

CeaseFirePA

Taking a Stand Against Gun Violence in Pennsylvania

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CeaseFirePA Thanks Senator Toomey for Standing Up for Pennsylvanians

Washington, D.C., April 10, 2013 -- CeaseFirePA, a coalition of Pennsylvanians, mayors, police chiefs, faith leaders, and community organizations, today thanked Senator Pat Toomey for his leadership in reaching a bipartisan deal with Senator Joe Manchin on an expansion of the background check system. "This effort by Senators Toomey and Manchin confirms that we can come together and find common ground that makes tangible steps in the fight against gun violence without infringing on the rights of law abiding gun owners," said Shira Goodman, Executive Director of CeaseFirePA.

The Manchin-Toomey proposal essentially covers every commercial firearm sale. Under this bill, no longer can someone legally buy a gun at a gun show or flea market or on the internet or through the classifieds and avoid a background check. "Simply put," said Shira Goodman, CeaseFirePA Executive Director, "this legislation will make us safer and will keep guns out of the hands of people who should not have them."

At a CeaseFirePA event in Philadelphia yesterday, Philadelphia Mayor Michael A. Nutter made clear that background checks make sense and expanding the background check system reflects the will of the majority of Pennsylvanians and Americans. Governor Edward G. Rendell expressed his hope that there would be a Manchin-Toomey bill on background checks and noted how proud Pennsylvania would be of Senator Toomey if this came to pass.

Now we know that the Senators' hard work has paid off, and Pennsylvania is proud. Both of our Senators, Senator Bob Casey and Senator Pat Toomey, are standing up for Pennsylvanians and all Americans who want commonsense gun laws to make our communities safer. "Senators Toomey and Casey are demonstrating that there is movement in Pennsylvania on the critical issue of gun violence prevention. We look forward to working with members of both parties in Washington, D.C. and Harrisburg to advance the work of keeping our communities safe from gun violence," said Goodman.