



June 17, 2016

ACTION ALERT: Protect our communities from gun violence!

The vote is on Monday at 5:30 PM. Please contact your Senators and forward this alert to your coalition partners!

The National Task Force to End Sexual and Domestic Violence has been working for gun safety for two decades. After every mass shooting, we are despondent, then inflamed and then determined to make it stop. In almost every case of these “slaughters of the innocents and beloveds,” there is a history of abuse in the lives of the killers; they were abused and/or perpetrated abuse against others. With their guns and their hatred, they have ripped the heart out of our nation’s commitment to liberty and the right to live and thrive. The latest massacre in Orlando, a place of sanctuary and joy for LGBTQ and Latinx customers, is the last straw. We say **ENOUGH**. We are determined to pass common-sense gun violence prevention measures and will speak out and lobby and **VOTE** until it ends.

Abusers commonly use firearms to control and terrorize their victims. A [survey of contacts by the National Domestic Violence Hotline](#) found that 16% of respondents’ abusers had access to firearms. Of those, 10% reported their abusers had actually fired a gun during a domestic violence incident, and 67% believed their abusers were capable of killing them. The mere presence of a firearm in a domestic violence incident increases the risk of homicide by at least 500%^[1]. [A study of 133 mass shootings](#) found a connection between these mass shooting incidents and domestic or family violence; 57% of these cases involved family violence, and in 21 of these cases, the shooter had a prior domestic violence charge. Firearms and domestic violence are a deadly combination.

Firearms also make it easier for hateful, angry people to carry out their evil agendas. [Half of the transgender people known to be murdered in 2015](#) were killed with guns. Between 2010 and 2014, there were an estimated 43,000 hate crimes committed in the US that involved guns

The United States Senate is currently considering two common-sense gun violence prevention measures as amendments to an appropriations bill. These are important, bi-partisan first steps to keep guns out of the hands of abusers and others who pose a threat to society.

One amendment, introduced by Senator Chris Murphy of Connecticut, and previously proposed by Senator Schumer of New York, requires **background checks for all gun sales**. Currently, approximately [34% of gun sales](#) are completed without background checks. The other, sponsored by Senator Feinstein of California, **prohibits people from owning firearms who have been put on a “no fly” list** because they have been identified as potential threats to the safety of the nation.

These measures will save lives!

The Senate is expected to consider these measures **Monday at 5:30!**

Call, email, and tweet your Senators and ask them to support the **MURPHY BACKGROUND CHECK AMENDMENT** and the **FEINSTEIN NO-FLY-NO-BUY AMENDMENT** (please specify Feinstein, as there is a highly problematic alternative circulating).

Use the attached list to find your Senators' phone numbers and contact information for key staff. You can find your Senators' Twitter handles [here](#).

Phone and email script: *"My name is _____, and I'm calling/writing to let Senator _____ know I want him/her to support strong and effective background checks and the Feinstein amendment to keep guns out of the hands of those who should not have them. Please vote YES on Feinstein no fly-no buy amendment and YES on Universal Background Checks amendment."*

Feel free to add your own story or your group's support for these amendments

Sample tweet: @[insert your senator] Vote YES on background checks, vote YES on Feinstein no-fly-no-buy. Vote for #gunsense and #protectallwomen!

This is only the beginning! We will continue our campaign until all abusers and stalkers are prohibited from owning firearms, civilians cannot acquire assault weapons, and all gun sales and transfers require a background check.

If you have time, please thank the Senators who supported Senator Chris Murphy in his 15-hour filibuster, one of the longest in US history (this list may be incomplete):

Tammy Baldwin
Michael Bennet
Richard Blumenthal
Cory Booker
Sherrod Brown
Benjamin Cardin
Tom Carper
Robert Casey
Richard Durbin
Al Franken
Kirsten Gillibrand

Martin Heinrich
Mazie Hirono
Tim Kaine
Amy Klobuchar
Patrick Leahy
Joe Manchin
Edward Markey
Robert Menendez
Jeff Merkley
Barbara Mikulski
Patty Murray

Bill Nelson
Gary Peters
Jack Reed
Charles Schumer
Jeanne Shaheen
Debbie Stabenow
Tom Udall
Mark Warner
Elizabeth Warren
Sheldon Whitehouse
Ron Wyden

[1] Campbell, J.C., Webster, D., Koziol-McLain, J., Block, C., Campbell, D., Curry, M. A., Gary, F., Glass, N., McFarlane, J., Sachs, C., Sharps, P., Ulrich, Y., Wilt, S., Manganello, J., Xu, X., Schollenberger, J., Frye, V., & Lauphon, K. (2003). Risk factors for femicide in abusive relationships: Results from a multisite case control study. *American Journal of Public Health, 93*(7), 1089-1097.