

STRENGTHENING LAWS



Dangerous Access Prevention

Keeping guns out of dangerous hands is one of the most effective things we can do to keep our communities safe. Unsecured guns taken from the home by children or prohibited people have been at the heart of some of the most tragic gun violence incidents in our state. More than 75 percent of all youth suicide attempts are committed with a gun found in the home and over a 25-year period, more than 65 percent of school shooters obtained the firearm at their home or that of a relative. In Washington, the 2016 Burlington mall shooting was committed by a young man court ordered not to possess firearms after a domestic violence case. In 2015, a 15-year-old boy shot five of his classmates at Marysville-Pilchuck high school using a rifle from his home.; in 2008 only one month after being released from jail, convicted felon Isaac Zamora broke into a neighbor's home, stole a rifle, handgun, and ammunition which he used to kill six people; and in 2012, elementary school student Amina Bowman was killed in an accidental shooting by a classmate who brought a gun to school in his backpack.

Despite these tragedies, it is virtually impossible to hold anyone accountable if a child or prohibited person accesses an unsafely stored firearm and uses it to kill or injure themselves or someone else.

Dangerous Access Prevention is built upon successful policies in Florida, California, and 28 other states which have helped keep guns out of dangerous hands. States with access prevention laws in place for at least one year saw a 23% drop in unintentional firearm deaths among youth younger than 15. In addition, during a 25-year period, over 65% of school shooters obtained the firearm used in the crime at their home or that of a relative. One study found that more than 75% of the guns used in youth suicide attempts and unintentional injuries were stored in the residence of the victim, a relative, or a friend.

This policy encourages responsible gun storage by creating the potential for criminal liability, depending on the severity of the incident, if a person's unsafely stored firearm is accessed by a child or anyone prohibited by law from possessing a gun. This includes:

- Children under the age of 18 years-old
- People convicted of Felonies
- Domestic abusers
- Individuals subject to Domestic Violence Protection Orders or Extreme Risk Protection Orders

Enhanced Assault Weapon Background Checks

Assault weapons are designed to kill humans quickly and efficiently by using military features beyond a standard sporting firearm. Assault weapons have been used in a number of high-profile shooting incidents, including the shooting of four teenagers in Mukilteo by a 19-year-old who had purchased the gun earlier that week, the 2016 Orlando Pulse nightclub shooting, the 2012 Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting, and the 2012 Aurora, Colorado shooting. Studies show that shootings where assault weapons or large capacity ammunition magazines were used, resulted in 135% more people shot and 57% more killed, compared with other mass shootings.

In Washington state today, assault weapons are treated the same as hunting rifles – and that means it is easier to buy an assault weapon than it is to purchase a handgun. The Enhanced Assault Weapon Background Check bill is built upon the in-depth background check standards we currently use when issuing Concealed Pistol Licenses. This policy will require that someone must be over 21 years old, must state a clear, lawful reason and use for the Assault Weapon and must renew the background check each year to ensure they are still eligible to possess the weapon.

ALLIANCE
FOR GUN RESPONSIBILITY