

# CeaseFirePA

Taking a stand against gun violence in Pennsylvania



## BACKGROUND CHECKS: EVERY GUN, EVERY TIME

### What is a long gun?



**Colt AR-15 SPI**  
Used in the 2018 Tree of Life Synagogue shooting in Pittsburgh that killed 11 worshippers and injured 7, others including 4 police officers

**Sig Sauer MCX**  
Used in the 2016 Pulse Night Club shooting in Orlando that killed 49 people and injured 53 others, including 1 police officer



**Smith & Wesson M&P 15**  
Used in the 2017 Parkland High School shooting that killed 17 students and staff members and injured 17 others

### Current PA Background Check law requires

- Background checks for any gun purchased at a federally licensed firearms dealer.
- Background checks for private sales of handguns.

### What is missing from the PA Background Check Law?

- Currently PA law allows prohibited purchasers to avoid background checks when buying long guns — shot guns, rifles, military-style semi-automatic assault rifles — from private sellers.

### Why require background checks for the private sale of long guns?

- Every gun sale should require a background check to make sure the gun is not being sold to someone who cannot possess firearms.
- Background check review: Criminal history, active protection from abuse orders in domestic violence cases, and records of involuntary commitments to mental institutions, and court adjunction's of incompetence.
- Long guns — specifically semi-automatic firearms — are the weapon of choice of shooters because of their lethality
- From 2006 to 2015, 48% of PA law enforcement officers fatally shot were killed with long guns. This almost doubles the national figure.

### How do we know Background Checks work?

- The Pennsylvania background check system intercepted over 15,000 prohibited purchases in 2017
- The federal background check system denied over 112,000 prohibited purchases in 2017

### How we can close this loophole and ensure that all gun sales in PA would require a background check?

- HB 673 & SB 88 would repeal the exemption for private sales of long guns.
- This means virtually every gun sale in PA would require a background check.
- The only sales that would be exempt would be gun transfers between close family members.

### What can you do to help?

- Contact your State Representative and State Senator and ask them to cosponsor and vote for HB 673 & SB 88.

To learn more visit [CeaseFirePA.org](http://CeaseFirePA.org)