# **ALLIANCE FOR GUN RESPONSIBILITY**

# **2016** ANNUAL REPORT







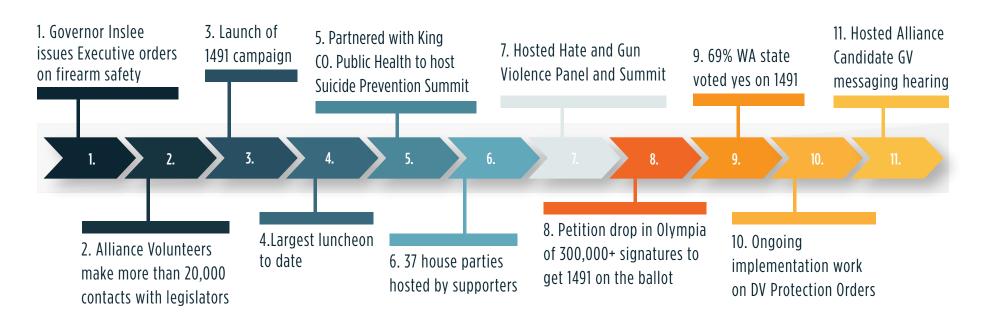




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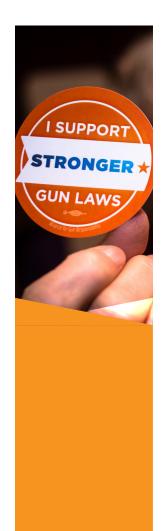




# A YEAR OF GROWTH AND SUCCESS

2016 ANNUAL REPORT The Alliance saw great success in 2016, both in terms of the Initiative 1491 campaign that ended up passing with nearly seventy percent of the vote and in terms of our growth as an organization. We bolstered our Foundation work with community summits aimed at increasing awareness around public health issues and we engaged with diverse groups throughout the state. The year also saw our first significant Political Action Committee work, with the Victory Fund supporting key legislators in our state who make gun violence prevention a priority in their work. We followed up our campaign efforts with a robust slate of legislative goals we plan to see through to the greatest success possible. Thank you for supporting us and for all your hard work dedicated to finding responsible solutions to gun violence.

#### LETTER FROM THE ALLIANCE LEADERSHIP



The end of 2016 marks the Alliance for Gun Responsibility's fourth year of working for common sense gun laws and programs that reduce the devastating toll of gun violence on our community. Over the course of those four years, we experienced tremendous growth and opportunity, but also obstacles and loss.

Last year, approximately 33,000 Americans died by gun. There were high-profile shootings in San Bernardino, Baton Rouge, Orlando, Dallas, and in our own state – Mukilteo and Burlington. The memory of the victims motivates us every day, yet in some ways, each and every one feels like a failure. Gun violence is preventable and we, like every one of you reading this now, know that time spent not making progress translates into lives lost.

The Alliance for Gun Responsibility is one of the leading state-level organizations in gun violence prevention. More than 30,000 Washingtonians have been organized to demand common sense gun laws from their legislators. As a result, we've begun to build a real gun responsibility coalition in our Legislature.

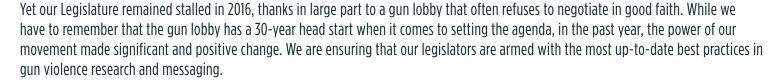
In 2016, the Alliance dedicated itself to addressing two of the most important, but least discussed aspects of gun violence: suicide and domestic violence. We gathered public health, suicide, and community experts from across Washington state and the nation to focus on evidenced-based best practices, next steps in reducing and preventing gun violence, and increased coordination of suicide prevention efforts. We undertook a massive effort to ensure that new laws, like those that empower survivors of domestic violence to keep guns out of their abuser's hands, are effectively implemented statewide. We took this approach because the key to ending the gun violence crisis in our communities is to combine strong gun laws with reliable, functional systems that ensure those laws work the way citizens expect and deserve.

After the worst mass shooting in our country's history in June, we also knew that it was our mandate to explore the connection between all forms of hate and gun violence. In August we hosted a panel filled with local thought leaders and practitioners, to explore the intersection of gun violence and hate. We followed the panel with a full day summit to workshop how we can incorporate the thoughts and expertise from the most impacted communities into our policy development and program work.

Now more than ever, Washingtonians want actions that save lives. Through your calls for change, we've helped enhance first-in-the-nation gun violence research, strengthened implementation of existing laws, reached out to those in crisis, and crafted a legislative agenda designed to keep guns out of dangerous hands.

#### LETTER FROM THE ALLIANCE LEADERSHIP





We demonstrated this continued shift by passing Extreme Risk Protection Orders at the ballot with nearly 70% of the vote! We won in all but one legislative district and sent a clear message to legislators that they must reflect the will of the people on gun responsibility. The mandate is clear, the Legislature must act to protect our children from unintentional shootings, improve suicide prevention resources, and enforce laws that keep guns away from felons and domestic abusers.



Rights cannot exist without responsibility. Fundamentally, people want to do the right thing to make kids, families, and communities safer. The current administration in the other Washington is making it clear that now more than ever, if we are going to protect our communities, it must be done at the state level.

