

## LETTER TO OUR SUPPORTERS

As I reflect on the year, I am filled with profound gratitude for your unwavering dedication to our cause. Your commitment to the Alliance and our mission to end gun violence has been the cornerstone of our progress and success. With each passing year, your support strengthens our resolve and emboldens our actions, propelling us ever closer to a safer, more just society.

In 2023, our collective efforts bore fruit in ways that exceeded our most ambitious aspirations. Together, we confronted the stark realities of gun violence head-on, refusing to accept it as an inevitability of modern life. Instead, we confronted it with courage and a relentless pursuit of change.

One of our most significant achievements this year was the successful advocacy for common-sense gun legislation in Washington State. Through strategic partnerships, grassroots mobilization, and tireless lobbying efforts, we helped enact eight vital gun violence prevention and community safety bills that will save lives. Moreover, Washington State has now become the 10th state to prohibit assault weapons, removing these instruments of mass violence from our streets and communities. Assault weapons have tragically been the weapon of choice in some of the deadliest shootings of the past decade. By enacting this lifesaving law, we take a significant step towards preventing future tragedies in Washington State.

These victories are a testament to the dedication of hundreds of thousands of Washington state voters and advocates who demanded progress. We also owe immense gratitude to our champions in the legislature who responded by enacting these essential laws. Their tireless efforts have made our communities safer, and for that, we are profoundly grateful today and every day.

The Alliance for Gun Responsibility Victory Fund received a record number of endorsement requests this year. We were ultimately proud to help 38 candidates—spanning the entire state—win their seats. Additionally, we spearheaded a coalition independent expenditure campaign that mailed over 45,000 voters information about the choice between MAGA extremist Sheriff Adam Fortney and gun responsibility advocate Susana Johnson for Snohomish County sheriff. Voters elected Susana Johnson, making her the first female sheriff in Snohomish County's history. This victory not only shifted the balance of power but also solidified voters' backing for dedicated public servants committed to community safety.

The importance of local elections like these cannot be overstated. Without local leaders dedicated to prioritizing gun violence prevention, we can't guarantee that commonsense gun safety measures will be enacted or that existing gun laws will be adequately funded and implemented.

But perhaps most importantly, our work in 2023 fostered a sense of hope and solidarity among those affected by gun violence. By amplifying the voices of survivors, advocating for policy change, and fostering meaningful dialogue, we are growing a movement of resilience and determination. Together, we are proving that even in the face of unimaginable tragedy, there is strength in unity and power in action.

As we look ahead to the challenges that lie ahead, I am reminded of the power of our collective resolve. With your continued support, I am confident that we will continue to make meaningful progress toward our shared goal of a safer, more just society without gun violence.

In closing, I want to express my deepest gratitude to each and every one of you for your unwavering support, your steadfast commitment, and your tireless advocacy. Together, we are not just shaping history; we are creating a future where every individual has the right to live free from fear and violence of gun violence.



THANK YOU FOR BEING IN THIS FIGHT WITH US.

- Renée Hopkins | CEO, Alliance for Gun Responsibility TABLE OF CONTENTS

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## **ORGANIZATION & BOARD**

#### **ALLIANCE FOR GUN RESPONSIBILITY**

501(c)(4) nonprofit organization: Conducts legislative advocacy and has helped pass three ballot measures and more than 30 gun safety bills in Olympia.



#### **ALLIANCE FOR GUN RESPONSIBILITY FOUNDATION**

501(c)(3) nonprofit charitable organization: Responsible for research, program and public education work, implementation of laws, summit education series, and grassroots advocacy.



## ALLIANCE FOR GUN RESPONSIBILITY VICTORY FUND & ALLIANCE FOR GUN RESPONSIBILITY FEDERAL VICTORY FUND

Washington state and federal Political Action Committees: Endorse municipal, state, and federal gun responsibility candidates.



#### 501(c)(3) BOARD MEMBERS

Ben Carr Cheryl Berenson Matt Bellew Stacy Andersen Niko Battle Kevin Brannon Emily Cantrell Sue Cary Adrian Diaz Meredith Goldstein

Rory Graves Shalisa Hayes Drew Johnston Linda Parrish April Schentrup Zach Silk Danny Weiner Regina Malveaux Jane Weiss Daniel Weiner

