



2017 Overlooked Trend In State Capitals Across The Country: Gun Safety Victories

*As 39 Legislatures Adjourn, Everytown for Gun Safety,
Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America
Waged Battle in Red, Blue, Purple States—and Won.*

This is a challenging political environment for gun safety advocates. Allies of the gun lobby control all three branches of the federal government, and have strong ties to many governors and state legislatures.

Yet a review of action in statehouses this year reveals the gun lobby and its advocates have suffered resounding defeats across the country. Thirty-nine state legislatures have closed their sessions for the year, and lawmakers in blue, red and purple states have worked to pass stronger gun laws and defeat dangerous gun lobby priority bills.

Since legislative sessions began in January, gun violence survivors, advocates with Everytown for Gun Safety and hundreds of volunteers with Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America, in partnership with local and national gun violence prevention organizations, have canvassed their legislators, rallied at state houses and testified during hearings to support positive public safety laws and to speak out against deadly policies.

As the country's largest gun violence prevention organization, with volunteer chapters in all 50 states, Everytown and Moms Demand Action proved to be the counterweight to NRA lobbyists in state capitols around the country. We pair our grassroots activism with a nearly \$3 million investment in state legislative work.

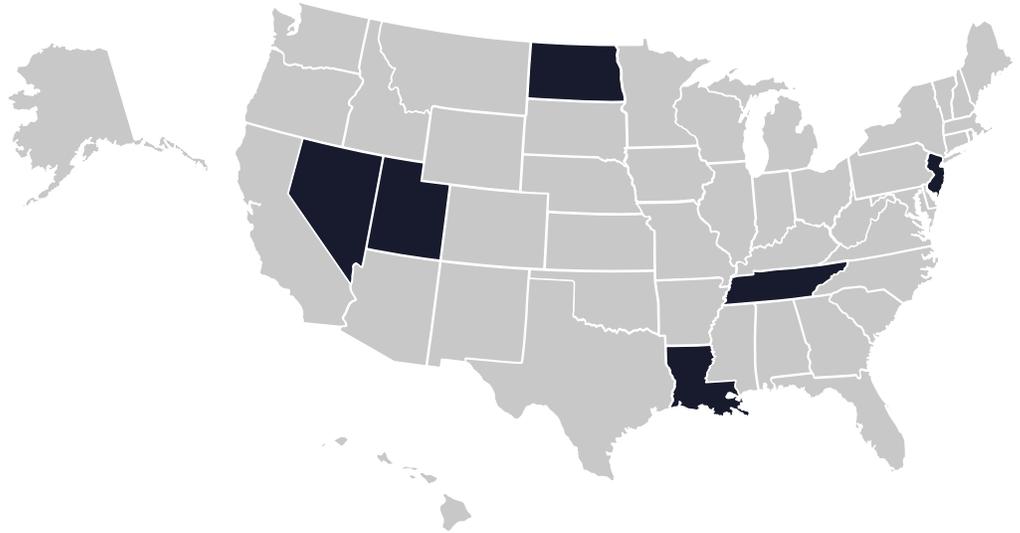
It's evident that these efforts have paid off. Here's how things stand now that most state legislatures have adjourned for 2017.

Bipartisan Wins: Keeping Guns Away from Domestic Abusers

This session we saw more progress as Republicans and Democrats increasingly found common ground on an issue vitally important to public safety: Keeping guns out of the hands of domestic abusers. Research has repeatedly shown that there is a lethal link between domestic violence and gun violence in America. The presence of a gun in a domestic violence situation makes it **five times more likely** a woman will die.

Since the start of 2013, a total of 23 states have strengthened existing laws or passed new ones to help keep guns away from domestic abusers. In 2017 alone, six states have already enacted this type of legislation, almost all of them led by Republican governors: Louisiana, Nevada, New Jersey, North Dakota, Tennessee, Utah.

2017 Bills to Protect Domestic Abuse Victim **PASSED**



Giving Law Enforcement the Information Necessary to Do Its Job

Just weeks ago, Hawaii's governor signed a law that requires law enforcement to be notified when a person who is not allowed to have guns tries to buy one and fails the background check.

Lying on a background check form is a crime, but all too often information about failed background checks is not shared with law enforcement. The new Hawaii law will give law enforcement the ability to investigate prohibited people who are illegally attempting to purchase weapons before they have a chance to buy a gun elsewhere and hurt someone.

At the urging of gun violence survivors and Moms Demand Action volunteers, Washington State passed similar legislation and the governor signed it in May.

