

Consensus on Ways to Reduce Gun Violence

An important part of our work is educating citizens about existing gun regulation and promoting thoughtful discussion to identify consensus.

Did you know there is substantial agreement for potential action to reduce gun violence between those who don't own guns and those who do?

**See the reverse side for an explanation of how we identify "consensus" issues.*

Here are a few examples based on Pew Research Center polling (published 6/2017).

A majority of Non Gun Owners and Gun Owners agree we should:

- Have a pre-purchase background check before ALL gun purchases
- Keep convicted felons or those with mental illness from purchasing guns
- Keep those on the federal "no fly" list from purchasing guns
- Require a permit for an individual to conceal¹ carry of a gun
- Create a federal database to track gun sales
- In gun owning households – take gun safety courses; educate children about gun safety; store guns in locked locations.

¹To conceal carry means have a gun out of site, or "concealed" under clothing or in some other manner. So carrying your gun under a jacket in a holster would be "concealed carry."

Quinnipiac University Polls, (12/2017; 2/2018), identified the following areas of "consensus" among households that don't own guns and gun owning households (GOH):

- Require a background check before every gun purchase (97% support overall; 97% in gun owning households - GOH)
- There should be a federal waiting period before a purchaser can take a gun home (83% overall; 77% GOH)
- Pass an Extreme Risk Protection Order law (89% overall; 87% GOH)
- Require individuals to be age 21 for gun purchase. (78% overall; 69% GOH)

Identifying Your Elected Officials:

- U.S. Senator (Currently Robert Casey & Patrick Toomey for Pennsylvania)
- U.S. Representative
- PA State Senator
- PA State Representative

You can find your Congressperson and State Officials online in about two minutes. Simply search under "Find my PA Legislator," visit that site, and enter your home address or visit our site, www.gunsenseus.org/Legislation

We define “consensus” as being issues related to gun violence/gun policy where:

- A majority of those who do own guns, and
- A majority of those who don’t own guns
.....agree!

This information comes from non-partisan polls. The polls we use most often are:

- Pew Research Center (Poll published June 2017)
- Quinnipiac University Polling (Polls published about every other month)

There is a difference between the two polls.

- The Pew Research Center poll identifies “gun owning respondents.”
- The Quinnipiac Poll gun-related respondents are “gun owning households”

As not every respondent in a “gun owning household” is an actual gun owner, we do not label a response to a given question as being in the “majority” for gun owning households until it is well over 50% (say 60% or higher.)

Here Is An Example...

Q: Do you support allowing the police or a family member to petition a judge to remove guns from a person that may be at risk for violent behavior? Quinnipiac University Poll, February 2018.

Total Responses: 89% Support

Gun Owning Households: 87% Support

Since...

- A clear majority of total respondents and
 - A clear majority of gun owning household respondents
- ...support this policy. GunSenseUs considers this a “consensus” issue.

We, therefore, would support relevant legislation -- in this case a bill called an Extreme Risk Protection Order (or Gun Violence Restraining Order.)

See the Other Side for Examples of Existing Consensus!