VICTORY FUND

Jane Weiss

#### 501(c)(4) BOARD MEMBERS

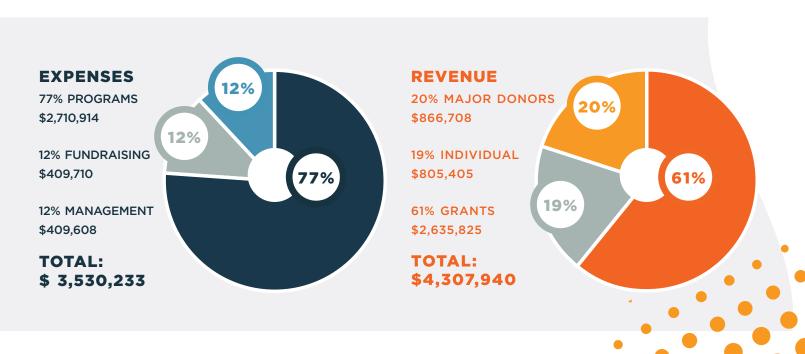
Sally Clark Steve Kessel
Leesa Manion Caleb Weaver
Zach Silk Scott Wang

## **FINANCIALS**

Our community is composed of partners, volunteers, faith and community leaders, public health advocates, survivors, donors, and elected officials who all play a vital role in creating safer environments for everyone.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the numerous partner organizations that collaborate with us on a daily basis, and to the hundreds of devoted and passionate advocates who generously give their time and share their personal stories. We are also immensely grateful to the thousands of volunteers who show up day in and day out, as well as to our many donors who make our work possible. By working together, we will continue to advance lifesaving legislation and support initiatives that aim to reduce gun violence in our communities.

The Alliance is built on a foundation of supporters from across the state and country who financially support our work every year. We are proud that in 2023 we had more than 5,512 donations with a median donation of \$25 and an average donation of \$376. Every donation, of every size, is critical to our work. **THANK YOU!** 



## STATE PARTNERS

Following the tradition of other movements, the Alliance has always believed that progress must start and be concentrated at the state and local level. The states are where we will advance a gun violence agenda more quickly and will, in turn, catalyze national action.

Over the past year, we have continued our work of building statebased infrastructure across the country by supporting gun violence prevention work in Oregon and Michigan.



In 2023, Our state partner, the Oregon Alliance for Gun Safety...

- Celebrated a definitive victory in federal court in defense of
- Measure 114, which we helped pass with Oregon voters in 2022 to ensure completed background checks, safety training and a ban on high-capacity magazines.



Post-tragedy and political ground-shifting, Michiganders have heeded the call for gun violence prevention action. Over the last year, our state partner, End Gun Violence Michigan, helped to pass four historic gun laws through the newly re-aligned state legislature, including:

- Universal background checks on all gun sales
- Extreme Risk Protection Orders to empower families in crisis when someone poses a threat to themselves or others.
- Safe storage provisions to require that all firearms in homes with children be securely stored
- Protections for domestic violence survivors



## IMPLEMENTATION

#### QUARTERLY IMPLEMENTATION ROUNDTABLE

The Alliance continues to facilitate a Quarterly Roundtable focused on the implementation of Protection Orders and Orders to Surrender Weapons throughout the state. Consisting of law enforcement, direct service professionals, and systems partners, we meet to discuss best practices and challenges to ensure firearms are removed from dangerous situations. This roundtable continues to serve as both a space for learning and resource sharing, as well as helping individuals find gaps in current law that should be fixed legislatively.

#### STATEWIDE PROTECTION ORDER PORTAL

This past year, the Alliance secured a grant from the Office of Firearm Safety and Violence Prevention to create a statewide portal for protection order resources throughout Washington. This tool is designed to provide helpful information to those seeking a protection order, receiving a protection order, and those in the legal system that are responsible for carrying out various aspects of the protection order process. We spent 2023 identifying where the gaps in information are for those involved in the process to better inform the website's content, and look forward to building the website in 2024.



#### LOCAL SOLUTIONS CONVENING

In December of 2023, the Alliance hosted a Local Solutions Convening to bring local elected officials and community partners together to discuss the essential role local governments play in our state to keep communities safe. Topics included how to support community violence intervention programs, how to secure funding for violence prevention initiatives, and how local electeds could champion the protection order process in their jurisdictions. This convening illustrated the essential role local leaders have in preventing gun violence by implementing state laws, funding diversion and education programs, and partnering with local, state, and federal agencies.



-Girmay Zahilay,
King County Councilmember

## **LEGISLATIVE WINS**

The 2023 session was the first in-person session since the 2020 pandemic. The Alliance team, alongside volunteers and advocates, showed up in Olympia throughout the session to demand change from our legislators. EIGHT vital gun violence prevention and community safety bills passed, along with crucial budget investments for programs and research related to solving the gun violence epidemic.