And last year, Tennessee – a red state with a legislature that was ranked the country's most conservative for two years in a row – passed similar bipartisan legislation that was signed by its Republican governor.

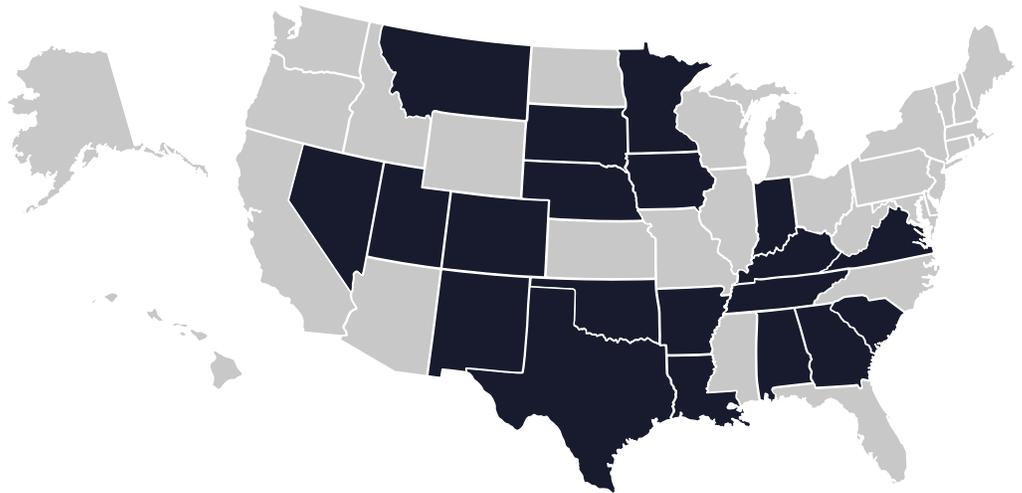
Losses for the Gun Lobby are Piling Up

Beyond racking up legislative wins, the gun safety movement continues to play effective defense and has defeated numerous bills that feature prominently in the gun lobby's "guns everywhere" agenda. These defensive victories build on the trend from recent years in which dozens upon dozens of gun-lobby priority bills were either defeated by gun safety advocates or failed to advance through their legislative sessions.

In 2017, almost thirty states, including traditional gun-lobby strongholds like Florida and Texas, have rejected bills that are top gun lobby priorities.

Permitless carry rejected across the country: One of the gun lobby's top priorities is permitless carry, which would allow individuals to carry hidden, loaded firearms in public without a permit or any training. This legislation has now failed in 20 out of the 22 states where it was pushed. This session, South Dakota's Republican governor, who is an NRA member, vetoed such a bill, as did Montana's Democratic governor. A similar bill failed in Texas after aggressive advocacy from the Texas chapter of Moms Demand Action. A recent study by Stanford University researchers showed that weakening laws governing who can carry concealed guns in public is associated with a 13-15 percent increase in violent crime, thus debunking the longstanding NRA narrative that "more guns result in less crime." Having defeated permitless carry in these jurisdictions will keep residents of these states safer.

2017
Permitless Carry
DEFEATED



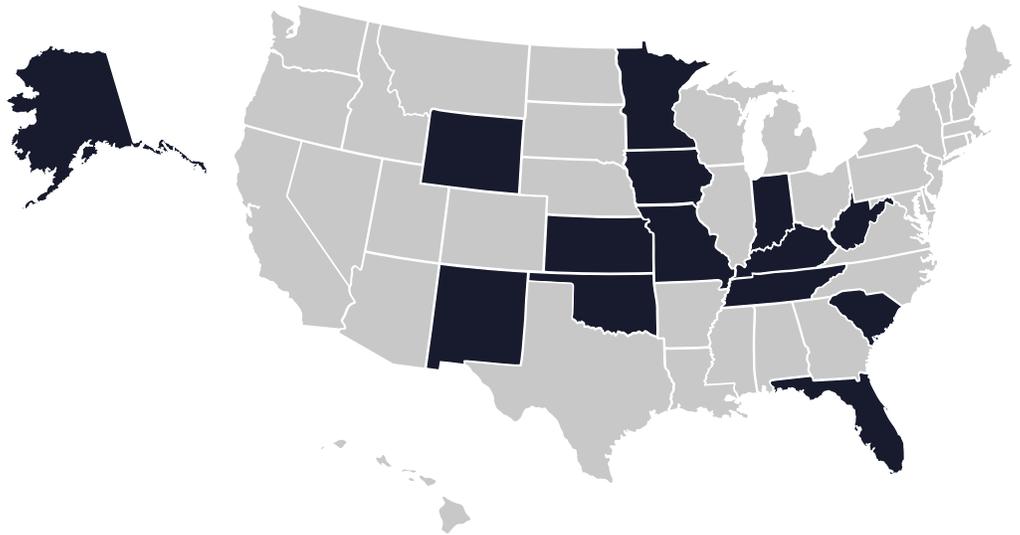
Guns on campus thwarted in state after state: Another legislative priority for the gun lobby is guns on campus, which would force state colleges and universities to allow individuals to carry guns on campus or expand these laws where they are already in place. These bills have now failed in 14 out of 16 states in which they were brought up, notably in Wyoming, Alabama and South Carolina.

