In 2019, states continue to pass innovative, effective laws while critical federal bills passed by the House remain stalled in the Senate.

For years, a Congress dominated by members beholden to the gun industry has done little to address our nation’s gun violence epidemic. During the 2018 midterm elections, fed-up voters elected a gun safety majority to the House of Representatives, which swiftly took action in 2019.

For the first time in a decade, the House of Representatives meaningfully addressed gun violence by passing four critical gun safety bills, including bills to address the loopholes in our background checks system. Sadly, NRA-backed senators prevented further progress. But the Senate can’t prevent this wave of activism from benefiting Americans.

A number of states invested in violence intervention programs. California tripled its annual funding for grants to community-based organizations, from $9 million to $30 million. Illinois invested $25 million in a similar program and Connecticut allocated $1 million to Project Longevity, a violence-intervention strategy.

2019 has shown us that courageous legislators are willing to prioritize gun violence prevention, as states respond to voters’ demands and lead the steady march towards a safer America.
2019 STATE GUN LAW VICTORIES

New Lifesaving Gun Laws

BACKGROUND CHECKS
Three states enacted laws that add a background check requirement or improve on an existing law: New Mexico SB 8, Nevada SB 143, and Washington HB 1465.

BUMP STOCKS & TRIGGER ACTIVATORS
Nevada AB 291, a bill introduced by a Route 91 survivor, bans all trigger activators. District of Columbia B22-0588 bans bump stocks.

CHILD ACCESS PREVENTION
Three states strengthened laws that help keep unattended guns out of the hands of minors: Connecticut HB 7218, Delaware HB 63, and Nevada AB 291. Delaware’s law also criminalizes reckless or intentional failure to secure a gun when a prohibited person accesses it.

COMMUNITY VIOLENCE REDUCTION PROGRAMS
Six states passed laws to provide funding to evidence-based community gun violence reduction strategies. California AB 74 more than tripled funding for its Violence Intervention and Prevention (CalVIP) program and Illinois SB 262 nearly doubled its investment in violence prevention and street outreach programs. Connecticut HB 7424, Nebraska L 294, Rhode Island HB 5151 and New York AB 2003 also passed community violence reduction funding.

DEALER REGULATIONS
Illinois SB 337 comprehensively regulates firearms dealers in the state, requiring dealers to obtain a state license, secure their premises, and conduct background checks on employees, among other things.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
Five states enacted laws that help keep firearms away from domestic abusers: Arkansas HB 1851, Louisiana HB 279, New Mexico SB 328, Oregon HB 2013, and Washington HB 1225, HB 1517, and HB 1786.

EXTREME RISK PROTECTION ORDERS
Six states and the District of Columbia enacted or strengthened measures that allow law enforcement, a family member, or others in the community to petition for a temporary order removing access to firearms by at-risk individuals: Colorado HB 1177, District of Columbia B22-0588 and B23-0286, Hawaii SB 1466, Indiana HB 1651, Nevada AB 291, New York SB 2451, and Washington SB 5027.

GHOST GUNS
Three states passed laws regulating untraceable or undetectable firearms, including homemade and 3D printed guns: Connecticut HB 7219, New Jersey SB 3897, and Washington HB 1739.

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KEEP UP ON THE LATEST TRENDS IN STATE FIREARM LEGISLATION AND VIEW PAST ISSUES
GUNS IN SCHOOLS
Wyoming SB 22 increased restrictions on programs allowing school staff to carry guns in K–12 schools.

GUN SAFETY TECHNOLOGY
New Jersey SB 101 requires all firearm dealers to make at least one personalized handgun available for purchase once a model is approved by a state commission and listed on a roster as eligible for sale.

LOST AND STOLEN REPORTING
Hawaii HB 720 requires gun owners to report the loss or theft of a gun to law enforcement.

PROHIBITED PERSONS
Four states banned additional categories of prohibited people from purchasing or possessing guns: Indiana HB 1607, New Jersey SB 3897, Washington SB 5181 and SB 5205, and Utah HB 100.