#### **HB 1240: RESTRICT ACCESS TO ASSAULT WEAPONS**

Semi-automatic assault weapons have been used in the deadliest mass shootings in the last 10 years. This bill ensures that Washington becomes the 10th state to ban the sale of these military-grade firearms across all of our communities. This is a victory years in the making and one that will ensure that assault weapons are not sold in Washington State.

## HB 1143: IMPLEMENTING A 10-DAY WAITING PERIOD AND MANDATED SAFETY TRAINING FOR THE PURCHASE OF ALL FIREARMS

This bill requires safety training and a 10-day waiting period to purchase any firearm in Washington. States with similar precautions have lower rates of firearm-related death, fewer guns diverted to criminals shortly after retail sale, and lower rates of guns exported to other states.

#### SB 5078: ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR VICTIMS

For too long, federal law has prevented gun violence victims and survivors from holding gun dealers and manufacturers accountable for dangerous and irresponsible practices. This means that the gun industry has been able to engage in reckless and dangerous practices without fear of consequences. SB 5078 ensures a pathway for victims and survivors of gun violence to hold industry leaders accountable for wrongful and dangerous business practices, and ensure that victims have a method to seek justice.

## SB 5231: EMERGENCY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE NO CONTACT AND FIREARMS RELINQUISHMENT ORDERS AT THE SCENE OF DV INCIDENTS

This bill provides authority for an officer to ask a judge, on behalf of and with the consent of the victim, to authorize an emergency domestic violence No-Contact Order, and an Order to Surrender and Prohibit Weapons or Extreme Risk Protection Order when the officer has responded to a domestic violence call. These emergency orders are effective immediately upon issuance, until the initial court hearing on the charges.

#### SB 5006: CLARIFYING WAIVER OF FIREARM RIGHTS

Washington's voluntary waiver program is a revolutionary and lifesaving suicide prevention tool. However, expansion of this waiver program was necessary. SB 5006 helps clarify and strengthen the program. Under current law, individuals must file waiver forms in person at the local court, but this bill expands the program to run electronically as well, which eliminates barriers for some of the most vulnerable Washingtonians.

#### **HB 1230: SAFE STORAGE INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS**

This bill requires the Department of Health (DOH) to share information about the secure storage of prescription drugs, over-the-counter medications, and firearms and ammunition. Additionally, it requires school districts to post and have easy access to the delineated DOH information and to ensure the information is accessible through various communication means.

#### **HB 1562: RESTORATION OF FIREARM RIGHTS**

Reducing the risks of lethality and other harm associated with gun violence, genderbased violence, and other types of violence is the focus of this bill. To help reduce the risk of harm, including the risk of lethality, and the disparate impact associated with gun violence and gender-based violence because of access to firearms, this bill updates the law prohibiting possession of firearms by persons convicted of certain crimes to cover additional types of offenses associated with violence and strengthens the criteria and process by which they may petition to restore their firearm rights.

#### **HB 1715: DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROTECTIONS**

This bill enacts additional protections for victims of domestic violence. Electronic monitoring with victim notification technology and a pilot program to implement DV high-risk teams are adopted, additional training for law enforcement is provided, and many provisions in law related to firearms relinquishment are strengthened, along with other lifesaving measures, thanks to this bill.

#### \$\$\$: INVESTING IN GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION

The legislature allocated \$30 million in funding for various gun violence prevention programs this legislative session! Gun violence continues at a record pace in Washington and the nation as a whole, weighing heavily on our communities and highlighting how much work there is left to do to create the safe future we all deserve. But this session proved how much progress is possible.

## **ADVOCACY**

Washington's 2023 legislative session was historical, as we were able to present one of our boldest agendas to date. We passed EIGHT vital gun violence prevention and community safety bills, including the long-awaited assault weapons ban. In addition, the legislature allocated \$30 million for various gun violence prevention programs across the state.

All of this was made possible by the tireless work of our advocacy team, legislators, volunteers, and community members. With assault weapons having been used in all of the deadliest mass shootings that have occurred in the last decade, this legislative session will forever be a historic win for Washington.

In addition to legislative wins, our Get Out the Vote (GOTV) efforts were more robust than ever, with hundreds of actions that accumulated to electing gun violence prevention (GVP) champions across multiple levels of government. By focusing on strategic engagement, we informed the electorate and mobilized to support candidates committed to meaningful change.

The importance of these efforts cannot be overstated. With GVP leaders in office, we are now better equipped to implement effective policies that will save lives.

