

# Bridging the Divide

## Firearm Policy Outline

Participants of **Bridging the Divide on Firearms Policy** were tasked with the goal of developing a comprehensive platform of state level policies that will be effective in reducing population levels of firearm-related harms while respecting the rights of firearm owners. This comprehensive policy addresses eight policy areas that are significant for both gun violence prevention advocates, and firearm owners concerned with protecting Second Amendment and due process rights, broken down into eight separate proposals. While these policy proposals are described separately, they are meant to reinforce each other and are designed as a cohesive package that will be most effective when implemented as a whole. The areas of focus for the eight proposals are as follows.

### 1. Prohibiting Factors for Firearm Purchase and Possession

*Because people at the highest risk of committing violence are those with a history of violence, those with such a history are the focus of this policy.*

- Prohibits gun possession by those convicted of a violent crime at the misdemeanor level while removing state restrictions on those convicted of non-violent felonies
- Removes prohibition of gun purchases by persons who use marijuana; removes redundancy with federal laws

### 2. Background Checks

*Because the federal NICS background checks system is often inadequate in flagging prohibited purchasers and is not required for private sales, this policy establishes a comprehensive state-level background checks scheme.*

- Creates a state-level background check system for private sales
- Establishes logical exemptions from background check requirements

### 3. Extreme Risk Protection Order

*Because firearms pose a danger when in the hands of those deemed an imminent risk of violence to themselves or others, this policy aims to restrict firearm access from those individuals.*

- Establishes a unique extreme risk protection order policy that addresses both firearm access and mental health access
- Provides clear due-process safeguards for gun owners

#### **4. Dealer Regulation and Gun Trafficking**

*Because 5% of firearm dealers are responsible for selling 90% of traced crime guns, this policy focuses on ensuring legal compliance by these small minority of irresponsible dealers.*

- Focuses law enforcement on the small number of dealers from whom the majority of traced crime guns originate
- Provides protection from liability for responsible gun dealers

#### **5. Child Firearm Access Prevention and Responsible Gun Storage**

*Because significant numbers of firearms owners inadequately store their guns, this policy aims to enculturate safe storage and staging practices through a wide range of methods while avoiding uniform storage mandates. It also addresses safe staging practices which are essential for many gun owners who own guns for self-defense.*

- Encourages secure storage and staging best practices through a variety of means
- Provides tax incentives for gun safety training and the purchase of secure storage or staging devices

#### **6. Firearm Suicide Prevention**

*Because firearm suicides make up the majority of firearm deaths, this policy focuses on specifically addressing firearm suicides.*

- Implements firearm suicide prevention education and awareness programs
- Removes restrictions on the voluntary transfer of guns from people at risk of self-harm

#### **7. Firearm Injury Prevention Education**

*Because millions of children in the US live in a household with firearms, this policy aims to educate them on age-appropriate safe practices.*

- Implements evidence-based public health education on firearm injury prevention in schools
- Ensures accessible, age-appropriate education for all students aimed at saving lives

#### **8. Community Violence Intervention**

*Because community gun violence makes up the majority of gun homicides in the US, this policy aims to directly address this issue.*

- Provides funding for community violence intervention and hospital-based violence intervention programs
- Provides funding for behavioral threat assessment, mental health resources, safety, and security measures in schools