

# 2019 GUN RESPONSIBILITY POLICY AGENDA

**ALLIANCE**  
FOR GUN RESPONSIBILITY

**KEEPING GUNS OUT OF DANGEROUS HANDS:** WASHINGTON STATE IS CONTINUALLY IMPROVING AND ENFORCING OUR FIREARM LAWS TO HELP KEEP OUR COMMUNITIES SAFE AND GUNS OUT OF DANGEROUS HANDS. STEPS THE LEGISLATURE CAN TAKE THIS YEAR INCLUDE:

- **RESTRICT ACCESS TO HIGH-CAPACITY MAGAZINES:** High-capacity magazines make shootings more deadly and allow shooters to fire more rounds, faster. Recent reviews of mass shootings showed that 50% involved high-capacity magazines and, in shootings where high-capacity magazines are used, more people are shot overall and more people die. **Keeping high-capacity magazines away from people looking to cause harm** would reduce risks and help limit the scope of mass shooting tragedies in Washington.
- **SUICIDE CRISIS PREVENTION:** Today, people who have been involuntarily committed consecutively for longer than 14 days may not possess firearms. However, individuals subject to 72-hour involuntary holds for mental health may still legally purchase firearms — even those who have received multiple 72-hour holds or have been held intermittently for 14 days or longer remain eligible to possess a firearm, despite the potential risk to themselves or others. One study showed that 75% of gun-eligible people who used a gun to complete suicide and 33% of those arrested for a violent gun crime had been previously subject to a 72-hour involuntary hold. The Suicide Crisis Prevention bill will help prevent suicide and violent crises by **temporarily restricting access to firearms for people who have been held for mental health treatment for 72-hours.**
- **COMMUNITY AND VICTIM PROTECTION:** Access to firearms at a point of crisis can mean the difference between life and death. We know that abused individuals are five-times more likely to be killed by their abuser if the abuser has access to a firearm; additionally, more than half of mass shootings involve the murder of a family member or current or former intimate partner. **Strengthening our firearm surrender laws for domestic violence and other protection orders,** and authorizing law enforcement to temporarily remove firearms when making an arrest for domestic violence or serving a protection order, will help prevent gun violence by removing firearms from volatile, dangerous situations.
- **HATE CRIMES:** Firearms pose specific risks to minority communities. Over and over again we have seen the deadly intersection of hate and gun violence; from the Pulse nightclub in Orlando to the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, and the Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle. Guns have too often been used to kill and intimidate people due to their race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, or mental, physical, or sensory handicap. **Strengthening our protection order laws to include threats of hate-based violence** will help protect vulnerable communities.

- **STRENGTHENING BACKGROUND CHECKS:** Having effective, accurate and safe systems in place means laws are effectively implemented. Updates include:
  - Joining the 27 states and the District of Columbia who **require safety training** for a concealed pistol license;
  - Centralizing and **stream-lining our background check system** to ensure law enforcement and gun dealers have the most up-to-date information;
  - **Updating our list of people prohibited from possession firearms** to include additional crimes that are indicators of future violence and individuals found incompetent to stand trial.

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**COMMUNITY SAFETY:** ALLOWING LOCAL COMMUNITIES TO HELP KEEP THEMSELVES SAFE, CLOSING LOOPHOLES TO HELP KEEP CRIME GUNS OFF OUR STREETS, CREATING EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION TOOLS AND ALIGNING PROCESSES AND SYSTEMS TO REFLECT THE MOST UP-TO-DATE RESEARCH ARE SOME WAYS WE CAN HELP KEEP OUR COMMUNITIES SAFE FROM GUN VIOLENCE.

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- **RESTORE LOCAL AUTHORITY:** For over 30 years, our local towns, cities, and counties have been blocked from taking action to prevent gun violence on their own because of the statewide preemption law. Local leaders are best positioned to know how best to protect their communities. We should **restore their ability to limit firearm access and the open carrying of firearms** in certain public places—like crowded events, public parks and libraries where kids play and learn.
- **PROTECT CHILD CARE AND EARLY LEARNING CENTERS:** Today, we take steps to keep our kids safe by making schools gun-free zones. It just makes sense to **extend these gun-free zones to child care and early learning centers.**
- **HELP KEEP CRIME GUNS OFF THE STREET:** Crime guns are a major problem and a contributor to gun violence across our state. There are common-sense steps we can take to keep crime guns off our streets and make our communities safer.
  - Allow the State Patrol to **destroy confiscated crime guns**, rather than require them to auction or trade them.
  - Ensuring we are able to **respond to new technology by closing loopholes** that currently allow sharing and downloading designs for untraceable weapons that can be printed or manufactured anywhere.
  - Lost and stolen firearms are a key source for crime guns — in Washington State, an estimated 33,164 firearms were reported stolen between 2012 and 2015 alone (the 10th-highest in the nation). The Lost and Stolen Firearms bill will follow the example of a growing number of cities in Washington by **requiring owners to alert law enforcement that their weapon may now be on the black market.** Lost and stolen firearms should be required to be reported to local police within 48 hours of being lost or stolen.
  - **Provide funding for research** and effective implementation of gun violence prevention programs and laws. Funding for programming that addresses everyday gun violence must be a priority.
  - Work with advocates to **implement the recommendations of the Mass Shooting Work Group** to institute policies which will help keep our kids and families safe from gun violence and mass shootings.