



MEMORANDUM

To: Interested Parties
From: Giffords & Giffords Law Center
Date: Tuesday, October 17, 2017
Re: The Impact of Our Work: Fighting to Save Lives

ON A MISSION TO SAVE LIVES FROM GUN VIOLENCE

Americans are 25 times more likely to be killed by a gun than people in other developed nations—but it doesn't have to be this way. Gun deaths are preventable, which is why our organization is committed to tackling our national gun violence epidemic. At Giffords we do this in three ways: by **shifting culture**, **changing policy**, and **challenging injustice**. To achieve these goals, we advocate and lobby for safer gun laws, support elected officials who stand up to the gun lobby, and research, write, and defend the laws, policies, and programs proven to save lives from gun violence.

Led by former Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords and Navy combat veteran and retired NASA astronaut Captain Mark Kelly, Giffords operates out of offices in Washington DC, San Francisco, and New York. Our staff partners with lawmakers and advocates at the federal, state, and local levels, provides expertise in critical firearms litigation, leads grassroots coalitions, and educates the public on the proven solutions to America's gun violence epidemic.

Following the mass shooting of 20 children and six adults at Sandy Hook Elementary in December 2012, Gabby and Mark, gun owners themselves, announced the formation of an organization to fight the gun violence epidemic. Originally named Americans for Responsible Solutions, the organization quickly became known as a leader in the growing movement to save lives from gun violence. In 2016, Americans for Responsible Solutions [joined forces](#) with the Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence, the nation's leading resource on firearms law and policy, to expand its mission, increase its impact, and launch the organization today known as Giffords. The merger built on extensive collaboration between the two organizations that has produced major victories for commonsense gun violence prevention policies in Washington DC, in states around the country, and in the courts.

FIGHTING FOR PROGRESS IN WASHINGTON

Giffords is leading the fight against the gun lobby's harmful agenda in Congress and moving the needle to promote bipartisan solutions to gun violence in our communities. Among our many key achievements to date:

FIGHTING THE GUN LOBBY IN CONGRESS. Since its inception, Giffords has proved instrumental in educating members of Congress and their staffs on the dangerous impacts of the gun lobby's policy priorities. Through the

launch of the [Giffords Veterans Coalition](#) and the [Giffords Law Enforcement Coalition](#), veterans and law enforcement leaders are adding a new voice to the debate and highlighting the public safety risks of the gun lobby's agenda. Giffords' policy experts, coupled with veteran and law enforcement voices, are proving to be a powerful combination and have thus far thwarted the efforts of the gun lobby to [provide severely mentally ill veterans with easy access to firearms](#) and [deregulate silencers](#) in the 115th Congress. They have also made progress in educating lawmakers, their staff and the public about that gun lobby's other legislative priority, to federally mandate concealed carry reciprocity, which would allow more people to carry hidden, loaded guns in public with no oversight or standard for training.

BACKGROUND CHECKS. Giffords has been a key figure in Congress's push for expanded background checks since 2013, when the [organization was instrumental in bringing together Senators Joe Manchin \(D-WV\) and Pat Toomey \(R-PA\)](#) to author and introduce their bipartisan background checks legislation. While the legislation ultimately failed, Giffords has continued to help lawmakers craft bipartisan legislation that would close loopholes in our laws and strengthen the background check system. In the executive branch, Giffords and its leadership team, including Peter Ambler and Law Center Executive Director Robyn Thomas, helped advocate and craft the [executive actions to reduce gun violence announced by the Obama Administration](#) in 2016 that narrowed loopholes allowing individuals to purchase guns without a background check.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND GUNS. As longtime domestic violence prevention advocates, [Giffords worked to secure bipartisan support](#) in [multiple Congresses](#) for the [introduction of new bills](#) that recognize the lethal nexus between domestic abuse and gun violence. These proposals would expand federal protections for victims of domestic abuse by preventing abusive dating partners and convicted stalkers from accessing firearms. The Senate bill introduced in the 113th Congress and the House bill introduced in the 114th were the first of their kind to expand federal protections for victims of domestic abuse experiencing gun violence. Giffords also [led the fight for the first-ever Congressional hearing on the topic](#).

