GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION

POLICY & MESSAGING

PREPARED FOR

SIMA LADEJVARDIN (TX-02)

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Dear Sima Ladejvardin,

As we move into the final months of the 2020 election cycle, we wanted to thank you for your candidacy and your remarkable leadership on the issue of gun violence prevention. As a Brady-endorsed candidate for the U.S. House of Representatives, you are a member of an elite group of resolute individuals committed to ensuring our political discourse is based on facts, logic, and reason, and who will champion common sense solutions to protect the American people from gun violence.

To assist you, we have prepared a "Brady Book" – a primer on gun violence including relevant statistics and talking points calibrated to the concerns of your constituency. We recognize that the voters in each congressional district have different approaches to the problem of gun violence, and this manual is designed to help you better communicate the gun violence prevention policies that will best serve your constituents.

Please go to our website at Bradyunited.org for further resources on gun violence prevention policy and to learn more about our programs. If you have any questions please reach out to our Vice President of Policy, Christian Heyne, at cheyne@bradyunited.org.

We hope that you find these resources useful and would be grateful for the awareness you will draw to the issue of gun violence prevention. We look forward to working with you over the coming months and beyond.

Sincerely,

Kris Brown
President, Brady

GUN VIOLENCE FACTS TEXAS AND TX-02

- Between 2014 and 2020, excluding suicide, there have been 177 gun-related deaths in TX-02. Gun suicides account for nearly two-thirds of gun deaths nationally.
- Between 2014 and 2018, 16,439 people were killed with firearms in Texas, an average of 3,288 per year or nine people per day.
- Since 2014, 603 children and teens under the age of 18 have been killed by gun violence in Texas.
- Additionally, there have been 161 mass shootings and 980 unintentional shootings in Texas since 2014.
- The vast majority of guns used in crime in states with strong gun laws come from outside of their borders. In Texas, the majority of guns used in crime come from inside of its borders. In fact, 66% of guns traced to crime in Texas were acquired in-state.
- The August 3, 2019 mass shooter in El Paso appears to have specifically targeted Hispanic people in the eighth deadliest mass shooting in modern U.S. history. In 2018, the year before this mass shooting, hate crimes in Texas increased by nearly 240% from 2017, with racially motivated hate crimes increasing the most of any category.
- The August 31, 2019 mass shooter in Odessa, who killed seven and left 25 injured, failed a background check to purchase a gun in 2014. He acquired the weapon used in a private sale, because there is no national nor Texan universal background check law.

COVID AND GUN VIOLENCE

- National gun sales rose precipitously amid COVID fears this year.
- In Texas, background checks for gun sales* in March 2020 increased by 138% from March 2019, and June 2020 had a 163% increase in background checks for gun sales as compared with June 2019.
- The spike in firearms purchases between March and May of 2020 has been linked to an almost 8% increase in firearm violence nationally over that same period.
- In Texas, gun stores were deemed essential businesses, and have reported that their sales have greatly increased.
- Incidents of gun violence in Texas have persisted among COVID fears and racial justice protests, including a shooting in a public park in Fort Worth that left 5 people injured and the killing of anti-police brutality protester Garrett Foster.

POLLING ON GUN VIOLENCE

- When considering problems solely facing the state of Texas, gun control and gun violence ranked third among Texas Voters in a October 2019 poll.
- Texas voters in that same poll overwhelmingly (81%) supported expanding background checks to private gun sales. Among Texas voters, 68% indicated support for Extreme Risk Laws.
- Texans' support for specific policy proposals such as Extreme Risk Laws and universal background checks is much higher than support for "more strict" gun control laws generally.
- Nationally, more than 90% of Americans have consistently supported universal background checks over the last several years.
- According to a 2019 Fox News poll, over 80% of Americans support Extreme Risk Laws to remove guns temporarily from those whom a court has determined pose a risk to themselves or others, and 67% supported an assault weapons ban.

YOUR OPPONENT AT A GLANCE: DAN CRENSHAW

- Crenshaw has received at least $45,900 in contributions and indirect support from the NRA and other gun rights organizations.
- Has an "A" rating from the NRA.
- Voted against H.R. 8, the bipartisan universal background check bill that passed the House.
- Voted against H.R. 1112, a bipartisan bill that fixes the Charleston Loophole by giving the FBI more time to complete a background check if necessary.
- Voted against H.R. 1585, the Violence Against Women Act reauthorization, which was carried by an overwhelming bipartisan majority and which would prevent non-married domestic abusers and stalkers from accessing guns.
- In a shocking tweet, Crenshaw endorsed "red-flag" laws at the state level. However, he does not agree with existing Extreme Risk Laws and has not taken action on this endorsement.

