

# 2023 ALLIANCE FOR GUN RESPONSIBILITY POLICY AGENDA



Amid record levels of gun violence in Washington and across the US, it is essential to protect and build on the progress we've made to keep our communities safe. Our **2023 Legislative Agenda** reflects the urgent need for Washington to continue leading the way on adopting innovative policies to prevent gun violence.

**Restrict Access to Assault Weapons:** Semi-automatic assault weapons have been used in all five of the deadliest shootings in U.S. history. These weapons were designed for the battlefield—they have no place in our neighborhoods.

**Establish Pathways to Justice for Gun Violence Victims:** Federal law has shielded the gun industry—dealers and manufacturers—from nearly all accountability for the danger and damages their products cause. Washington can hold gun industry members accountable by ensuring a level playing field for responsible industry members, incentivizing safe and responsible business practices, and establishing a pathway for individuals to seek justice in court for harms caused by the industry.

**Require a Permit to Purchase Firearms:** Permit to purchase systems require a comprehensive background check, safety training, and waiting period to purchase a firearm. States with permit to purchase laws have lower rates of firearm-related death, lower rates of guns diverted to criminals shortly after retail sale, and lower rates of guns exported to criminals in other states.

**Protect Progress and Continue Momentum:** Washington must build on recent strides made to prevent gun violence by closing dangerous loopholes, extending purchase requirements to all firearms, continuing to align victim protection processes, and strengthening our Voluntary Waiver program.

**Reject Armed Intimidation:** The carrying of firearms in public places greatly increases the possibility of deadly violence and produces a chilling effect on daily life. Washington should expand existing safeguards to include prohibitions on concealed carry and apply them to more public spaces to help reduce the risk of political violence by firearm. Additionally, it is crucial that we take steps to intervene against threats of mass violence by removing firearms from dangerous situations. Finally, we must enable local leaders to make decisions for their own communities regarding additional protections to prevent armed intimidation and gun violence.

**Invest in Community-Based Programs and Public Education:** The state must invest in community and public education work to supplement and strengthen legislative progress. First, Washington must greatly expand funding for the Office of Firearm Safety and Violence Prevention to support on-the-ground work in disproportionately impacted communities. And second, the state must make meaningful investments in public education efforts, including executing public education campaigns around safe storage practices and Extreme Risk Protection Orders (ERPOs), instituting ERPO training for law enforcement and court personnel, and ensuring schools serve as a source of information for families about the risks of firearms.

**Address Inequitable and Biased Policing:** Addressing inequitable and biased policing is an essential part of combating gun violence. As such, the Alliance is committed to supporting the individuals and coalition members leading the way in building on recent progress to reduce policy violence, increase accountability and transparency, set clear guidance for law enforcement, and improve access to justice.