The future of this movement lies within all of you – the survivors, doctors, police officers, judges, researchers, pastors, advocates, activists, mothers, prosecutors and defense attorneys, teachers, legislators, and, yes, even gun owners that we work with every single day. It also lies in the willingness of so many generous donors to support our work financially. We continue to be humbled daily by the amazing amount of effort and energy from so many people in our state. This work is only possible because of all of you.

We are proud of our coalition, our Alliance. We are proud of what we have accomplished thus far and look forward to facing the challenges ahead with the same determination we have in the past.



# ONWARD!

Renée Hopkins, CEO Linda Parrish, Alliance for Gun Responsibility Foundation President Zach Silk, Alliance for Gun Responsibility President

#### **ORGANIZATION SUMMARY**



The Alliance for Gun Responsibility works to end the gun violence crisis in our community and to promote a culture of gun ownership that balances rights with responsibilities. Through collaboration with experts, civic leaders, and citizens, we work to find evidenced-based solutions to the crisis of gun violence in our community. We create innovative policy, advocate for changes in laws, and promote community education to reduce gun violence.

Gun responsibility has become a national priority since the tragedy at Sandy Hook, and the Alliance for Gun Responsibility has been a major driver of that change in Washington State and around the nation. In just a few short years, we've accomplished the following:

- Leading a statewide coalition of citizens and supporters to pass Initiative 1491, creating Extreme Risk Protection Orders that save lives and prevent tragedies, and Initiative 594, America's first ballot initiative that closed the background check loophole for gun sales.
- Helping to protect Seattle's landmark tax on firearm and ammunition sales, which funds critical programs and tools supporting the welfare of the people of Seattle.
- Advocating for, and protecting, stronger gun laws in the Legislature, including Extreme Risk Protection Orders, Child Access Prevention, suicide prevention, and more.
- Funding critical research into the causes and consequences of firearm death and injury.
- Conducting public education campaigns that inform the public on the importance of gun responsibility.

Gun violence is preventable – if we work together to prevent it. The Alliance for Gun Responsibility provides paths to take action that saves lives.

#### The Alliance for Gun Responsibility includes three separate organizations:

- a 501(c)(4) nonprofit organization;
- a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit charitable organization, the Alliance for Gun Responsibility Foundation.
- a Political Action Committee (PAC) the Alliance for Gun Responsibility Victory Fund.

These sister organizations are governed by separate boards, and manage the organization's public education, advocacy, and political giving programs, respectively.

# 2016 ALLIANCE FOR GUN RESPONSIBILITY (C4) PROGRAMMING



#### **Accountability Program**

Since 2015 the Alliance for Gun Responsibility has provided a counter to the NRA's report card on state legislators. With careful tracking and logging throughout the year, the Alliance produces and distributes a legislator scorecard that provides a nuanced analysis of each individual with an overall grade on gun responsibility. We continue to see an increase in the number of high grades along with more champions each year. With our social media networks and with print media when appropriate, we also recognize the good and poor work done by legislators immediately following actions during the legislative sessions.



#### **Direct Lobbying And Advocacy**

The Alliance for Gun Responsibility strives to have a constant grassroots presence in Olympia during session, and to be in contact with elected officials during non-session times utilizing our volunteer base and staff. In addition to our grassroots lobbying and advocacy, we also invest in professional lobbyists who work strategically with our elected champions to ensure the best possible outcomes for our priority policies. The direct lobbying and advocacy is used at all levels of our state government.



### **Extreme Risk Protection Orders-Ballot Initiative**

From late February through election night the Alliance executed a successful and extremely strategic campaign to ensure that Extreme Risk Protection Orders would be law! With careful research, messaging, communications and grassroots advocacy plans the Alliance and our coalition passed I-1491 by nearly 70% of the popular vote-sweeping the state with the exception of only one legislative district.

## 2016 ALLIANCE FOR GUN RESPONSIBILITY FOUNDATION (C3) PROGRAMMING

#### Implementation of Firearms Laws

Washington State has passed three recent landmark GVP laws: Domestic Violence Protection Orders, background checks, and Extreme Risk Protection Orders. All three laws require prosecutors, law enforcement, courts, advocates, and other stakeholders in 39 counties to actively engage in successful policy implementation. In 2016, the Alliance funded and took part in multiple groups of these stakeholders to develop implementation solutions to help make these laws work in practice. We know that laws like Extreme Risk Protection Orders have shown to reduce suicide by firearm and that DVPO laws have proven to reduce domestic violence firearm homicides by up to 25%. In WA state from 1997-2014 380 people died by DV firearm homicide. With a well implemented DVPO policy, on average more than 5 lives could be saved per year in WA state. Implementation is a vital component to policy work that will reduce gun deaths.



#### **Summits**

The Alliance Foundation hosted three key summits in 2016. We followed The Suicide Prevention Summit brought together subject matter experts and mental health professionals focused on evidenced-based best practices, next steps in reducing and preventing gun violence, and increased coordination of prevention efforts.

