



Statement in Support of Constitutional and Common Sense Steps to Reduce Gun Violence

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Marylanders to Prevent Gun Violence is a statewide organization dedicated to reducing gun deaths and injuries throughout the state of Maryland, with a focus on reducing urban gun violence and gun suicide. Our work ranges from addressing data-driven legislative change, leading a violence intervention and prevention coalition, and running programs for at-risk children. Our mission is to work toward ending the cycles of violence that plague our state.

For too long, there has been no action on the federal level to address the more than 65,000 of people who are killed or injured in the United States by gun violence every year. Discrepancies in state laws create a system of uneven effect in access to deadly weapons with far reaching consequences. While states like Maryland attempt to regulate access, our efforts are often countered by those states that continue to weaken regulation. Weak gun laws of other states and at the federal level undermine our efforts. We know that there is no single piece of legislation that is going to immediately turn the tide of gun violence in this country. Gun rights organizations have spent more than 20 years undermining the safety and security of this country and the work to reverse that is complicated. It is also possible. The following are all key areas and examples in which the federal government can and should take action:

- Background Checks (i.e., universal background checks and strengthening NICS)
- Permit to Purchase Licensing (requiring individuals to be licenced in advance of the purchase a gun)
- Gun owner parameters (i.e., prohibitions, domestic violence, minimum age)
- Gun sales (i.e., gun dealers, gun shows, maintaining records)
- Owner responsibility (i.e, registration, reporting of stolen firearms)
- Child and consumer safety (i.e., child access prevention holding adults accountable, safe storage)
- Guns in Public (i.e., concealed and open carry laws, stand your ground, guns in schools)
- Hardware and ammunition (i.e., assault weapons, ammo regulations, large capacity magazines)

- Crime guns (i.e., production of untraceable gun aka ghost guns, trafficking, straw purchasers, microstamping and ballistics)
- Violence Intervention & Prevention (i.e., structure and funding for upending the inherent inequities in systems that lead to cycles of violence in communities through hospital and community based violence interrupters, police reform, and infrastructure building in affected communities)

We applaud the efforts of the committee to tackle this work. The list is long and the work is hard, but failure to act is costing the lives of generations of people every year. Though our organization is small, we will continue to do all we can to advocate for better gun regulation and violence intervention and prevention in Maryland and the United States and will support your efforts in whatever way we can.