



**The Georgia Coalition for Safe Communities (GCSC) and our nation's health care community has long recognized gun violence as a public health crisis, and health care leaders have embraced an obligation to address it. We believe The Bipartisan Safer Communities Act is a first step by the Biden Administration and Congress to take action against the escalating gun violence in our nation.**

### **Recent Actions on Gun Violence:**

- **Thursday, June 23** – SCOTUS rules in a New York case that guns may be carried outside the home without a compelling reason. Previously, and dating back to a law passed in 1911, anyone applying for a carry permit must show cause for the need to carry outside the home. This ruling will also affect CA, NJ and other states which previously had similar laws. Permits will still be required to carry.
  - Although it does not appear to impact Georgia, which as of this year allows carry with NO permit; on Friday morning John Monroe, VP of and legal counsel to Georgia Carry (NRA group) stated they are examining the ruling to determine if it can provide additional gun rights in Georgia.
- **Thursday, June 23** – The Senate passed the **Bipartisan Safer Communities Act** with 15 Republicans joining all 50 Dems in a 65 – 33 vote. The next day, the House passed it 234 – 193 with 14 Republicans signing on.
- **Friday, June 24** - President Biden signed the significant gun prevention bill in 26 years, into law.

## **THE BIPARTISAN SAFER COMMUNITIES ACT**

### **Summary**

- **Red Flag Laws** - \$750 million in funding for states over the next 5 years. Extreme Risk Red Flag legislation provides a way to remove guns or deny purchase to anyone deemed by a judge to be a danger to themselves or others. It has been a real lifesaver in states where it is law, especially given that 2/3 of gun deaths are suicides.
  - Georgia has no RFL, 2 years ago RFL Bill gained some bipartisan traction at our Capitol and actually got a hearing.
- **Dating Partner Loophole** – Current law prohibits purchase or ownership to anyone adjudicated as marriage or domestic partner abusers for five years. This new law expands it to current or recent dating partners that do not reside with the victim. Statistics indicate that women are as likely to be killed by a dating partner as by a spouse. This provision will likely save lives from stalkers.
- **Enhancing Background Checks for Gun Buyers Under 21** –In most states, the legal age to purchase a handgun is 21. In Georgia, there is an exception if the buyer has served in the military. Keep in mind, an AR15 or other semi-automatic long gun, is classified the same as a hunting rifle and can be purchased at age 18 like the Buffalo and Uvalde killers did. This new law will prevent instantaneous purchase for anyone under 21 and require extended background checks that will take 3 to 10

business days to complete vs. same day purchase. Recent statistics cite that 18-to-20-year old's commit triple the number of homicides than adults over 21.

- Includes a provision clarifying who must run a background check and requiring sales of unlicensed sellers to strangers, must obtain a Federal Firearms license and run background checks on all sales. This appears to close the Gun Show and Internet loopholes in which many private dealers sell their arsenals for cash with no licensing/ background checks.
- **Cracking Down on Gun Trafficking** –Restricts ‘straw purchasing’, a method that provides guns to criminals, where someone with no criminal record passes a background check and buys a guns for others with violations. As states with weaker gun laws contribute at a higher rate to trafficking in states with stronger gun laws, Georgia has been regularly in the top tier of providing guns for out of state crime. And Georgia is now the #1 state for gun manufacturing. This provision will provide funding and help law enforcement crack down on “up-stream” offenders.
- **Community Violence Intervention** –\$250 million in funding addressing gun violence as a *public health crisis*. Gun violence disproportionately affects Black and Brown communities and traditionally there is low investment in these neighborhoods. This funding will support organizations providing trauma response, mental health, and suicide prevention to those most impacted by gun violence.
- **School Safety Resource funding** – \$300 million will be allocated to include funding for tip lines, threat assessment and targeted school security improvements.

### **Take Action:**

GCSC continues to urge Georgia lawmakers to form a legislative Study Committee to focus on a science-based public health approach to gun violence research in Georgia. Currently, Georgia lacks a public health framework for understanding gun-related violence. Without a public health framework and database of accurate information, Georgia will be unable to strategize and implement effective violence-reducing campaigns, procedures and legislative policies. Guided by Georgia specific data and measured impacts, our state will be able to develop wrap-around policies that engage the public and empower officials to secure safety in our neighborhoods.

- **Please call your Federal Senator and Congressman/woman to go beyond the new *Bipartisan Safer Communities Act* and support more bi-partisan efforts to enact responsible gun violence prevention laws.**
- **In our State of Georgia, join GCSC asking our Georgia General Assembly by calling your State Representative and Senator to support the new *Bipartisan Safer Communities Act* and create a Georgia Gun Violence Prevention Study Committee.**