



STATE OF WASHINGTON
OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
Cyrus Habib

November 27, 2017

Dear Sergeant at Arms Staubitz,

Pursuant to Senate Rule 1, I have determined that the presence of firearms in the Senate galleries, whether concealed or open-carried, violates the order and decorum required for the operation of the Senate. Accordingly, and pursuant to that rule, I write to instruct you to take necessary steps to prevent individuals carrying firearms from gaining access to the Senate galleries when the Senate is in session, beginning on the first day of the 2018 Legislative Session. In doing so, particular emphasis should be placed on preventing assault weapons from being brought into the galleries.

I appreciate the briefings you have provided me throughout this past year, and I agree that reasonable initial steps towards the enforcement of this order include: posting announcements and sharing information about this new policy, prohibiting overcoats or large bags that could be used to conceal firearms into the galleries, providing coat racks for visitors' overcoats, and increasing security vigilance at all times prior to, and during, Senate sessions.

Furthermore, as discussed, I would like you to provide my office and the Secretary of the Senate with information on the logistical and financial implications of installing metal detectors to ensure full enforcement of this policy. Please provide this information as soon as possible, and before the start of the 2018 Legislative Session.

I appreciate your cooperation with this order, and my staff and I are available to work with you on its enforcement in preparation for the 2018 Legislative Session.

Sincerely,

Cyrus Habib

Lt. Governor Cyrus Habib