**Background checks do not denote individual gun sales, as multiple firearms or no firearms may be delivered with each background check. However, they are the strongest indicator of gun sales.*

TALKING TO VOTERS ABOUT GUNS AND GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION

Policies surrounding firearms and gun violence can feel among the most polarizing in our political discourse today and how you present your message on gun violence prevention will be paramount to its effectiveness. Most importantly, discussions on firearm policy should never be framed as anti-gun, but instead as pro-safety, pro-responsibility, and pro-public health. Regardless of where they are from, when legislators and candidates are able to effectively communicate policies that prevent gun violence, polls consistently reflect they are able to win over constituents because of their positions rather than in-spite of them.

Finding common ground is the best way to open any persuasive discussion on gun violence prevention. Identify ideals that unite — like respecting constitutional rights, while also preventing gun deaths — and focus on those. Once common ground is established, offering facts and statistics in a constructive (did you know?) manner can invite them to consider their positions without assaulting their convictions. It also offers them an opportunity to re-engage on the issue with you and feel heard.

Don't be afraid to disagree with voters, but make sure that an effort has been made to find common ground, that you remain open to their concerns, and that you don't get defensive. Any conversation on gun violence prevention that ends with an opportunity for further discussion is a step in the right direction.

Below, we have compiled an extensive list of important facts and talking points on gun violence in America.

While we hope you will keep this information to better educate yourself on the issue, we recommend that you learn just a few points from each that will resonate best with your constituency to help in your discussions with them.

GUN VIOLENCE STATISTICS AND TALKING POINTS

BASICS ON GUN VIOLENCE IN AMERICA

- Every year almost 40,000 people will die from gun violence in America
- That's over 100 people who are shot and killed in the United states *every day*.
  - That's one life lost to a gun every 14 minutes.
  - That's the equivalent of a regional passenger jet falling from the sky on a daily basis.
- Daily, 2 to 3 times as many people will be shot and survive their injuries, their lives, and their family's lives, changed forever.
- More people have died from domestic gun violence in the last 13 years (444,299) than were killed in combat in every major American war of the 20th Century, *combined* (426,280 - including WWI, WW2, Korea, Vietnam, and Desert Storm).

UNIVERSAL BRADY BACKGROUND CHECKS

- Background checks are the foundation that all other gun laws are built upon.
- Without background checks it is almost impossible to keep guns out of the hands of prohibited individuals or to hold illegal gun dealers accountable.

- Background checks are incredibly effective: over 3.5 million unlawful gun transactions have been blocked since the Brady Background Check law went into effect.
  - However, 1 in every 5 guns is sold today without a background check — most of which are sold at gun shows or via the internet.
- Gun homicide rates have been cut in half in the years since the Brady Law was passed.
  - Gun homicides fell an astonishing 46% from 1993 to 2001.
  - By 2010, the gun homicide rate had dropped 49%.
- All other gun-related crimes dropped substantially as well—assaults, robberies and sex crimes—were 75% lower in 2011 than in 1993.
- We need to expand background checks to cover all gun transactions, so that prohibited people can't just turn to a private seller on the internet or at a gun show to evade a background check.
- Today, over 90% of the American public supports conducting a background check on every gun sale.
- 77% of gun owners support requiring background checks for private gun sales.
- In 2019 alone, over 28 million Brady Background Checks were processed by the FBI.

CHILDREN, TEENS & GUNS

- Every year, 7,878 children and teens (ages 1-17) are shot in the United States.
- Every year 3062 children and teens (ages 0-19) are killed with guns.
  - Over 8 children and teens are killed every day with guns.
  - One child or teen will die by gun *every 3 hours* in the United States.
- Firearm-related deaths are the 2nd leading cause of death for children and teens (1-19), surpassing deaths from pediatric congenital anomalies, heart disease, the flu, pneumonia, and a variety of other chronic diseases.
- Over 75% of school shootings are facilitated by kids having access to unsecured and/or unsupervised guns at home.
- More than 80% of guns used by youth in suicide attempts were kept in the home of the victim, a relative, or a friend.
- More than 75% of first and second graders know where their parents keep their firearms. Additionally, 36% of those children admitted to handling the weapons, contradicting their parents' belief that they had not.

