I wanted to draw your attention to something President Trump said today in his press conference addressing the tragic school shooting in Broward County, Florida.

This line today from the press conference regarding the School Shooting raises some interesting questions.

“The President said he will discuss policies to make schools safer in a meeting with US governors and attorneys general later this month, but said “it’s not enough to take actions that make us feel like we are making a difference -- we must make that difference.”

We don’t know what the President’s plans are—but we do know that Democratic AGs and Republican AGs have a very different approach to addressing guns and public safety.

Republican AGs, including Florida AG Pam Bondi, have been following the NRA’s lead for years to see more guns in more places, fewer questions asked. A few quick examples include:

- In December 2017, 24 Republican AGs signed a support letter for H.R. 38, the Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act, a NRA priority that allows convicted stalkers, people with zero training, and some domestic abusers to more easily carry loaded, hidden guns across state lines. CCR undermines states’ rights and puts public safety at risk.
- In 2014, Bondi joined 20 other Republican AGs in support of allowing 18-21 years to buy handguns. See brief here.
- Bondi also joined 21 other Republican AGs to advocate for keeping AR-15s readily available, filing briefs against CT, MN and NY state laws on assault weapons. Arguments included assault weapons are the “most popular rifles in the United States.” See brief here.

Democratic AGs have taken a much more pro-safety, gun violence prevention approach to this issue. Here are just a handful of examples from the last few months:

- 13 Dem AGs signed onto an amicus brief asking a court to uphold California’s ban on large-capacity ammunition magazines.
- 14 Dem AGs urged a court to overturn a class action settlement arranged by gun-maker Remington on trigger defects on rifles.
- 17 Dem AGs sent letter to Congress opposing CCR legislation.

Other notable specific Democratic AG actions on guns:

- WA AG Bob Ferguson proposed assault weapon ban legislation.
- MA AG Maura Healey announced enforcement of assault weapon ban.
- NY AG Eric Schneiderman is defending sensible NY gun laws on the books.
- CA AG Xavier Becerra is continuing to push successful investigations into illegal guns in CA. The push has reduced the number of individuals in the APPS database -- those who own illegal firearms – to a historic low.
  - Since 2013, CA has retrieved 19,151 firearms, including 705 assault-type weapons like the one used yesterday in Florida, from individuals who have committed crimes or have proven too dangerous to possess them.
  - In LA recently, agents went in to collect two known registered firearms, they walked out with 25, including assault-type weapons, 18 magazines (including high capacity ones), and 2,000 rounds of ammunition. More on AG Becerra’s work here.

This is just a highlight of what the Democratic AGs have been doing to keep communities safe from gun violence—and a look at what could come up at a meeting like Trump referenced earlier today.

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