GUN TRAFFICKING. In the absence of a federal statute against gun trafficking, Giffords has garnered bipartisan support for legislation to make gun trafficking a crime in both the [House](#) and [Senate](#) in multiple congresses. Giffords has also worked to educate members of Congress on this dangerous subject through Senate briefings and offering the expertise of David Chipman, a Giffords senior policy advisor and 25-year veteran of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF).

TESTIFYING BEFORE CONGRESS. Members of the Giffords organization have appeared as witnesses before Congress on multiple occasions to provide their expertise during important policy hearings. In addition to [Gabby Giffords and Mark Kelly](#), [Giffords Law Center Executive Director Robyn Thomas](#) testified on federal background check laws in the wake of the Virginia Tech massacre before the Domestic Policy Subcommittee of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee. [Giffords Law Center Federal Policy Director Lindsay Nichols](#) testified before the Social Security Subcommittee of the House Ways and Means Committee on the Social Security Administration's representative payee program and the NICS system in February 2017. In September 2017, [Giffords Senior Policy Advisor and former ATF agent David Chipman](#) served as the sole minority witness before the Federal Lands Subcommittee of the House Committee on Natural Resources to highlight the dangers of gun silencer deregulation and other harmful gun provisions included in the SHARE Act.

SECURING FEDERAL FUNDING. Recognizing the critical role that funding and staffing at federal law enforcement agencies play in keeping Americans safe, Giffords has tirelessly advocated for resource increases for the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF). In 2014, Giffords helped secure an [increase of \\$19.5 million in funding](#) for FBI's National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS). Bringing together both Democratic and Republican appointees, [Giffords gathered four out of the previous five Surgeons General](#) in 2016 to call on Congress [to remove the budget rider that has effectively frozen federal research into gun violence for two decades](#). And recently, in a difficult budget climate, Giffords was successful in including [report language in the Fiscal Year 2018 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies appropriations bill](#) encouraging [states to consider utilizing funding provided through the Crime Victims Fund](#) to establish or expand hospital-based violence intervention programs which have proven to help reduce gun violence.

A VOICE ON NOMINATIONS. Giffords has been a strong voice in presidential appointments since 2014, when the organization ran a [successful targeted advocacy campaign](#) in support of US surgeon general nominee Dr. Vivek Murthy, the first surgeon general to acknowledge gun violence as a public health issue. Giffords also worked to secure support for the first permanent director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) in seven years with the [confirmation of B. Todd Jones](#). In 2017, Giffords provided senators with gun-related lines of questioning for President Trump's cabinet nominees; a Giffords-suggested question to secretary of education nominee Betsy DeVos led to her declaration that [guns may be needed in schools due to the threat of grizzly bears](#). And Giffords worked with senators to recommend and prepare [Sandy Phillips, the sole outside witness to testify about guns and the Second Amendment](#) during the nomination hearings for Supreme Court Justice Neil Gorsuch in March 2017.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN THE STATES

Since 2013, Giffords has helped to enact legislation that is actively reducing gun violence and saving lives. Against fierce opposition, we have helped pass over 200 new gun laws in 45 states and Washington DC. Among our many key achievements to date:

EXPANDING BACKGROUND CHECKS. The correlation between universal background checks and reduced gun death rates is [well-documented](#). Giffords works in partnership with lawmakers, coalition partners, and stakeholders to expand and strengthen background check systems in states. Giffords led an extensive campaign to secure the passage and signing of an 2015 [Oregon](#) bill that closed the background check loophole. And in 2013, Giffords helped secure the passage and enactment of bills to close background check loopholes in [Colorado](#), [Connecticut](#), and [Delaware](#), where [Captain Mark Kelly testified](#) in support of universal background checks legislation that Governor Markell [signed into law](#) that year. In 2016, Giffords Law Center's attorneys partnered with Lt. Governor Gavin Newsom to draft and [pass](#) California's landmark [Proposition 63](#) to make California the first in the nation to require a point-of-sale background check to buy ammunition. That same year, Giffords worked to make [Delaware](#) one of the first states in the country to close the Charleston Loophole, a gap in the law that [enabled the shooter at the Emanuel AME Church](#) in Charleston, SC, to purchase a firearm. Giffords also worked in [New Mexico](#) to pass bipartisan pass legislation, signed by Republican Governor Martinez, that requires the records of those deemed dangerously mentally ill to be included in the NICS background check system.