Our two-part Hate Crimes and Gun Violence series was an attempt to break through the myths and misperceptions that drive this violence in communities of diversity. Part one utilized education, personal storytelling, and open discussion. A panel of eight leading activists from diverse communities explored the causes and impacts of hate and gun violence and offered solutions for change. Part two explored the intersection of gun violence and social isolation, stigma, and discrimination. Collectively, we workshopped meaningful policy and program solutions to address the tragic consequences of hate and gun violence in communities targeted by intolerance.

#### Research

The Alliance is committed to an informed messaging approach based on research that allows us to best communicate the importance of GVP with voters and law makers. Part of that commitment is ensuring our grassroots advocates also have the best messaging tools at their disposal for interactions with legislators. In 2016 we will continue to work with a nationally-recognized public opinion research firm to conduct wide-ranging surveys of public attitudes in Washington State surrounding gun violence prevention.



## **Outreach Events**

2016 saw an increase in Alliance participation in key community events. We marched alongside the LGBTQ community in June's Pride Parade and held a Disarm Hate rally in August. We promoted and participated in the nationwide June 2 "Wear Orange" campaign and in September, we hosted XX simultaneous concerts throughout the King County area in support of Concert Across America to End Gun Violence.

# 2016 ALLIANCE FOR GUN RESPONSIBILITY VICTORY FUND (PAC) PROGRAMMING



Compared to previous years the Victory Fund and the gun responsibility movement has made significant progress in scale and engagement of candidates for legislative office.

#### **Candidate Engagement**

This year seventy-four candidates submitted questionnaires for endorsement and support compared to twenty-one candidates in the 2014 election cycle.

In total the Victory Fund made 54 candidate endorsements including several candidates for statewide office:

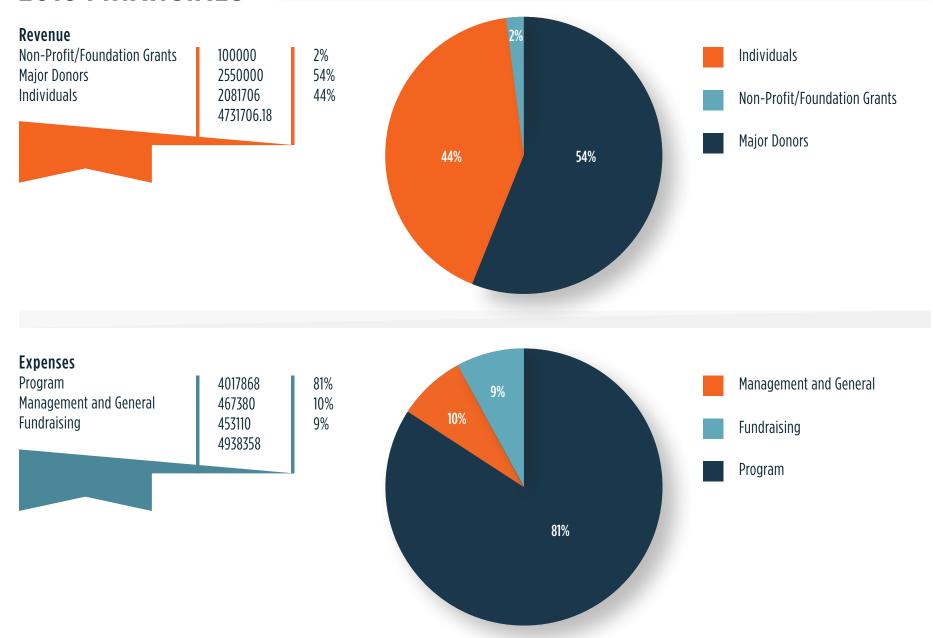
- Jay Inslee for Governor
- Cyrus Habib for Lt. Governor
- Tina Podlodowski for Secretary of State (Founding Board Member)

#### **Candidate Education**

In 2016 the Alliance for Gun Responsibility Victory Fund hosted our first-ever candidate training. Forty-five people attended- the majority of which were candidates and elected legislators with the remaining attendees made up of key legislative staff and policy influencers. In a four-hour long training featuring local experts from public health and gun violence prevention advocacy as well as several national experts from ARS, Everytown and national pollster Dave Walker from GQR. The information reviewed in the training included:

- Public health research and data
- 1491 efficacy & messaging
- Message training on general GVP issues
- 2017 policy preview
- · Myth de-bunking and expert Q&A

## **2016 FINANCIALS**



<sup>\*</sup> These finacials represent activity in all three arms of the Alliance.



The Alliance for Gun Responsibility had an amazingly successful year in 2016. We know that our strength comes not from our organization in and of itself, but from the broad coalition of organizations, survivors, activists, faith leaders, moms, grandmothers, fathers, grandfathers, donors, volunteers, law enforcement, pediatricians, mental health professionals, academics, advocates, and thought leaders. We are only as strong as the combined strength of our coalition.

Thank you to our dozens of partner organizations, in Washington state and from across the country.

Thank you to the hundreds of individuals who represent each of the categories listed above.

Thank you to our thousands of donors who support our organization, our work, with a median donation of \$15.

Together we will continue to pass laws and support programming to reduce the toll of gun violence on our communities.

THANK YOU!

