



June 14, 2016

Dear Senator Toomey and Secretary McGinty:

As Pennsylvania's largest organization devoted to preventing gun violence, we are devastated—but not surprised—that there has been another mass shooting, this time the most deadly in our country's history. Moments of silence have their place, but they should be followed by action to prevent future tragedies.

As a candidate to represent Pennsylvania in the United States Senate, you are seeking a leadership position where you can have a unique influence on federal gun policy. We know from experience that sensible measures can dramatically reduce gun violence. While any one measure will not prevent all harm, a combination of reasonable measures would save many lives. Therefore, we are asking you publicly to pledge to support and advocate for the following measures should you be elected:

1. Universal Background Checks -- Background checks for every sale, regardless of the type of gun, type of seller or place of sale represent the best way to enforce the law that prohibits certain people from purchasing firearms.
2. Renewal and strengthening of the federal assault weapons ban, which was in effect from 1994 until 2004. As a Washington Post story detailed yesterday, military style assault weapons like the AR-15 used in the Orlando shooting, are the weapons of choice for mass shooters.
3. Banning large-capacity magazines. Magazines capable of carrying more than 10 or 15 rounds have no place in civilian hands. It has been demonstrated that when shooters have to change magazines, opportunities arise for people to escape, law enforcement to arrive, and shooters to be disarmed. Indeed, this happened during the Tuscon, Arizona shooting when the shooter was disarmed -- by unarmed bystanders -- when he stopped to change his magazine.
4. Banning individuals on the Terrorist Watch Lists from purchasing firearms. While we can agree that there is a need for procedural due process protections regarding how one gets on and off such lists, there is no acceptable rationale to allow those suspected of or being investigated for terrorism to maintain the right to purchase firearms.
5. Senator Casey's newly announced legislation to make those convicted of misdemeanor hate crimes prohibited purchasers. The incidence of hate crimes is increasing in this nation, and

frequently, such crimes involve firearms. We should not give hate crime misdemeanants the opportunity to escalate. Instead, we should prohibit them from purchasing firearms.

We cannot stop every criminal or bad actor intent on doing harm. Nor can we guarantee that any particular measure would have prevented any specific incident. What we do know is that the measures we have enumerated above are part of package of proposals that will keep deadly weapons out of the hands of those who should not have them and will make us safer.

We hope you will pledge to support these measures. We look forward to hearing from you.

Thank you.

Shira Goodman
Executive Director