SAFE STORAGE & FAMILY FIRE

- "Family fire" is a shooting involving an improperly stored or misused gun in the home that results in death or injury. Unintentional shootings, suicide, and intentional shootings are all forms of family fire.
- 8 children and teens are unintentionally injured or killed each day by family fire.
- 4.6 million children live in a home with an unlocked, loaded firearm.
- Among children, 89% of unintentional shooting deaths occur in the home.
- Keeping guns locked and unloaded was found to have a protective effect against unintentional shootings and suicide amoung youth, reducing odds of death by 73%.
- Storing ammunition separately from a firearm reduces the risk of an unintentional shooting among youth by 61%.

- Over 70% of kids know where the guns in their homes are stored, and one study showed that 1 in 5 parents who said their child never handled guns without supervision were contradicted by their child's reports.
- More than 70% of the guns used in pediatric suicide attempts were stored in their own residence, or the resident of a relative or friend.
- Firearm owners who keep their firearms locked or unloaded were at least 60% less likely to die from firearm related suicide than those who store their firearms unlocked and/or loaded.

FIREARM SUICIDE

- About 60% of gun deaths are suicides — an average of 22,926 per year.
- In 2018, over 24,400 individuals in America died by firearm suicide.
  - That means someone died by gun suicide every 21 and a half minutes.
- Firearms are extremely lethal compared to other commonly used methods in suicide attempts — less than 10% of all suicidal acts are fatal, but 90% of suicidal acts with a firearm result in death.
- The most common attempted method of suicide, drug overdose, is fatal in less than 3% of cases.
- Access to a gun in the home increases the risk of suicide death by 300%.
- Suicide is implusive, and preventable. Most decisions about suicide, occur within less than an hour of thinking about them. If lethal means such as firearms are inaccessible, the risk of suicide drops dramaticall.
- A second chance is critical, nine in 10 survivors of suicide attempts will not go on to die by suicide.

VETERANS, THE MILITARY, AND FIREARM SUICIDE

- Every day, 17 veterans die by suicide, and 70% use a gun.
- Every day, one Active Duty member of the military will die by suicide, and 60% will use a firearm.
- While veterans make up less than 8% of the population, they account for 18% of suicides in the United States.
- Veterans have a suicide rate that is 1.5 times that of civilian adults, and women veterans have an even higher rate — more than twice that of their civilian counterparts.
- Nearly half of all women veterans who died by suicide use a firearm, compared to just over a quarter of civilian women.
- Veterans have a much higher rate of gun ownership. While only one-third of Americans own firearms, nearly half of veterans own guns.
- At the current rate, the number of veterans and active duty service members that will die by suicide in 2020 is *higher than the number of service members we have lost to combat related injuries in Iraq and Afghanistan combined*.
- In a 2013 Center for American Progress poll –
  - 91% of vets supported requiring a criminal background check of every person who wants to buy a firearm;
  - 85% of vets said it's "important" for leaders in Washington to address gun violence;
  - 85% of vets said "we can protect responsible gun owners' Second Amendment rights while still making it more difficult for criminals and other dangerous people to obtain guns;"
  - 99% of vets supported increasing criminal penalties for people convicted of illegally trafficking guns to criminals.

GUN VIOLENCE AGAINST LAW ENFORCEMENT

- Guns in the hands of prohibited individuals pose an imminent risk to law enforcement — the number one cause of death for law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty is firearms.
- Assault-style guns are the weapon behind the death of one out of every five law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty by guns in 2016 and 2017.
- Between 2010 and 2019, 511 police officers were murdered in the line of duty — over 92% of them were killed with firearms, while 6% were killed by vehicles and only 0.5% were killed with knives.
- Between 2009 and 2018, 1062 police officers were assaulted in the line of duty and survived — 74% of them were assaulted with firearms (786 assaults).

EXTREME RISK LAWS

- Extreme Risk Laws (sometimes called "red flag laws" or ERPOs) allow for individuals who are a risk to themselves or others to be temporarily separated from firearms by a court of law, without criminal charges or a permanent prohibition.
- Nineteen states and Washington, D.C. have enacted versions of extreme risk laws
- ERPOs are particularly suited to preventing suicide — a study of Connecticut's ERPO law found that nearly half of all ERPOs resulted in individuals recieving treatment, and that for every 10-20 orders a suicide was prevented.
- Indiana's ERPO law was associated with a 7.5% reduction in firearm suicides in the ten years following its enactment.
- In the wake of the Parkland shooting, 12 states and the District of Columbia passed extreme risk laws, 5 of which were signed by Republican Governors (Florida, Illinois, Vermont, Maryland & Massachusetts).
- Nationally, majorities support the two key elements of extreme risk protection policies nationally:
  - 66% of gun owners and 80% of non gun owners (76% of adults overall) support authorizing law enforcement officers to temporarily remove firearms from those who pose an immediate threat to themselves or to others.
  - 72% of gun owners and 82% of non-gun owners (80% of adults overall) support allowing family members to ask a court to temporarily remove firearms from a relative who is believed to be at risk of harming themselves or others.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & GUNS

