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# WOMEN'S COALITION

F O R C O M M O N S E N S E

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July 13, 2016

Members of Congress,

We are a coalition of women leaders from business, law enforcement, government, domestic violence prevention, women's advocacy, journalism, entertainment and public health. Like Americans all across our country, we are outraged by the mass killing in Orlando and other recent tragic events. Our thoughts and prayers remain with the victims and their families. But sadly, these recent tragedies are only the latest horrific events in our national gun violence crisis that claimed 33,000 lives last year. This crisis is destroying families and our communities.

That's why we have come together to demand that you do more to keep guns out of the wrong hands, protect the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding Americans, and save lives. We are not alone. Americans – Democrats, Republicans, and Independents – agree that we need stronger laws to keep guns out of the hands of dangerous people. It is time for lawmakers like you to listen to your constituents, the very people you were elected to serve.

You can start to address our gun violence crisis by acting to close the loopholes in our laws that allow domestic abusers and felons to buy a gun without a criminal background check. Unlike federally licensed gun dealers, unlicensed sellers are not required to conduct background checks on gun purchases, often with devastating consequences for women and families.

Strengthening our laws and closing these dangerous loopholes would save lives. In states with background checks on all handgun sales, 46% fewer women are murdered with a gun by their intimate partners.

As we continue to mourn the losses from gun violence everywhere, we urge you to give voice to the concerns of your constituents and honor the memory of the 33,000 Americans killed by gun violence every year and enact real, meaningful, and responsible solutions that can help prevent gun tragedies, and make our communities safer places to live.

Sincerely,

**The Honorable Gabrielle Giffords**, Former Congresswoman (2007-2012)\*

**The Honorable Madeleine K. Albright**, Former United States Secretary of State\*

**Gail Becker**, President of Strategic Partnerships and Global Integration and Chair of the Global Women's Network, Edelman\*

**Connie Britton**, Actress and Activist\*

**Melanie L. Campbell**, Convener, Black Women's Roundtable; President and CEO, NCBCP\*

**Dr. Brittney Cooper**, Professor of Women's and Gender Studies and Africana Studies, Rutgers University\*

**Kim Gandy**, President and CEO, National Network to End Domestic Violence\*

**Ruth Glenn**, Executive Director, National Coalition Against Domestic Violence\*

**Chief Janeé Harteau**, Chief of Police, City of Minneapolis\*

**The Honorable Carla Hills**, Former United States Trade Representative\*

**Nanxi Liu**, Founder and CEO, Enplug Technologies

**Dyllan McGee**, CEO and Founder, MAKERS\*

**Barbara Bailey Parker**, Mother of Alison Parker and Gun Violence Prevention Advocate\*

**Dr. Lynn Pasquerella**, President, Association of American Colleges and Universities\*

**Jennifer Pinckney**, Gun Violence Survivor; Wife of the Late South Carolina State Senator Clementa Pinckney; Founder of The Honorable Reverend Clementa Pinckney Foundation\*