Background check repeals blocked in two states: This session, lawmakers in Iowa and Nebraska pushed to repeal requirements that criminal background checks be conducted on unlicensed handgun sales, such as those that are facilitated on the internet or that take place at gun shows. If either effort had passed, it would have been only the second state since 1998 to repeal a background check law.

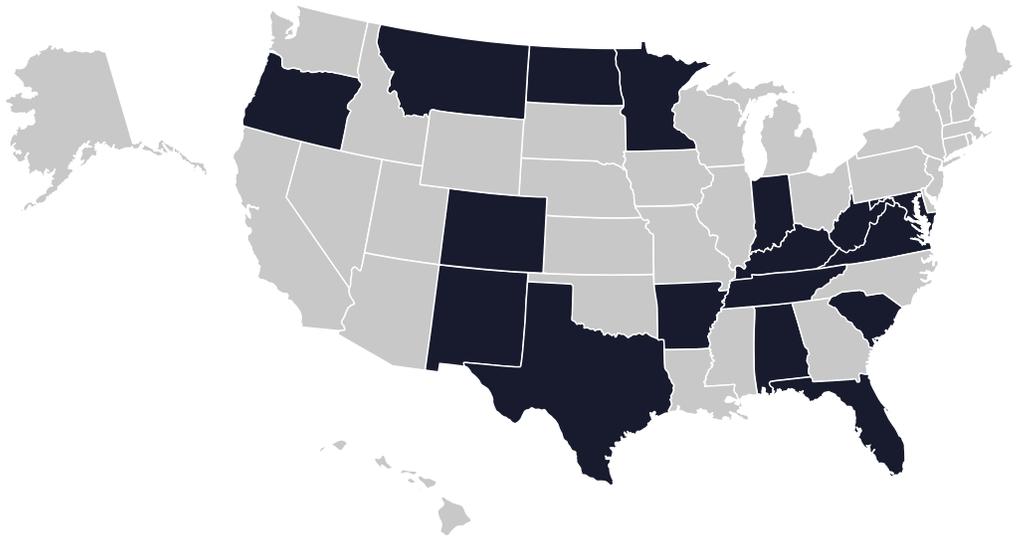
Leading up to the defeat of the handgun background check repeal proposal in Iowa, Moms Demand Action volunteers from across the state called their legislators, sent emails and met with lawmakers to urge them to oppose such a move. As a result, the authors of an omnibus bill, House File 517, stripped the background check repeal and a permitless carry provision from the bill.

In Nebraska, a bill that would have eliminated the Nebraska law requiring background checks for all handgun sales was defeated early in the legislative session. LB 370 was withdrawn in January.

2017
Guns on Campus
DEFEATED



2017
Guns in K-12
DEFEATED



Guns in schools rejected: The gun lobby doesn't stop at trying to put guns on college campuses. Efforts to pass legislation that would allow guns in K-12 schools are another one of the gun lobby's top agenda items. Bills to force guns into K-12 schools have failed in a staggering 17 out of 18 states this legislative session, including in North Dakota and Montana.

Beware the Gun Lobby's Inflated Statistics

The National Rifle Association's leaders frequently highlight their so-called impressive "win" rate and downplay their legislative losses. But those tallies are inflated. A careful inspection of the NRA's "wins" from 2016, for example, reveals that many of them have nothing to do with public safety. The NRA counts as "wins" bills that lower permitting fees for veterans, allow people to hunt on Sundays and create an official NRA license plate. Don't be misled into thinking these bills are losses for the gun safety movement; they aren't.

We Won't Stop Now

Gun violence survivors, Moms Demand Action volunteers, gun safety advocates, law enforcement and thousands of other concerned Americans across the nation are committed to this movement for the long haul. The gun lobby and its allies may be more emboldened now than ever before, but the gun safety movement is bolder now, too. The movement is winning and our supporters will keep on fighting to make America safer for every community and every family.