

Resist the Gun Lobby

**** APRIL RECESS TOOLKIT ****

While our representatives and senators are back home this week and next, we have the opportunity to send a strong message to them: resist the gun lobby's agenda. Right now, the Washington gun lobby is pushing a dangerous agenda would erode laws that make us safer and put our communities at risk.

This Email Includes:

- **What you need to know:** Background information about the dangerous agenda the gun lobby is pushing in the halls of Congress
- **Sample Town Hall Questions**
- **Sample Social Media Content**

What You Need to Know:

The gun lobby is attacking the laws that make us safer. They are fighting to roll back laws that keep us safe all because they know that weak laws equal more money in their pockets. Their dangerous agenda severely threatens our public safety.

Veterans & Mental Health:

- The gun lobby is supporting a dangerous bill that would put America's veterans who need our support the most in harm's way by providing them with easy access to firearms. The Senate will soon consider this gun-lobby backed bill, which was recently passed by the House. The bill drastically undermines the Veterans Administration's process of identifying veterans who are prohibited from gun ownership because they are struggling with conditions like long-term severe PTSD, schizophrenia, and dementia. Instead of passing this irresponsible and dangerous legislation, Congress should instead do more to guarantee that all veterans have access to world-class medical and mental health services.
- **Learn more:** Read this piece by retired General Peter Chiarelli: [Give our veterans considering suicide help, not a gun](#) and this *USA Today* article: [Petraeus and other ex-generals oppose bill to let mentally ill vets get guns](#)

Deregulating Gun Silencers:

- The gun lobby is throwing its weight behind a bill that would roll back a federal law that's been on the books for over 80 years that prevents dangerous people from purchasing gun silencers. Silencers are accessories added to guns to reduce the sound of gunfire and mask muzzle flash. They make it difficult for people who are nearby, including law enforcement, to [identify the sound](#) of gunshots and locate an active shooter. This bill would ease regulations on gun silencers, making these dangerous weapons easier to obtain - and inevitably making them more accessible to felons, domestic abusers, and people suffering a mental health crisis. The gun lobby is willing to sacrifice the safety of our communities in order to increase sales for the gun industry.
- **Learn more:** Read this Medium Post: [The 5 Things You Need to Know about the Danger of Silencers](#) -- and this piece by the New York Times Editorial Board: [Echoes of Gunfire Hurt Tender Ears](#)

Making it Easier for People to Carry Concealed Weapons:

- The gun lobby's top priority in 2017 is to pass a federal law mandating that each state recognize concealed carry permits from every other state. The problem is that standards for issuing permits to allow individuals to carry hidden, loaded firearms in public are dangerously lax in many states. Twelve states do not even require a permit to carry concealed firearms. Forcing states with strong gun laws like Oregon and New Mexico to comply with weak laws from states like Florida and Louisiana will endanger public safety and make it significantly harder for police to enforce gun laws that have proven to save lives.
- **Learn more:** Read this fact sheet: [Federally Mandated Concealed Carry](#) --- and this Medium Post about [Permitless Concealed Carry](#).

Ending Gun Free School Zones:

- President Trump vowed to end gun-free school zones when he was on the campaign trail - and for years, one of the gun lobby's top priorities has been to pass laws that allow firearms inside K-12 schools and permit college students and others to carry guns on campus. These irresponsible laws ignore the truth about gun violence and pose a clear, demonstrable danger to our students, teachers, and communities. Federal and state laws that prohibit guns at schools are vital to keeping children and educators safe. Guns have no place in our nation's schools.
- **Learn More:** Read this fact sheet: [Guns in Schools](#)

Sample Town Hall Questions

- **GUN SILENCERS:** The gun lobby is trying to force its dangerous agenda on Congress with legislation that would give criminals easy access to gun silencers. I'm worried this would threaten the safety of our community because gun silencers make it difficult for people who are nearby, including law enforcement, to [identify the sound](#) of gunshots and locate an active shooter. What is your position on this bill?
- **VETERANS:** I'm very disturbed by a bill backed by the gun lobby that just passed the House last month (H.R. 1181) that endangers our veterans who are suffering from severe mental health issues, including PTSD and depression. Our non-deployed veterans are at a 61 percent greater risk of suicide than American civilians; two-thirds of veteran suicides are committed with a gun – which is why we've seen so many veterans and military leaders opposed to this bill. How can you support that legislation? (if they voted yes in the House) OR Can we expect you to fight this legislation and how are you going to hold the gun lobby accountable? (if a member of the Senate)
- **CONCEALED CARRY:** A bill under consideration in the House (H.R. 38) would override existing state laws and mandate that every state recognize concealed carry permits from each other state – that would jeopardize America's public safety and make it much harder for police to enforce gun laws that save lives. How do you plan to vote on this bill? Can we, as your constituents, depend on you to have our backs and resist the gun lobby by opposing this dangerous legislation?
- **GUNS IN SCHOOLS:** President Trump and Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos have both indicated they support reversing current law prohibiting guns from being carried in K-12 schools. Legislation has already been introduced in the House to repeal the Gun Free School Zones Act (H.R 34). Just last week in San Bernardino we again saw the dangers of guns in schools. As a parent, this terrifies me. Do you believe that we should eliminate free school zones which would make our children less safe? If so, why?
- **SCOTUS [For Senators who voted in support of Neil Gorsuch's nomination]:** As a judge, Justice Gorsuch has sided with convicted felons to protect their gun rights instead of protecting public safety. During his confirmation hearing, he refused to acknowledge that the Second Amendment has limits--

something the Supreme Court explicitly decided in 2011. The NRA spent \$1 million to ensure he would be put on the bench. Knowing that he will do the gun lobby's bidding, why did you vote for Justice Gorsuch to be put on the Supreme Court?

Sample Tweets:

- **.@YOUR SEN'S HANDLE:** The gun lobby's agenda is dangerous for our veterans. <http://usat.ly/2nztpnN> #ResistTheGunLobby
- **.@YOUR SEN'S HANDLE:** Listen to our military leaders and reject any bill that risks veteran safety <http://usat.ly/2nztpnN> #ResistTheGunLobby
- **.@YOUR REP or SEN'S HANDLE:** Reducing regulations on gun silencers is a serious public safety concern <http://bit.ly/2p96deP> #ResistTheGunLobby
- **.@YOUR REP or SEN'S HANDLE:** The gun lobby's agenda will put the safety of our communities at risk <http://bit.ly/2p96deP> #ResistTheGunLobby
- **.@YOUR REP or SEN'S HANDLE:** Please stand up for the safety STATEIANS and #ResistTheGunLobby