

GUN LAW TRENDWATCH

A ROUNDUP AND ANALYSIS OF THE LATEST STATE FIREARM LEGISLATION 4.02.2019

Survivor suicides illuminate a less recognized consequence of gun violence and the far-reaching impact of this epidemic.

Last month, the American gun violence epidemic claimed three more lives after two Parkland students and one Sandy Hook parent died by suicide. Tragically, survivor suicides often follow mass shootings. Within 18 months of the massacre at Columbine High School in 1999, a parent of a victim, as well as a teenage survivor, took their own lives. Our report *Protecting the Next Generation* examines the immense psychological toll gun violence takes on children and teens—a toll that often impacts surviving friends and family members too.

In states around the country, gun violence prevention advocates are fighting for policies to prevent gun death and injury in all its forms. As our report *Confronting the Inevitability Myth* demonstrates, gun access is strongly correlated with suicide because guns are far more lethal than other means. Preventing people at highest risk for suicide, like young adults ages 18–21 and individuals in a period of crisis, from accessing guns can save lives. **Hawaii** is moving a bill that would make it harder for individuals under 21 to access firearms without supervision. **Colorado**, **Hawaii**, and **Minnesota** have moved, and **New York** has enacted, extreme risk protection order bills, which allow law enforcement and family members to temporarily remove firearms from individuals in crisis.

The despair experienced by gun violence survivors is only one of the many less visible consequences of this uniquely American epidemic. The tragic aftermath of gun violence stretches far beyond the 100 people killed daily in the United States, tearing apart families and communities and exacting a lasting toll on survivors. But suicide is not inevitable—solutions are within reach. We're counting on courageous legislators to implement them in 2019 and beyond.

EXTREME RISK ORDER HEADED TO COLORADO GOVERNOR

For months, a coalition of law enforcement, advocates, survivors, and others have been fighting to pass ERPO legislation in **Colorado**. Last week, HB 1177 passed the state senate. The bill is now headed to the governor. Governor Polis, who campaigned on gun violence prevention in the 2018 midterms, has promised to sign the legislation. Colorado would become the 15th state in the nation to enact an extreme risk law.

ROUTE 91 SURVIVOR INTRODUCES LIFESAVING LEGISLATION

Assemblywoman Sandra Jauregui survived the Las Vegas massacre in October 2017. After the 2018 Parkland shooting, she decided to try pass gun safety legislation in her home state of **Nevada**. On March 18, Assemblywoman Jauregui introduced AB 291, which would prohibit trigger activators including bump stocks, repeal onerous preemption laws, and lower the legal blood alcohol limit for a person carrying a firearm. AB 291 had a joint hearing on April 1.

GUN BILLS IN MOTION

GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION BILL

BACKGROUND CHECKS

Maryland SB 346 passed the senate, HB 786 passed the house and a senate committee, and HB 96 passed a committee. **New Hampshire** HB 109 passed the house. **Illinois** SB 714 passed a committee. At least 27 states currently have legislation pending to strengthen or enact background checks.

GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION BILL

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Iowa SB 448 passed the senate and had a hearing April 1. **Florida** HB 1265 passed a committee. **Washington** HB 1517 passed a senate committee. **Arkansas** HB 1851 had passed a committee. **Connecticut** SB 689 passed a committee and had a hearing April 1. At least 26 states have bills pending that would close domestic violence loopholes that allow abusers to access guns.

GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION BILL

EXTREME RISK PROTECTION ORDER

Colorado HB 1177 passed both chambers. **Washington** SB 5027 passed

the senate and has a hearing April 3. **Hawaii** SB 1466 passed a second house committee. **California** AB 12 passed a committee. ERPO bills are pending in at least 28 states.

GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION BILL

URBAN GUN VIOLENCE

Community-based urban gun violence reduction strategies that focus on identifying individuals at high risk for involvement in shootings have been shown to significantly reduce gun violence in cities. **Washington** HB 1109 passed a committee. Currently, 10 states have bills pending that would allocate or protect funding for such programs.

GUN LOBBY BILL

GUNS IN SCHOOLS

Virginia HB 2721 was enacted on March 18 and HB 2142 was vetoed March 26. **Kentucky** SB 162 passed both chambers. **Arkansas** SB 383 passed both chambers. **Montana** HB 325 and HB 357 both passed a senate committee. **Arizona** HB 2693 passed

a second senate committee. **North Dakota** HB 1332 passed a senate committee. **Florida** SB 7030, SB 1238, and HB 7093 passed a committee. **Texas** SB 406 and SB 811 each passed a committee. **California** AB 750 has a hearing on April 10. Dangerous bills to allow guns in school or on campus are pending in at least 32 states.

GUN LOBBY BILL

PERMITLESS CARRY

Permitless carry laws allow individuals to carry concealed weapons without a background check and can increase the likelihood of deadly confrontations in public. There are reckless permitless carry bills pending in at least 12 states.

For more information on the firearm bills introduced in this legislative session, or any other questions about *Gun Law Trendwatch*, contact its author, Allison Anderman, at aanderman@giffords.org.



Lawmaker? Advocate?

Reach out to Giffords Law Center today to find out how you can use our model laws to help craft lifesaving gun legislation in your home state.

EXTREME GUN LOBBY BILL: BILL SOUGHT TO PROTECT GUN RIGHTS OF DANGEROUS IV DRUG USERS

West Virginia legislator Brandon Steele introduced HB 3064, which would have allowed the commitment of dangerous intravenous drug users. Despite the fact that these individuals have been deemed dangerous, the bill stated that it could not be construed as “affecting [their] right to keep and bear arms.”

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