

GUN LAW TRENDWATCH

A ROUNDUP AND ANALYSIS OF THE LATEST STATE FIREARM LEGISLATION 5.29.2019

Oakland cut shootings and homicides in half in six years. A number of states, including California, are taking notice—and action.

Interpersonal violence concentrated in urban areas takes a disproportionate toll on underserved communities of color. Black men constitute just 7% of the American population yet account for more than 52% of all gun homicides each year. Fortunately, proven solutions do exist. When implemented properly and funded adequately, community intervention strategies have been remarkably effective at saving lives.

In April, Giffords Law Center released a report, **A Case Study in Hope**, examining the astounding success experienced by Oakland, **California**, in reducing violence. The city cut shootings and homicides in half since 2012 through Oakland Ceasefire, an ongoing partnership between community members, social service providers, and law enforcement officials. These stakeholders work together to reduce violence, build police-community trust, and improve outcomes for high-risk individuals.

Several states have proposed funding for these programs. In early May, **Virginia** Governor Ralph Northam directed \$2.45 million in funding to the implementation of hospital-based violence intervention programs at seven Virginia hospitals. In California, Governor Gavin Newsom's 2020 revised budget proposal triples funding for the state's violence intervention grant program, CalVIP, raising the yearly allocation from \$9 to \$27 million. Six additional states have bills pending to strengthen intervention programs.

By directing resources to innovative programs that target individuals most at-risk for involvement with violence, states are acknowledging that gun violence in urban communities of color is preventable. Removing the constant threat of violence can dramatically improve life outcomes for communities whose struggles have gone unaddressed for far too long.

LIFESAVING MEASURES HEADED TO CONNECTICUT GOVERNOR

In January 2018, Connecticut teen Ethan Song accidentally killed himself with a handgun stored improperly at a friend's house. Ethan's Law, which expands safe storage requirements in the home (HB 7218), passed the state senate on May 23. Bills that would ban untraceable and undetectable firearms (HB 7219) and require firearms in unattended vehicles to be secured (HB 7223) also passed the senate. All three bills are now headed to Governor Ed Lamont.

NEW HAMPSHIRE ADVANCES BILLS TO LOWER GUN DEATHS

A state with historically lenient gun laws is changing course to prevent gun deaths among its residents. In 2017, **New Hampshire** had the 11th highest rate of gun deaths in the nation. Fortunately, three house gun safety bills have progressed to a senate vote. The bills would require background checks on private-party transfers (HB 109) and waiting periods on all gun purchases (HB 514), and would prohibit guns in K-12 schools (HB 564).

GUN BILLS IN MOTION

GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION BILL

BACKGROUND CHECKS

Washington HB 1465 was enacted on May 7. **New Hampshire** HB 109 passed both chambers. Legislation to strengthen or enact background checks is pending in 15 states.

GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION BILL

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Washington HB 1517 and HB 1786 were enacted on May 7, and HB 1225 was enacted on May 13. **Oregon** HB 2013 passed both chambers. **California** AB 164 passed the assembly. At least 13 states have bills pending that would close domestic violence loopholes that allow abusers to access guns.

GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION BILL

EXTREME RISK PROTECTION ORDER

Washington SB 5027, which would strengthen existing law, was enacted on May 7. **California** AB 164, AB 165, and AB 339, which would strengthen existing law, all passed the assembly. Extreme risk protection order bills are pending in at least 15 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 was enacted on May 21. **California** AB 166 and AB 1603 passed the assembly. AB 656 passed a second committee. Currently, seven states have bills pending that would allocate or protect funding for such programs.

GUN LOBBY BILL

GUNS IN SCHOOLS

Texas HB 1143 and HB 1387 passed both chambers. **Alabama** HB 209 passed the house and a senate committee. **Missouri** HB 575 passed the house. Dangerous bills to allow guns in school or on campus are pending in at least 13 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. While no bills are moving currently, there are reckless permitless carry bills pending in at least five states.

DEFENSIVE VICTORY HIGHLIGHT

Advocates and courageous legislators defeated several dangerous gun lobby bills in Missouri this year. A bill to arm educators and bring more guns onto campuses and into K-12 schools, HB 575, failed. Also defeated were HB 258 and SB 121, which would have weakened private property rights and allowed guns in numerous public spaces where their presence is particularly dangerous, such as bars, child care facilities, hospitals, and polling places.

For more information on 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: OREGON GOP LAWMAKERS WALK OFF THE JOB TO KILL GUN SAFETY BILLS

A minority in the state senate, Republicans walked out of the Capitol in early May to prevent a quorum and disrupt a vote on gun safety bills, among others. This comes during a time when voters have been clear that they want action from their representatives to prevent gun violence.

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For 25 years, the legal experts at Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence have been fighting for a safer America by researching, drafting, and defending the laws, policies, and programs proven to save lives from gun violence.