- An average of 529 women are killed by a husband or male dating partner with a gun every year.
  - This means a woman is killed by an intimate partner with a gun every 16 hours.
- Women are five times more likely to be killed by an abusive intimate partner when her abuser has access to a firearm during an incident of domestic violence.
- Women living in the United States are 21 times more likely to be killed with a gun than women living in other high-income countries.
- An analysis of domestic violence reports in 2016 showed that about 4.5 million American women reported that an intimate partner had threatened them with a gun.
- The majority of female homicides (64%) are perpetrated by current or former male intimate partners (as of 2015) and about 50-60% of these

homicides are carried out with a gun.

- 60% of mass shooting events in the last 6 years were either domestic violence attacks or perpetrated by those with a history of domestic violence.
- Convictions for a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence represents the fourth-most frequent reason for a denial of a FBI-conducted background check, only behind a felony conviction, outstanding arrest warrant, and unlawful controlled substance user.
- Under current law, domestic abusers convicted of misdemeanor crimes of violence who are married to their victim or share a child in common are prohibited from purchasing or possessing firearms. *There is no such law for dating partners who are convicted of misdemeanor crimes of violence.*

THE PUBLIC HEALTH CARE COSTS OF GUN VIOLENCE

- The total charges associated with emergency department visits and inpatient management of firearm-related injuries for individuals younger than 18 years old amounts to $270 million per year.
- The cost of *initial* hospitalizations alone for victims of gunshots is more than $700 million annually in the United States. Average *initial* hospitalization cost per patient is approximately $24,000-32,000.
- Medicaid covered $2.3 billion of the $6.6 billion in costs related to initial hospital stays for gunshot victims from 2006-2014.
- American trauma centers treat 1,565 gunshot wounds each week.

STOPPING THE FLOW OF CRIME GUNS

- According to ATF's latest data, about 5% of gun dealers are responsible for about 90% of recovered crime guns.
- Most gun dealers are responsible — 86% of dealers do not have even a single crime gun traced to their business in a given year.
- Amazingly, there is no federal law on gun trafficking.
- Lost and stolen guns from gun dealers are a huge source of crime guns in America:
  - Between 2012 and 2019, over 139,000 guns were reported lost or stolen from gun dealers, 61% of them reported "lost."
  - Between 2004 and 2011, almost 175,000 guns were reported lost or stolen from gun dealers.
  - Lost and stolen guns don't just disappear into thin air, they often are redirected to the illegal market and end up on America's street.
- ATF doesn't currently require gun dealers to follow common sense business practices, and instead issues voluntary guidance, including on locking up inventory or giving their employees background checks.
- ATF is also not doing their job to keep gun dealers responsible, and regularly downgrades penalties for dealers that break the law.
- In fact, ATF is supposed to inspect at least 20% of gun dealers every year, but fails regularly. In 2019, ATF only inspected 10% of the 130,000 gun dealers in America.
  - Less than 0.5% of dealers had their licenses revoked.

GHOST GUNS & 3D-PRINTED GUNS

- Ghost guns are untraceable firearms, that undermine all existing gun laws.
- Most commonly, ghost guns are firearms that are constructed from "unfinished" frames or receivers by individuals who don't have a manufacturing license from the federal government.
    - Frames and receivers are the only part of a firearm that ATF regulates as firearms themselves. If you are able to make one at home, all other parts needed to complete the firearm can also be purchased without a background check.
- Ghost guns are designed and marketed to circumvent federal regulations, they are often sold as kits that include all the pieces and tools necessary to complete them.
- These untraceable weapons have been linked nationwide to homicides, suicides, school shootings, mass shootings, robberies, the shooting deaths of law enforcement officers, and acts of domestic violence.
- In 2020, the Los Angeles division of the ATF recently said that almost half of their cases are focused on ghost guns.
- In Washington, D.C., only 3 ghost guns were recovered in 2017, and skyrocketed up to 116 in 2019 (at least four were tied to murders).
- In August 2019, an ex-con used a semi-automatic ghost gun to shoot three California Highway Patrol officers, one fatally.
- Recent technology has opened the door to "3-D printed guns," a type of ghost gun made with three-dimensional printers.
    - These guns can be made almost entirely of plastic, rendering most modern security devices like metal detectors ineffective in detecting their presence.
    - More commonly, 3D printers are used to build frames or receivers, the only regulated piece of a firearm, which allows prohibited individuals to evade background checks.
    - The release of the digital files that makes this technology feasible allows any person to make untraceable guns without serial numbers, background checks, waiting periods, permits, and other state and federal requirements for gun ownership.
    - In February 2019, a Texas man who was prohibited possessing firearms was sentenced to eight years in prison for carrying a gun with 3-D printed parts. He had a "hit list" of law-makers; presumably potential targets.
    - All 3D-printed guns are ghost guns, but most ghost guns are not 3D printed.