STOPPING REPEAL OF BACKGROUND CHECKS LAWS. Giffords has been at the forefront of fighting the gun lobby's efforts to weaken individual states' background checks systems. The gun lobby has pushed to repeal background checks in several states despite the fact that voters, including [Republicans and gun owners](#), overwhelmingly support universal background checks on firearm sales. Recent research showed that when Missouri repealed its background check law in 2007, gun homicides spiked 25%. To prevent that from happening elsewhere, Giffords campaigned to defend laws in other states with similar laws. Since 2015, Giffords has successfully defeated attempts by the gun lobby to roll back background check laws in [Iowa twice](#), in [North Carolina twice](#), and in [Arizona](#).

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE. Giffords has brought together lawmakers, coalition partners, and stakeholders in states to pass critical legislation in multiple states to help limit domestic abusers' access to guns. In October 2014, former Congresswoman Gabby Giffords embarked on a national, nine-state ["Protect All Women Tour"](#) highlighting the need for stronger state and federal laws that protect women and families from gun violence. In 2017, Giffords coordinated a bipartisan victory with the passage and signing by Governor Christie of a domestic violence bill in [New Jersey](#), which established effective procedures to ensure domestic abusers do not have access to firearms. Giffords also helped draft and pass a bipartisan domestic violence bill in [Utah](#) that prohibits firearm possession by subjects of domestic violence restraining orders and domestic violence misdemeanants. Our experts worked in partnership with local leaders and advocates to pass the [Protect Rhode Island Families Act](#), which was [signed into law](#) by Governor Raimondo, as well as legislation in New Mexico that would have prevented domestic abusers from accessing guns that [was vetoed by Governor Martinez](#). In 2016, Giffords secured the passage and signing of domestic violence legislation in [Hawaii](#) to close loopholes in state law that allowed people with misdemeanor stalking and sexual assault convictions to legally buy guns, as well as the passage and signing of a bill in [Connecticut](#) that helped keep guns out of the hands of domestic abusers by closing the gap in state law that let individuals who were subject to temporary restraining order to legally buy and own guns. In 2015, Giffords led extensive advocacy campaigns to secure the passage and signing of two similar bills in [Delaware](#) and [Oregon](#) that closed loopholes in state law that allowed domestic abusers to have access to firearms.

EXTREME RISK PROTECTION ORDERS. Giffords has been working with lawmakers, coalition partners, and stakeholders to pass Extreme Risk Protection Order (ERPO) legislation in states across the country. An ERPO, an innovative new policy also known as a gun violence restraining order, empowers families and law enforcement to prevent firearm deaths, including suicides, by temporarily reducing access to guns by individuals at an increased risk of endangering themselves or others. Giffords Law Center worked with state lawmakers and the California Firearms Strategy Group in 2014 to help enact groundbreaking legislation that created a gun violence restraining order. In 2017, Giffords and members of the [Giffords Oregon Coalition](#), formerly known as the Oregon Coalition for Common Sense, led the charge to pass a bipartisan ERPO bill in [Oregon](#), which Governor Kate Brown [signed](#) into law in August. Jenna Yuille, engagement manager for Giffords, hails from Oregon and is a gun violence survivor. Joined by members of the Giffords Oregon Coalition, [Jenna delivered powerful testimony](#) in April 2017 after her father committed suicide with a gun, sharing how he might have been saved had ERPO been in place. In July 2017, Giffords and Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence gun safety experts [Jenna Yuille](#) and [Allison Anderman](#) traveled to [Massachusetts](#) to testify in support of an ERPO bill that had been introduced there.

