toughens penalties for those who possess firearms illegally or who sell firearms to prohibited purchasers.

**S.374, the Fix Gun checks Act of 2013**, requires that all gun sales be subject to a background check. About 40% of all gun sales - this is about 6.6 million guns- are conducted by unlicensed "private sellers," including gun shows and the internet. [Universal background checks are supported by over 90% of voters.](#)

**Call today and say you support these bills:**

**Senator Richard Durbin: (202) 224-2152**

**Senator Mark Kirk: (202) 224-2854**

In this effort, I am supporting [United Power for Action and Justice](#), a broad-based community organization composed of over 40 religious congregations and civic organizations in calling for changes to gun laws to protect our city. If your congregation would like to learn more about "Do Not Stand Idly By," the campaign for accountability for gun violence, please contact organizer [Tom Lenz](#).

# March Against Gun Violence Friday, March 22 6 PM

Join me this Friday at CrossWalk, a processional to remember the more than **800 children and youth killed in Chicago since 2008**, and to commit ourselves to ending this epidemic of violence in our city.

The march begins at **St. James Episcopal Church at Rush at Huron at 6 PM this Friday, March 22, at 6 pm** but you may join at any point along the route.

Click [here](#) for more details. Bus transportation is available to return you from the end of the route, but you must [register](#).

Sometimes it feels as though there is nothing we can do. But we can. Take a moment to make a phone call. Join the march against gun violence. Forward this email to others.



Sincerely,

Michele Smith  
43rd Ward Alderman

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