

PRIORITIZE

GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION

Dear Washington State Legislators,

This year alone has illustrated that Washington State is not immune to the horrors of gun violence. At the start of April, a beloved community leader was shot and killed right in the heart of Seattle. We lost him in his attempt to protect his nephew. Now more than ever, we must protect and build on the progress we have already made for gun responsibility and start taking bold steps toward direct accountability.

We, the undersigned individuals and organizations representing thousands of gun violence survivors, parents, students, teachers, health care and public health professionals, faith leaders, and concerned citizens, ask that you support SHB 1240, E2SHB 1143, and SSB 5078.

It is imperative that during this Legislative Session you help ensure Washington becomes the 10th state to ban assault weapons (HB 1240). These weapons of war are exceptionally deadly firearms and they've been used in the majority of mass shootings in the past decade. Additionally, we are asking that you support HB 1143, which will standardize the safety-training requirements for the purchase of all firearms here in the state and mandate a 10-day waiting period for all firearm purchases. 39% of gun owners have no safety training and data shows that implementing waiting periods help prevent gun suicide by preventing individuals experiencing a mental health crisis from obtaining a firearm.

For too long, federal law has shielded the gun industry, both dealers and manufacturers, from nearly all accountability. Their dangerous products have taken countless lives. Their risky practices have caused indescribable pain. Until now, victims have almost never been able to hold these members accountable for the indescribable harm they've endured. SB 5078 will ensure a level playing field and establish a pathway for individuals seeking justice in court for the harm caused by this industry. This means that countless victims and survivors of gun violence can feel both supported and empowered to obtain justice.

We urge the legislature to pass these bills to ensure that our communities can be further protected from gun violence. Our elected officials must continue to fight for common-sense gun violence prevention until all communities are safe.

Thank you,



SINCERELY,

WE THE UNDERSIGNED ORGANIZATIONS:

Alliance for Gun Responsibility

BRAVE

CHAMPS RESOURCE & SERVICE CENTER

Community Passageways

Everytown for Gun Safety

Foundation for Healthy Generations

Grandmothers Against Gun Violence

Institute for Black Justice

International organization for Human Right Protection & Global Peace HRP&GP

Longview UMC

Mom's Demand Action Washington Chapter

Moms Demand Action

Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America, Renton Local Group

N9ne

Planned Parenthood Alliance Advocates

PROTEC17

Public Health - Seattle & King County

Safe and Sane Skagit

Seattle Student Union

Team ENOUGH

Thurston Gun Sense

Washington Chapter of the AAP

Washington State Medical Association

Washington State PTA

Washington State Public Health Association

WCAAP