URBAN GUN VIOLENCE PROGRAMS. In 2016 Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence released a groundbreaking report, [Healing Communities in Crisis](#), highlighting the importance and effectiveness of non-

legislative solutions to urban gun violence. These programs, such as hospital-based violence intervention initiatives and Ceasefire programs, work to break the cycle of violence that disproportionately impacts impoverished and underserved communities of color. In 2017, Giffords Law Center worked with a coalition of partners to lead the effort for the inclusion of [\\$9.2 million for the CalVIP program](#) in the California budget. CalVIP is one of the only sources of state-level funding for locally driven violence prevention strategies. Hundreds of Giffords and Giffords Law Center supporters sent their representatives letters urging them to support CalVIP funding. Similarly, Giffords works with partners to [advocate](#) for the funding of Project Longevity in Connecticut, a program that has gained national attention for its effective strategies to reduce gun violence. The program, which was first launched in 2012, has helped [reduce rates of gun violence by over 50 percent](#) in urban areas of Connecticut and become a national model of state-level support for evidence-based violence reduction strategies. Given that the barriers to establishing these programs are often financial, Giffords was successful in including [report language in the Fiscal Year 2018 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies federal appropriations bill](#) encouraging [states to consider utilizing funding provided through the Crime Victims Fund](#) to establish or expand hospital-based violence intervention programs.

HATE CRIMES. Recent mass shootings at a gay nightclub in Orlando, an historic African-American church in Charleston, and a Sikh temple in Oak Creek, Wisconsin, were among both the deadliest hate crimes ever committed in the United States and the deadliest mass shootings in our nation's history. And the disturbing scenes that played out in the streets of Charlottesville in the summer of 2017 are yet another instance of the hate that plagues American communities. In too many cases, the presence of a firearm turns ugly threats into deadly assaults. This year, Giffords led the charge to close gaps in state laws that allow individuals convicted of hate crimes to possess firearms. In California, the [Disarm Hate Act](#), drafted and sponsored by Giffords Law Center, [unanimously passed the state legislature and was signed into law by Governor Brown](#). In New York, Giffords joined legislators in Albany earlier this year at a [press conference](#) in support of a [hate crimes bill](#) that will help keep violent hate crime offenders from possessing guns.

DEFEATING THE GUN LOBBY. Giffords coordinated with lawmakers, coalition partners, and stakeholders to defeat other legislation backed by the gun lobby in [Arizona](#), [Florida](#), [Texas](#), and [Virginia](#) that would have made communities less safe from gun violence. In Arizona, Giffords worked to defeat the [Firearms Compact Bill](#), which proposed the formation of an illegal compact between states that would have ultimately prohibited Arizona from enacting safer gun laws without the consent of all other member states. In Florida, Giffords worked with local leaders to defeat [dangerous “guns everywhere” legislation](#) that would have allowed individuals to openly carry loaded firearms and eliminated most of Florida's restrictions on guns in schools and campuses, airports, career centers, and courthouses. In Texas, Giffords worked closely with law enforcement and local advocates to [defeat two dangerous permitless carry bills](#). Two members of the [Giffords Law Enforcement Coalition](#) (formerly known as the Americans for Responsible Solutions Law Enforcement Coalition for Common Sense), Dallas County Sheriff Lupe Valdez and Houston Police Chief Art Acevedo, spoke out against permitless concealed carry in Texas. Giffords also helped defeat [two liability bills](#) that would have interfered with Texas private property owners' basic right to determine what is safe and reasonable for their own property. And in Virginia, Giffords and the [Giffords Virginia Coalition](#) (formerly known as the Virginia Coalition for Common Sense), worked with Governor Terry McAuliffe and lawmakers in the Virginia General Assembly to defeat harmful gun bills that would have allowed more firearms in the hands of untrained individuals, made women and families in crisis less safe, and let individuals carry loaded, concealed firearms on public college campuses. Giffords also successfully urged [Michigan Governor Rick Snyder to veto a bill](#) in 2015 that

would have allowed people with domestic violence related restraining orders to be issued concealed weapon permits. And in March 2014, Giffords ran an extensive campaign to encourage the [Georgia Senate, governor, and lieutenant governor to refrain from signing a “guns everywhere” bill](#) into law. As a result, some of the most extreme provisions of the bill were removed from the final version, including provisions that would have allowed guns in churches and on college campuses.

ELECTORAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Working to elect gun violence prevention candidates and pass responsible initiatives at the ballot box, Giffords PAC (formerly Americans for Responsible Solutions PAC) works to change the political calculus on gun safety and elect candidates who have shown the political courage to stand up to the gun lobby and are committed to taking action on this issue once elected.

ELECTING GUN SAFETY CHAMPIONS. In the **2016** election cycle, 73% of Giffords PAC endorsed candidates won their races. These candidates ran on and advertised their gun violence prevention positions more than in any cycle before. Giffords PAC’s flagship program was in the US Senate race in New Hampshire, where it [invested \\$2.6 million](#) in a targeted campaign to defeat incumbent Senator Kelly Ayotte by reminding voters of her vote against universal background checks, [making the race a referendum on gun violence prevention](#). In September 2016, Giffords PAC launched [a six-week national bus](#) tour to ignite the Vocal Majority of Americans who support safer laws, elevating the issue of gun safety in a record number of races and bringing the issue to its greatest level of prominence ever in a presidential race.

- In **2015**, Giffords PAC built on its previous electoral successes in Virginia and ran a targeted voter communication program [to help elect pro-gun violence prevention candidate Jeremy McPike](#) to the Virginia State Senate. In September 2015, Giffords PAC [completed a successful campaign to defend gun violence prevention champions](#) Oregon State Sen. Floyd Prozanski (D-Eugene), Sen. Chuck Riley (D-Hillsboro), Rep. Susan McClain (D-Forest Grove), and House Majority Leader Val Hoyle (D-Eugene) against the gun lobby’s reckless attempts to recall the legislators for their vote to strengthen Oregon’s background check system.
- In the **2014** election cycle, [Giffords PAC supported Republican and Democratic candidates in federal contests across the country, including US House, US Senate, and gubernatorial races](#). Through targeted voter communication programs that included television and radio advertisements, direct mail flights, and digital campaigns, Giffords PAC helped elect the following champions for safer gun laws:
 - Senator Jeanne Shaheen of New Hampshire
 - Senator Al Franken of Minnesota
 - Senator Mark Warner of Virginia
 - Senator Gary Peters of Michigan
 - Senator Susan Collins of Maine
 - Congressman Mike Fitzpatrick of Pennsylvania
 - Congresswoman Ann McLane Kuster of New Hampshire
 - Governor Dan Malloy of Connecticut

- In 2013, [Giffords PAC ran an aggressive direct mail, digital, and tele-townhall program in the three statewide races in Virginia \(governor, lt. governor and attorney general\)](#), helping secure the victory of now Governor Terry McAuliffe, Lt. Governor Ralph Northam, and Attorney General Mark Herring, dealing a significant defeat to the NRA in their own backyard.

ADVANCING SAFER GUN LAWS AT THE BALLOT BOX. In another demonstration of gun violence prevention momentum, three out of four states (Nevada, Washington, and California) approved gun safety ballot measures in numbers exceeding that of Hillary Clinton, demonstrating bipartisan support. Giffords PAC contributed to the initiatives with direct contributions and a robust mail program that educated voters on the effectiveness of strengthening background checks.

- In 2014, Giffords PAC also played a critical role in securing a [victory on the I-594 ballot initiative in Washington State that closed the loopholes in the state's background check system](#). Giffords PAC's work included a \$500,000 direct mail voter communication program.

EMPOWERING CANDIDATES TO TALK ABOUT SAFER GUN LAWS. Giffords PAC conducted a significant communications research project to determine the best messages and language to use to persuade and motivate voters. Giffords PAC holds briefings and trainings for elected officials and candidates to equip them to communicate effectively on why they stand up to the gun lobby and fight for safer gun laws.