#### ADVOCACY UPDATE:

• Total Volunteer Actions: 378 • Total Advocate Emails: 14.455 • GVP Volunteer Events: 109

#### **GOTV/ELECTION UPDATE:**

 Volunteers Recruited: 72 • Voters Contacted: 77,750

• Voters contacted via postcard: 2,700

• Voters Texted: **63,001** • Voters Canvassed: 1000 • Voters Called: 10.421 • Total GOTV Actions: 26

#### **2023 LEGISLATIVE SESSION:**

Session Testifiers: 67

• Hearings: 12

 Session Volunteers Recruited: 357 • Advocate Legislative Sign-Ins: 9,283 • Interim Meetings with legislators: 34

## INTERN & FELLOW PROGRAM

The Alliance's intern and fellow program is aimed at involving and educating young members of the community and students in grassroots advocacy, non-profit organizations, and campaigns. Our recruitment process involves working with schools throughout Washington State and collaborating with partner organizations to attract talented individuals to join our program. By participating in our program, interns and fellows acquire essential skills and knowledge that are crucial for success in political organizing and advocacy, including data management, phone banking, grassroots mobilization. communications, event planning, and video production. Upon finishing the program, the Alliance remains committed to supporting former interns and fellows in securing new career opportunities. Our alumni have pursued diverse career paths, ranging from session aides to business entrepreneurship, underscoring the far-reaching benefits of participating in our program.

The Alliance was lucky to work with 4 talented young fellows and 6 interns in 2023!



I learned so much in my time as an intern and a fellow with the Alliance. From building relationships with volunteers during legislative session to getting the word out to voters in election season, I saw how change really is possible to achieve when people have the opportunity to be truly engaged and involved. I learned a lot of applicable skills at the Alliance, but also, maybe most importantly, how to convert feelings of despair and frustration about the status quo into real, actionable change.

-Chaitna Deshmukh

# PUBLIC EDUCATION & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Alliance for Gun Responsibility places great importance on public education and community involvement to accomplish our objectives. These focal points are crucial for fostering a knowledgeable public. Throughout 2023, the Alliance's foundation actively participated in various local, state, and national conferences, all while conducting workshops that emphasized the significance of gun violence prevention through a public health lens. As part of our annual programming, the Alliance has integrated several new initiatives to support our efforts to educate and engage with communities statewide.

#### **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:**

In 2023, the Alliance co-sponsored and supported public education projects throughout Washington State. We partnered with UNIDOS on an educational forum on the dangers of white supremacy and how communities in Snohomish County can partner with law enforcement to prevent violence motivated by hate. We partnered with organizers in Vancouver, Olympia, South Seattle, and North Bend in educational events focused on preventing gun violence. We supported job and resource fairs with youth through the Rainier Beach Boys and Girls Club, Youth Force Teen Summit and Rainier Beach, College, Job & Resource Exhibition, and provided resources for youth returning to school in Tacoma and Rainier Beach.

#### **ORGANIZATION LED EVENTS:**

On top of sponsoring and supporting community events, the Alliance hosted our own events focused on advocating for gun violence prevention and expanding our impact in communities. These events included leading our annual luncheon with corporate sponsors Amazon, Microsoft, VMFH, and the Seahawks, as well as our Wear Orange Skagit County, Seattle, and Yakima. We even had an orange flag flown at the Tacoma Dome! We debuted our first Together We End Gun Violence Conference with 262 attendees with the intent of expanding it into an annual statewide event. We expanded our partnerships for the Enough! Plays with 5th Avenue Theatre and Seattle Children's Theatre, spotlighting creative youth with lived experience of gun violence.



- Ryan Disch-Guzman, Community Engagement Director





## **VICTORY FUND**

Odd numbered election years in Washington are a chance to focus on local candidate races. This year, the Victory Fund focused our efforts in regions critical to expanding implementation work including Snohomish, Pierce, Whatcom, and Spokane counties. We also chose to engage in key law enforcement contests. We also intentionally expanded our community engagement in our PAC process and created a school boards team to focus on the unique role and impact school boards have in preventing gun violence.

#### **TOGETHER WE...**

- Issued our first community survey to inform questionnaire development
- Included the voices of community partners in interviews
- Created our first school board-specific questionnaire and first "school boards team"
- Invested significant time and resources into independent expenditure effort to win big in contested sheriff race in Snohomish County.