ASSAULT WEAPONS & HIGH-CAPACITY MAGAZINES

- Assault weapons are firearms designed for offensive use, intended to kill the most people in the shortest period of time.
- Weapons of war should not be in places of peace — assault weapons have no place on America's streets.
- Most assault rifles are also a poor choice for home security because of their high-powered rounds.
    - The AR-15 was chosen as the platform for the military's assault rifles because it can shoot through both sides of a standard issue Army helmet at 300 yards.
    - If used for home defense, a missed shot could easily travel through several walls and injure or kill an unintended individual.
- The only functional difference between an AR-15 and a military issue M4 is that the latter can shoot automatically.

- In 2016 and 2017, 1 in 5 officers killed in the line of duty were killed by assault weapons.
- A 2004 DOJ report stated that high-capacity magazines are used in 31-41% of fatal police shootings, varying by city.
- According to a 2010 survey by the Police Executive Research Forum, after the assault weapons ban expired in 2004, 37% of police agencies saw increases in criminal use of assault weapons and 38% reported a noticeable increase in criminal use of large capacity magazines.
- During the decade that the 1994 Assault Weapons Ban was in effect, gun massacres fell by 37%t, and the number of people dying from gun massacres fell by 43%.
- The following decade after the ban expired there was a 183% increase in "massacres" and 239% increase in fatalities.
- A review of mass shootings between 2009 and 2015 demonstrated that in shootings where assault weapons or large capacity magazines are used, 155% more people are shot and 47% more die compared to those without them.
- After the federal assault weapons ban was adopted, the prevalence of assault weapons as a share of recovered crime guns decreased between 32% and 40% across several major cities.
- According to both a 2018 Quinnipiac University poll and a 2019 Fox News poll, 67% of all

DISPROPORTIONATE IMPACT OF GUN VIOLENCE IN COMMUNITIES OF COLOR, PARTICULARLY IN BLACK COMMUNITIES

- While the majority of gun deaths nationally are suicides, the opposite is true for communities of color. Homicides account for 58% of Hispanic gun deaths and 82% of Black gun deaths.
- Black Americans represent over 58% of all gun homicide victims despite only comprising 13% of the U.S. population.
- The gun homicide rate for Hispanic victims is more than double that for white victims.
- Black Americans are over 11 times more likely than white Americans to die by gun homicide.
- In 2017, 57% of black adults said they knew someone who has been shot, compared with 43% of whites.
- Homicide is the second leading cause of death for Hispanics ages 15 to 24.
- Black children and teens (0-19) are 14 times more likely than white children and teens to die by gun homicide.
- More than two-thirds of Hispanic murder victims are killed with guns.
- Gun violence is the leading cause of injury-related death for Black children and teens (0-19).

POLICE VIOLENCE IS GUN VIOLENCE

- Police violence is the unlawful, unnecessary, or disproportionate use of force by police. Because police violence, in all of its forms, is facilitated by the direct use, threat, or perceived threat of firearms, not only to the victims but also bystanders with intent to intervene, police violence is gun violence.
- The rate of police violence in America far exceeds that in similar industrialized countries — interactions with an American police officer are 10 times more likely to end in death than police encounters in the U.K..
- Black men are 2.8 times more likely to be the victims of deadly police force than their white peers.
- Similarly, Latino men face higher lifetime risk of being killed by police than do their white peers.

- Black and Latinx citizens are three times as likely to be searched by police when stopped, and are twice as likely to have force used or threatened whenever they're approached by police.
- In the four weeks leading to George Floyd's death, there was an average of over 23 fatal police shootings each week.
- Among Black Americans, 93% reported that police treatment of Black Americans was one of the most important, or the most important, issue determining their vote for president, ranking higher than any other issue.
- Despite only comprising 13% of the U.S. population, Black individuals account for over 38% of the prison population in 2020.