October 29th, 2013

MAYORS AGAINST ILLEGAL GUNS
America's Mayors Are Leading the Fight Against Gun Violence

1,000 Strong

Now 1,000 Mayors and 1.5 Million Supporters Strong
Gun Violence in America

- 33 Americans are murdered with guns every day

- 54% of women murdered with guns in the U.S. in 2010 were killed by intimate partners or family members.

- 57% of mass shootings are incidents of domestic or family violence
Background Checks

Background checks are the only systematic way to keep guns out of the hands of criminals, the seriously mentally ill, and other dangerous people who are already prohibited from buying or possessing guns under federal law.
Since 1998, the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) has blocked more than 2 million attempted gun sales to prohibited buyers.
Dangerous Loopholes

- Unlicensed “private sellers” are not required under federal law to run background checks

- In 2012, 6.6 million guns were exchanged through private transfers without a criminal background check

- That’s more guns than there are seats in every major league sports stadium combined
The Private Sale Loophole in the digital age

- The Internet is home to a vast, virtual gun show

- In 2011, the City of New York conducted an undercover investigation of illegal online gun sales

- 62% of online private sellers were willing to sell to someone who said he probably couldn’t pass a background check
The Private Sale Loophole in the digital age

- In 2013, Mayors Against Illegal Guns conducted an undercover investigation of “Want to Buy” ads on Armslist.com
- 1 in 30 would-be buyers have criminal records that prohibit them from buying guns
- The share of criminals among would-be buyers is 4 times higher than at licensed dealers
- We estimate there are more than 25,000 guns sold to criminals on Armslist alone
The Tragic Results

A BACKGROUND CHECK COULD HAVE SAVED ZINA DANIEL’S LIFE.

Zina’s ex-husband was prohibited from buying a gun because of a restraining order, but he avoided a background check by purchasing a gun from a private seller online. On October 21, 2012, he shot 7 people, killing Zina and two others.
Background Checks Save Lives

In states that require background checks for all handgun sales, there are:

- 38% fewer women shot to death by intimate partners
- 39% fewer law enforcement killed with handguns
- 49% fewer firearm suicides
- 48% less gun trafficking
Americans Support Background Checks

- 92% of Americans (NYT/CBS 2013)
- 82% of gun owners -- including 74% of NRA members (Luntz/MAIG 2012)
- Law enforcement, domestic violence prevention advocates, mayors
Missing Records

- The system is only as good as the records in the databases

- Hundreds of thousands of mental health records are missing

- See www.demandaction.org/fatalgaps
Manchin-Toomey/
King-Thompson

- Require background checks for all commercial sales – at gun shows, online, and through classified ads

- Strengthen integrity of system by improving record submissions
What Happened?

- NRA alternative bill

- False information about creating a registry
What’s Next?

- Manchin-Toomey
- Klobuchar/Blumenthal bills
- Mental health proposals
www.demandaction.org

www.facebook.com/DemandAction

@DemandAction

brina@maig.org