GIFFORDS LAW CENTER TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Since 1993, [Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence](#) has helped research, draft, analyze, and defend laws that reduce gun violence and save lives. Whether they are in a courthouse, a city hall, a state legislature, or Congress, the legal experts at Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence have been integral in shaping gun safety policy for over 20 years. Among our many key achievements to date:

A HISTORY OF LEADING LOCAL LEGISLATIVE EFFORTS. In response to the 1993 shooting of 14 people at 101 California Street in San Francisco, Bay Area lawyers [established the Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence](#), originally named the Legal Community Against Violence. Collaborating with community organizations and governmental entities, the Law Center initiated a project to support local regulation of firearms in California. Their work resulted in the number of local firearms laws in California tripling in the next six years, many of which were later adopted as state laws. Today, the Law Center continues to lead efforts to pass gun laws at the local level and has enlisted pro bono attorneys to defend those municipalities whose strong gun laws are challenged in court. For example, in 2015, the Law Center's team of pro bono attorneys [successfully defended the City of Sunnyvale, CA](#), against a challenge to its 2013 ballot initiative that enacted several strong laws regulating firearms. Today, in 2017, the Law Center's pro bono program has expanded to include nearly 200 volunteer attorneys.

STATE EXPERTISE. Building on the Law Center's success strengthening gun laws at the local level, Law Center attorneys works with a coalition of advocates throughout California to pass firearms laws at the state level.

Beginning in 1994, this coalition helped pass [60 new gun laws over the next two decades](#), resulting in a 50% drop in California's gun death rate. The reduction in the state's gun death rate was double the national average during this time period. With the advocacy and expertise of the Law Center and the California coalition, California has continued to lead the way in passing strong and innovative gun laws. In 2014, after a shooter killed six people and injured 14 more near the University of California, Santa Barbara, the Law Center worked with state lawmakers and the California Firearms Strategy Group to help enact groundbreaking legislation that creates a [gun violence restraining order](#). This was the first law in the nation to allow family members to obtain an order temporarily disarming a loved one who is imminently dangerous to self or others. And in 2016, the Law Center partnered with [Lt. Governor Gavin Newsom to pass Proposition 63](#), the Safety for All Act, a series of lifesaving smart gun laws placed on the ballot as a voter initiative. Law Center attorneys drafted the language, which voters overwhelmingly approved.

Given the success in California, the Law Center began to expand its work with advocates and public officials to other states in 1999. The Law Center now conducts workshops, drafts model regulations, surveys local gun laws, assists advocates and officials working for stronger state and local measures, and enlists volunteer attorneys. As part of this work, the Law Center created an [educational website](#) to document and summarize federal, state and local firearms laws, and other essential information on firearms policies. In 2009, it began tracking, analyzing, and reporting on firearms legislation and [trends in all 50 states](#), making the organization the primary resource on state gun laws for media, advocates, lawmakers, and the public. The Law Center also publishes the [Gun Law State Scorecard](#) each year, in which state gun laws are ranked and graded. This report demonstrates a strong correlation between the strength of a state's gun laws and its gun death rate. The yearly publication is cited frequently by the media, advocates, and elected officials. Following the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting, the demand for stronger gun laws grew rapidly and the Law Center elevated its work with stakeholders and legislators to help educate them on how they can pass strong firearms regulation, leading to over 200 new laws enacted in 45 states since 2013. Today, the Law Center fields an increasing number of assistance requests for state work, responding to over 200 requests in 2015, and over 300 in 2016.

THE SECOND AMENDMENT. A core focus of Giffords Law Center has been its work defending strong gun laws that have been enacted by states and municipalities when they are challenged in courts by the gun lobby. In 1997, the Law Center began filing [amicus briefs](#) for appellate cases in which some of these strong firearms laws were being challenged. Over the next two decades, the Law Center filed 80 briefs. Recently, faced with the most prominent Second Amendment case in recent history, [District of Columbia v. Heller](#), the Law Center coordinated the drafting and filing of 19 amicus briefs, written on behalf of 188 amici, in support of the District in the case before the Supreme Court. These briefs represent a wide variety of important institutional voices, including law enforcement groups, public health advocates, law professors, historians, linguists, the American Bar Association, major American cities, states, former Department of Justice officials and members of Congress. A 2006 report published by the Law Center, *Regulating Guns in America: A Comprehensive Analysis of Gun Laws Nationwide*, is cited by United States Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer in his dissenting opinion in the *Heller* case. And in 2011, the Law Center launched the Post-Heller Brief Bank, which contains pleadings and other materials from cases across the country to assist government attorneys defending federal, state and local firearms laws against Second Amendment challenges.