**Andrea Pino**, Co-Founder and Director of Policy and Support, End Rape on Campus\*

**Katie Ray-Jones**, CEO, The National Domestic Violence Hotline\*

**Dr. Debora Spar**, President, Barnard College\*

**Robyn Thomas**, Executive Director, Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence\*

**The Honorable Ann Veneman**, Former United States Secretary of Agriculture\*

**Shannon Watts**, Founder, Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America\*

**The Honorable Christine Todd Whitman**, Former Governor of New Jersey\*

**Silvestre Acedillo**, Founder and Creative Director, VENUTEC

**The Honorable Lashrece D. Aird**, Delegate, Virginia House of Delegates

**Allie Bones**, CEO, Arizona Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence (ACESDV)

**Dr. Alice Chen**, Executive Director, Doctors for America

**Cameka Crawford**, Chief Communications Officer, The National Domestic Violence Hotline

**Andrea Cuvelier**

**Donna Dees-Thomases**, Founder, Million Mom March

**Marium Durrani**, Public Policy Attorney, National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV)

**Dr. Regina Edwards**, CEO, Arizona YWCA Metropolitan Phoenix

**Lanae Erickson Hatalsky**, Vice President for Social Policy and Politics, Third Way

**Judy Fisher**, Moms Demand Action

**Ilana Flemming**, Manager of Advocacy Initiatives, Jewish Women International (JWI)

**The Honorable Kate Gallego**, Vice Mayor, City of Phoenix

**Janet Gilmore**

**Shira Goodman**, Executive Director, CeaseFirePA

**Rachel Graber**, Public Policy Manager, National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV)

**Leah Gunn Barrett**, Executive Director, New Yorkers Against Gun Violence

**The Honorable Debra Heffernan**, Representative, Delaware House of Representatives

**Kathleen Higgins**, Officer, Compliance Test Design/Analytics Specialist, Bank of America

**Joani Horchler**, Maryland Moms Demand Action

**Carolyn Jenkins**, Organizing for Action

**Helene Keeley**, Speaker Pro-Tempore, Delaware House of Representatives

**Lieutenant General Claudia Kennedy**, USA (Ret.)

**Nancy Kennedy**

**Babe King**, Organizer, YELLOW TAPE PROJECT to Stop Gun Violence

**Suzanne Koepplinger**, Former Executive Director, Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center  
**Captain Gail Kulisch**, USCG (Ret.)

**Ronald Legrand**, Vice President, Public Policy, National Network to End Domestic Violence

**Dr. Barbara Levy**, Vice President, Health Policy, The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists

**Gail Levyveld**

**The Honorable Valerie Longhurst**, Representative, Delaware House of Representatives

**Jennifer Lynch**, Oregon Alliance for Gun Safety

**Natalie Marra**

**Heather Martens**, Executive Director, Protect Minnesota

**Nonna Noto**, Jubilee Jobs

**Chelsea Parsons**, Vice President, Guns and Crime Policy, Center for American Progress

**The Honorable Karen Peterson**, Senator, Delaware State Senate

**Jody Rabhan**, Director, Washington Office, National Council of Jewish Women

**Jane Randel**, Co-Founder, Karp Randel

**Beth Reilly**, Faith Advocate and Organizer

**Patricia Reuss**, Policy Advisor, National Organization for Women

**Carol Robles-Román**, President and CEO, Legal Momentum

**The Honorable Katherine Rogers**, New Hampshire House of Representatives

**The Honorable Diane Rosenbaum**, Senate Majority Leader, Oregon State Senate

**Deborah Rosenbloom**, Vice President of Programs and New Initiatives, Jewish Women International (JWI)

**Arlene Schler**

**Jessica Scoratow**, Georgetown Against Gun Violence

**Rabbi Susan Shankman**, Washington Hebrew Congregation

**Katie Simon**, Policy Organizing Manager, Brady Campaign

**Dianne Snyder**

**The Honorable Liane Sorenson**, Board Chair, Delaware Coalition Against Gun Violence

**Kiersten Stewart**, Policy Director, Futures Without Violence

**Susan Stoltenberg**, Executive Director, YWCA of Greater Portland

**Martha Strawn Morris**, Director, The Gateway Center for Domestic Violence Services

**Diane Tattersall**, Last Chance Animal Rescue

**Sarah Trumble**, Senior Policy Counsel, Third Way

**The Honorable Nancy Tyra-Lukens**, Mayor, City of Eden Prairie, Minnesota

**Roberta Valente**, Chief Officer for Government Affairs, The National Domestic Violence Hotline

**Kristin Wald**, Start Out Fresh Intervention Advocates

**Lori Weinstein**, CEO, Jewish Women International (JWI)

**Melissa Youssef**, Legal Aid, Institute of Policy Research

*\*Advisory Committee Members*