SAFE STORAGE
One state passed a law that requires some guns to be locked when they are unattended: Connecticut HB 7223 requires safe storage of handguns in unattended vehicles.

TRAFFICKING
Three states enacted laws that improve efforts to prevent firearms trafficking: Nevada AB 272, Tennessee HB 754, and New Jersey AB 4449.

DEFEATED GUN LOBBY BILLS
In 2019 so far, gun safety advocates have prevented gun lobby–backed bills in the below categories from becoming law in 26 states.

PERMITLESS CARRY: Failed in 8 states
This year, bills to repeal concealed carry permit requirements—a gun lobby priority—failed in Alabama, Georgia, Iowa, Minnesota, Mississippi, South Carolina, Texas, and Virginia.

GUNS ON CAMPUS: Failed in 15 states
The gun lobby continually attempts to force colleges and universities to allow guns on campus. Campus carry bills failed in Arkansas, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, Missouri, Nevada, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Virginia, West Virginia, and Wyoming.

GUNS IN K–12 SCHOOLS: Failed in 18 states
After school shootings, gun lobby–backed legislators predictably call for laws arming teachers and other civilians. This year, bills to allow guns in K–12 schools failed in Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Georgia, Idaho, Iowa, Kentucky, Minnesota, Missouri, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Washington, and Wyoming.

110 GUN SAFETY BILLS HAVE BEEN SIGNED INTO LAW IN 32 STATES AND DC SINCE PARKLAND
New Gun Lobby Laws

For years, the gun lobby has opposed evidence-based gun safety laws proven to save lives, focusing instead on turning a profit by putting as many guns in as many places as possible. In recent years, the gun lobby has prioritized arming teachers, despite the fact that eight out of ten teachers oppose this policy. The gun lobby also continues to push dangerous permitless carry and concealed carry policies, at the expense of the safety and wellbeing of the American people.

Despite internal chaos within the NRA, the gun lobby continues to promote reckless policies in state legislatures across the country. In 2019 and beyond, we will keep up the fight against these dangerous policies.

**Concealed Carry:** Two states weakened laws requiring a permit to carry a concealed weapon: **Tennessee HB 1264** and **Indiana HB 1284**.

**Dangerous Weapons:** Three states repealed laws that regulate unusually dangerous weapons and accessories: **Arkansas SB 400** and **HB 1820**, **Indiana SB 119**, and **North Dakota HB 1308**.

**Guns in Schools:** Two states enacted laws aimed at allowing guns in K–12 schools: **Indiana HB 1284** and **North Dakota HB 1332**. **Florida SB 7030** expanded the state’s “school guardian” program.

**Guns in Public:** Three states passed laws that allow more guns in public spaces: **Idaho HB 199**, **Texas SB 535**, and **West Virginia SB 18**.

**Permitless Carry:** Four states enacted or modified laws that would allow people to carry hidden guns in public without a permit: **Idaho HB 206**, **Kentucky SB 150**, **Oklahoma HB 2597**, and **South Dakota SB 47**.

**Preemption:** Two states further restricted the freedom of local governments to regulate guns: **South Dakota HB 1056** and **Texas HB 3231**. **Montana HB 357** puts the issue of preemption on the 2020 ballot.

**Other Dangerous Laws:** The **Iowa** legislature passed SJR 18, a first step toward putting a constitutional amendment on the 2022 ballot to require courts to use strict scrutiny to review gun laws. **Indiana HB 1284** expands the state’s Stand Your Ground law. **Utah HB 94** expands the situations in which an intoxicated person can possess a gun in public.

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**WE’RE ON A MISSION TO SAVE LIVES**

For over 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. Founded in the wake of a 1993 mass shooting in San Francisco, in 2016 the Law Center joined with former Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords to form a courageous new force for gun safety that stretches coast to coast.

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