

A PEACE PLAN

FOR A

SAFER DELAWARE

**MARCH
FOR OUR
LIVES** 

A PEACE PLAN FOR A SAFER DELAWARE

March For Our Lives' A Peace Plan For A Safer America is a bold, comprehensive national proposal with the goal of halving the rate of gun deaths in our country in 10 years. It lays out clear actionable goals and steps which all three branches of the federal government should take.

As the Delaware chapter of March For Our Lives, we are proud to introduce our Peace Plan For A Safer Delaware: inspired by and based off of the national plan but tailored to the needs of our state.

As an affiliate of the national March For Our Lives organization, we will continue to pressure our federal representatives to enact common sense gun reform laid out in the Peace Plan. However, we know that an issue as multifaceted as gun violence requires a multi-tactical approach, which includes state and local governments – where many of the gains on gun violence prevention have been made in the last few years.

Our Peace Plan For A Safer Delaware lays out specific legislation introduced within the current legislature that is consistent with the goals and values of both the national and Delaware Peace Plans.

Furthermore, we encourage the Delaware legislature to look at the Peace Plan For A Safer America as a guiding document for what further reforms need to be considered and introduced at the state level.



We believe in **C.H.A.N.G.E.** – six bold steps that Delaware's leadership must take to address this gun violence epidemic at home:

CHANGE THE STANDARDS OF GUN OWNERSHIP

HALVE THE RATE OF GUN DEATHS IN 10 YEARS

ACCOUNTABILITY FOR THE GUN LOBBY AND INDUSTRY

NAME A GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION TASK FORCE

GENERATE COMMUNITY-BASED SOLUTIONS

EMPOWER THE NEXT GENERATION

CHANGE THE STANDARDS OF GUN OWNERSHIP

For decades, the NRA and gun lobby have focused on a single goal: keeping the standards for gun ownership dangerously low. In order to make a sizable difference in reducing gun violence, we need to do the complete opposite: raise the bar for gun ownership and responsibility in Delaware.

From a public health perspective, it should be as difficult to buy and transfer a firearm as it is to buy and transfer an automobile. Following the decades of regulating cars through safety improvements such as airbags and seatbelts, the country saw a dramatic improvement in automobile safety.

In 2018, after the Parkland shooting killed 17 students and teachers, the students of Delaware called for change. The legislature took action on the issue of gun violence, passing the Beau Biden Gun Violence Prevention Act, along with a safe storage bill.

However, more needs to be done in order to prevent gun violence in the state of Delaware. In this coming session, MFOL Delaware recommends the passage of the following pieces of legislation:

SB 68: This act prohibits the manufacture, sale, offer to sell, transfer, purchase, receipt, possession, or transport of assault weapons in Delaware, subject to certain exceptions. This Act is based on the Firearm Safety Act of 2013 passed in Maryland in the wake of the tragic slaughtering of children on December 14, 2012, at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut. The FSA's assault weapons ban was upheld as constitutional by the full membership of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit

SB 70: This act includes clear definitions for the term "large-capacity magazine," as an ammunition feeding device with a capacity to accept more than 15 rounds of ammunition. After enactment, possession of large-capacity magazines will be a class B misdemeanor for a first offense and a class E felony for any subsequent offense.

SB 82: This act creates an application process to obtain a handgun qualified purchaser card, to authorize the purchase of a handgun, or a firearms qualified purchaser card, to authorize the purchase of firearms other than a handgun. The act requires that an applicant complete a firearms training course within 2 years before the date of application, similar to what is required by Delaware's concealed carry permit law.

HALVE THE RATE OF GUN DEATHS IN TEN YEARS

From 2008 to 2017, 968 people were killed by guns in Delaware, equating to approximately 108 deaths per year.

503 of these deaths were due to gun-related suicide, which makes up about 44% of all suicide deaths across the state.

It is imperative that we cut the rate of gun violence in half within the next 10 years. In order to protect vulnerable communities and everyday citizens from becoming survivors of gun violence, we must vow to take an audacious approach to our gun crisis.

HB 240: In 2009, New Hampshire was the first state to develop a statewide “Gun Shop Project,” reaching out to gun shops regarding the role they can play in suicide prevention. In the years since, at least 21 other states have implemented similar campaigns. This Act establishes the Delaware Gun Shop Project, under which the Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health must develop relevant materials that may be posted conspicuously and available for distribution at Delaware gun shops.

Demand that the Governor declare a State of Emergency around Gun Violence

In Delaware, about 52% of gun violence deaths are the result of suicide by firearm and 46% are homicide cases. Gun homicide disproportionately affects Black Delawareans, who make up 22% of the state population but 76% of gun homicide victims. We call on the Governor to declare gun violence as a public health crisis in Delaware in order to effectively protect our citizens.

ACCOUNTABILITY FOR THE GUN LOBBY AND INDUSTRY

The Delaware legislature must establish a system through which victims and their families may sue gun retailers for negligent dealing that results in injury or death.

NAME A GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION TASK FORCE

The state legislature must create a Gun Violence Prevention Task Force. This task force will analyze and address all forms of gun violence, in addition to creating comprehensive solutions to prevent it on all fronts.

GENERATE COMMUNITY-BASED SOLUTIONS

Fully fund targeted interventions addressing the intersectional dimensions of gun violence, including community-based urban violence reduction programs, suicide prevention programs, domestic violence prevention programs, mental and behavioral health service programs, and programs to address police violence in our communities.

Group Violence Intervention

Group Violence Intervention (GVI) strategy assembles respected and credible community members, faith leaders, social service providers, researchers, and law enforcement officials into a working partnership that identifies the individuals in the community most at risk for committing or becoming the victims of gun violence. The partnership then conducts a series of in-person meetings, known as “call-ins,” during which at-risk individuals are connected with social service providers familiar with the resources needed to bring about meaningful change at the individual level including GED tutoring, transportation assistance, mental health treatment, housing support, etc.

Hospital-Based Violence Intervention

Hospital-based Violence Intervention Programs (HVIP) are built upon the premise that the strongest risk factor for violent injury is a history of previous violent injury, with the chances of injury recidivism as high as 45% within the first five years. The strategy calls for screening patients based on predetermined criteria to identify those individuals most at risk for re-injury and then connecting qualifying candidates with trained, culturally competent case managers. These case managers provide clients with intense oversight and assistance both in the hospital and in the crucial months following the patient’s release.

EMPOWER THE NEXT GENERATION

Expand Youth Voter Rights

Every public-funded college and university should have an early voting polling location, accessible to all students on campus. In addition, we urge Student Governments and universities to take the lead on expanding voting rights for students by adding a signature on Student ID’s so they can be used as voter identification.