The legal work of the Law Center has since intensified, most notably by the creation of the [Firearms Accountability Counsel Taskforce](#) (FACT) in 2016. This collaborative effort brings together the country's premier gun violence prevention organizations and think tanks with lawyers from the nation's preeminent law firms to reduce gun violence by challenging irresponsible gun laws and developing strategies to bring accountability to the gun lobby. The Law Center is also host to the annual Second Amendment Litigation and Jurisprudence Conference, which brings together over 60 attorneys from across the country to discuss relevant pending cases and recent decisions. Now in its seventh year, this event has become a premier conference for academics and professionals alike committed to Second Amendment law.

ORGANIZING VOICES FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE WHO HAVE THE COURAGE TO SPEAK UP

Ending our nation's gun violence epidemic will take the commitment of lawmakers to make communities safer. But it will also take the collaboration of people from all walks of life coming together and finding the courage to speak up. Giffords has built coalitions of courageous people who are committed to fighting gun violence in their communities and across the nation. Our coalitions represent [veterans](#), [law enforcement officers](#), [women](#), and gun owners standing together for safer laws. We partner with faith leaders, lawyers, business leaders, doctors, parents, teachers, and advocates fighting for safer communities. Together, we are speaking up in communities, companies, courthouses, and statehouses across the nation.

Giffords has worked to organize important and uncommon voices for commonsense solutions to gun violence.

- Giffords has launched coalitions of local leaders—including gun owners, Republicans, veterans, business leaders, community advocates, law enforcement officials, and domestic violence prevention advocates—in [New Hampshire](#), [Delaware](#), [Minnesota](#), [Oregon](#), [Virginia](#), [Arizona](#), [New Mexico](#), and [Ohio](#).
- Under Mark Kelly's leadership, Giffords has engaged veterans around the country through the creation of the [Giffords Veterans Coalition](#), which includes on its Advisory Committee leaders like General Stanley McChrystal, USA (Ret.) and General Wesley Clark, USA (Ret.).
- Gabby Giffords brought together a national bipartisan group of women leaders from across sectors and industries to establish the [Giffords Women's Coalition](#). These leaders include former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, former Governor Jennifer Granholm and former Governor Christine Todd Whitman, as well as leaders from all industries like Neera Tanden, Jessica Alba, and Mindy Kaling. The creation of this coalition began in October 2014 when Gabby traveled to nine states in nine days on her "[Protect All Women Tour](#)," where she met with women leaders to discuss the steps our lawmakers can take to address the deadly mix of access to guns and domestic violence.
- Earlier this year, Giffords joined with law enforcement leaders from across the country to announce the [Giffords Law Enforcement Coalition](#). The Advisory Committee for the Law Enforcement Coalition includes law enforcement leaders Director B. Todd Jones (Ret.), Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, Commissioner Charles Ramsey (Ret.), Philadelphia Police Department in PA, Chief Louis Dekmar, LaGrange Police Department in GA, Sheriff Lupe Valdez, Dallas County Sheriff's Department in TX, and Chief Chris Magnus, Tucson Police Department in AZ.
- To highlight how gun violence can impact a state's economy and business community, Giffords and Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence have authored a series of reports. The first of these, [The Economic Cost](#)

[of Gun Violence in Minnesota: A Business Case for Action](#), was authored with the [Giffords Minnesota Coalition](#) and found that the state's gun violence crisis costs Minnesota \$764 million each year. In 2017, Giffords and the Giffords Law Center also released smaller reports on the economic cost of gun violence in [Arizona](#) and [Ohio](#).

- In July 2013, Gabby and Mark traveled to seven states in seven days on the [“Rights and Responsibilities Tour,”](#) where they met with hundreds of gun owners, law enforcement officials, families, doctors, non-gun owners, and Americans affected by gun violence.

ABOUT GIFFORDS

Giffords is a nonprofit organization dedicated to saving lives from gun violence.

Led by former Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords and her husband, Navy combat veteran and retired NASA astronaut Captain Mark Kelly, Giffords inspires the courage of people from all walks of life to make America safer.

ABOUT THE GIFFORDS LAW CENTER

For nearly 25 years, the legal experts at Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence have been fighting for a safer America by researching, drafting, and defending the laws, policies, and programs proven to save lives from gun violence.