

## Office of Gun Violence Prevention Act

Senator Chris Murphy and Congressman Maxwell Alejandro Frost

Everywhere we look, gun violence is hurting and killing our communities. 40,000 Americans die from gun violence annually, and it's now the leading cause of death for our children. It's an epidemic that is robbing kids of their childhoods, decimating families, and inflicting trauma on a new generation of Americans simply trying to safely live out their lives. We must pursue every possible avenue to prevent this violence and provide resources to the people impacted by it.

Our legislation would make preventing gun violence a permanent national priority by creating an Office of Gun Violence Prevention in the Department of Justice to advance federal gun violence prevention initiatives across our nation.

**The Office of Gun Violence Prevention Act** would bring together those most impacted by gun violence and leaders from agencies across the federal government to advance policy recommendations, accurate data and research, State and local outreach and education, cross-sector coordination, and maximize and coordinate programs and services related to preventing gun violence.

The Director of the Office of Gun Violence Prevention must...

- ***Convene an Advisory Council.*** The Advisory Council will consist of twelve senior officials at the Department of Justice, and at least twelve additional representatives who are survivors of gun violence, community violence service providers, public health officials, medical professionals who provide trauma care, mental health clinicians, State Department of Justice officials, State and local public health department officials, teachers, members of student groups, and veterans.
- ***Engage in Cross-Sector Coordination.*** The Director must coordinate with federal agencies that have jurisdiction over gun violence prevention, including the Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Veterans Affairs, Department of Education, Department of Housing and Urban Development, Department of Commerce, Department of Homeland Security, Department of Defense, Department of the Interior, Consumer Product Safety Commission, and the United States Sentencing Commission.
- ***Collect and Report Data.*** The Director and Advisory Council shall identify gaps in data needed for gun violence prevent research, policy development, and strategy implementation, and develop a plan to collect and analyze the data.
- ***Make Policy Recommendations.*** The Director shall recommend to Congress and the President legislative and executive policy options to promote gun violence prevention strategies.
- ***Educate the Public.*** The Director must educate the general public about federal laws, regulations, and available grant programs, including awareness campaigns directed at firearm owners, parents and legal guardians of minors, gun violence prevention professionals, that include education related to safe storage of firearms and suicide prevention.
- ***Work to optimize the Administration of the National Instant Criminal Background Check System.***
- ***Report to Congress.*** Report to Congress annually information on gun violence in the United States, recommendations for policy initiatives to reduce gun violence, and a description of the Director's activities.