



WNDC PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE

2020 POSITIONS ON GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION

WNDC recognizes that the United States suffers from a gun violence crisis. We believe it is an unacceptable and avoidable tragedy to lose almost 40,000 lives each year because of gun violence. Equally appalling is the fact that our country has more gun deaths among children than any other high-income nation: 3,000 children and teenagers are shot and killed annually. Most of the gunfire on school grounds occurs at schools with a higher number of students of color and disproportionately Black students. Our children should be able to attend school without fear that each day could be their last, and all US residents should be able to enjoy life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, free of gun violence.

Therefore, WNDC calls for national lawmakers to:

- Require universal background checks. The loopholes in the current system mean too many guns fall into the wrong hands, so the checks need to be expanded to include firearms sold at gun shows and over the internet.
- Renew the Federal Assault Weapons Ban, which expired in 2004. Assault weapons are designed for maximum lethality and are not intended for civilian use.
- Ban large-capacity ammunition magazines, which enable firing numerous times without having to reload.
- Ban bump stocks. Bump stocks allow semi-automatic weapons to function like automatic weapons, which can fire multiple rounds with the single pull of a trigger.
- Implement policies to remove domestic-violence abusers' access to firearms, including Extreme Risk Protective Orders" (ERPO); and promote regional solutions through multi-state coalitions, such as States for Gun Safety, recently formed among Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Delaware, New York, and New Jersey.
- Provide civic education for all.

And we oppose:

- The National Concealed Gun Carry Reciprocity Act. This would allow states with the most stringent requirements to be subverted by those with the most lenient regulations.
- Any agenda to force guns into our schools. Decisions regarding school safety should be made by citizens, not by corporations and lobbying groups in pursuit of their own financial interests. Educators, as well as the students at Parkland, Florida, have made clear that arming teachers will only make their schools less safe.
- The Hearing Protection Act. This legislation legalizes silencers.
- The 2nd Amendment Enforcement Act. This legislation erodes DC's gun laws.