#### BY THE NUMBERS...

- Hosted 2 candidate trainings attended by 79 candidates/staff
- 118 candidate interviews
  - 12 school board endorsements
  - 12 candidates participated in "seal of approval" ratings, and 9/12 earned a seal by the end of the election
- Gave \$55,000+ in hard money contributions to candidates for local office
- Raised over \$60,000 in the Snohomish County Sheriff IE program
- Reached 26,500 voters through our field efforts at the doors, on the phones, and through our text program
- Mailed 45,000 households in Snohomish County



## LEGAL

The Alliance remains undefeated in defending common-sense gun violence prevention laws against legal challenges, navigating an uncertain legal landscape in the wake of the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in New York State Rifle and Pistol Association, Inc. v. Bruen. In that case, decided in June 2023, the Court significantly altered the legal standard governing Second Amendment claims. Soon thereafter, the gun lobby began filing lawsuits challenging gun safety laws around the country under the new Bruen test. In the Pacific Northwest, however, the Alliance has won every court battle to date.

First, gun industry groups filed two separate federal lawsuits against Washington's large-capacity magazine (LCM) restrictions (Sullivan v. Ferguson; Brumback v. Ferguson). As a leading advocate for the Legislature's adoption of the LCM bill in 2023 (ESSB 5078), the Alliance successfully intervened in each suit to defend the law. In Brumback, the Alliance and the Washington Attorney General's Office (AGO) successfully defeated the plaintiffs' motion for preliminary injunction. Both cases are currently stayed pending a decision from the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit on California's LCM restrictions (Duncan v. Bonta). A decision in Duncan, which is being heard "en banc" by 11 Ninth Circuit judges, is expected before the end of 2024.

The Alliance has also supported its partner organization, the Oregon Alliance for Gun Safety, in cases challenging Oregon's LCM restrictions. In 2023, Oregon's voters adopted Measure 114, a comprehensive gun safety law that both prohibits the sale of LCMs and requires a background check, safety training, and a permit to purchase all firearms. The gun lobby filed five lawsuits challenging Measure 114 in state and federal courts, and the Oregon Alliance successfully intervened in the federal cases to defend the law. In June 2023, attorneys for the Oregon Alliance and the Oregon Department of Justice defended Measure 114 in a six-day federal trial. The following month, the court upheld Measure 114 in its entirety, ruling that the law is constitutional. Plaintiffs' consolidated appeal of the federal cases is stayed pending Duncan.

Gun industry groups also filed two federal lawsuits (Hartford v. Ferguson; Banta v. Ferguson) and one state lawsuit (Guardian Arms LLC v. State) challenging Washington's restrictions on assault weapons.

The Alliance successfully intervened in each case to defend the law.having worked for more than seven years to enact these common-sense restrictions. which the Washington Legislature passed in 2023 (SHB 1240). In Hartford, the plaintiffs lost a motion for preliminary injunction last summer. The case then proceeded to discovery, and in February 2024, the Alliance and Washington AGO disclosed a comprehensive set of expert reports. Hartford has since been stayed pending Duncan. In Banta, plaintiffs' motion for a preliminary injunction remains pending. And in Guardian Arms, the Thurston County superior court denied plaintiffs' motion for preliminary injunction last fall, and the Washington Supreme Court denied plaintiffs' appeal of that denial. The case is back before the superior court and in active discovery.

The Alliance has also been successfully defending Washington's firearm industry accountability measures. In 2023, the Washington legislature passed SB 5078, which requires gun manufacturers and dealers to take reasonable steps to prevent guns and other products from ending up in the wrong hands. Soon after the law passed, the National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF) sued in federal court to strike down the law. As a leading proponent of these common-sense measures, the Alliance successfully intervened in the case (NSSF v. Ferguson). In early March 2024, the federal district court ruled that NSSF lacked standing to sue and dismissed the lawsuit in full.

Finally, litigation over Initiative 1639 has continued more than five years after it was overwhelmingly adopted by voters in 2018 to raise the minimum age to purchase assault rifles from 18 to 21, prohibit direct sales of assault rifles to out-of-state residents, and promote safe storage requirements for all firearms (among other safety measures). In 2020, a federal district court rejected the National Rifle Association and Second Amendment Foundation's constitutional challenge to the age and residency provisions (Mitchell v. Atkins). In light of Bruen, however, the Ninth Circuit sent the Mitchell case back to the district court to reconsider the Second Amendment challenge to I-1639's minimum age provision under the Supreme Court's new standard. The NRA later dropped out of the case and the remaining plaintiffs abandoned their Second Amendment claim, leaving only their challenge to the residency provision. In February 2024, the district court rejected that challenge for a second time, ruling that allowing only residents to purchase assault rifles comports with the Commerce Clause of the U.S. Constitution.

The Alliance and the Oregon Alliance are represented by the attorneys at Pacifica Law Group in Seattle in all of the cases mentioned above.

