TABLE OF CONTENTS

Gun violence in Tennessee ........................................ 3

Unintended consequences of
Tennessee gun laws .................................................. 5

Relevant Tennessee data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gun thefts from licensed dealers</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Background checks and permit holder data</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Negligent-firearm storage shootings</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women murdered by men</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Firearm suicides</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Where Tennessee gun deaths happen

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Firearm deaths by county - all intents</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Firearm deaths by county - firearm suicide only</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Firearm deaths by county - violence-related only</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Academic research on relationship between
firearm laws and rates of gun violence and
gun deaths ...................................................... 14

Strength of gun laws vs rates of gun deaths.... 15

Homicide in Chicago vs homicide in Memphis    16

2018 policy recommendations ............................ 17

The Heller decision ........................................ 19
Nashville murder rate nears record in 2017 …… 22

Knoxville, Knox County killings hit highest at 36, since 1998 ............................... 23

Memphis had fewer homicides in 2017, but 200 killed ........................................ 25

Gun store thefts on the rise ....................... 26

Suicides in Tennessee reach record-breaking high .............................................. 27

Gun violence restraining orders backed by American Bar Association House of Delegates ... 28

APPENDIX

The Tennessee Bureau of Investigation report: 2013-2016 Firearm Violence in Tennessee

Easiness of Legal Access to Concealed Firearm Permits and Homicide Rates in the United States
The American Journal of Public Health
December 2017

Effects of Policies Designed to Keep Firearms from High-Risk Individuals
Annual Review of Public Health
January 2015

Legal Status and Source of Offenders’ Firearms in States with the Least Stringent Criteria for Gun Ownership
Journal of Injury Prevention
June 2012

Firearm Legislation and Firearm-related Fatalities in the United States
Journal of the American Medical Association
March 2013
GUN VIOLENCE IN TENNESSEE

Over the last several years, Tennessee has continued the systematic loosening of our already lax firearm laws. The gun lobby maintains that more guns more places for more people will make our communities safer. But, gun violence continues to plague our state and take the lives of our citizens.

- **The total number of homicides in Knoxville and Knox County broke a nearly twenty year record in 2017.** The majority of homicides were committed with guns and involved people who knew each other.

- **In 2017, there were 107 murders in Nashville, the highest number since 1997.** Even more alarming, Nashville has seen a 160 percent increase in murders over the past four years. The majority of homicides were committed with guns and involved people who knew each other.

- Although last year’s numbers were better, 2016 was the deadliest year in Memphis in two decades. The city logged 228 homicides. Last year, there were 200, a lower number but still an appalling one. The rate of gun violence in Memphis is higher than that of Chicago. The majority of homicides were committed with guns and involved people who knew each other.

- Many of the homicides in Tennessee cities involve young people. The shooters and victims are often teens.

- There were at least 15 mass shootings (4 or more injured or killed) in Tennessee last year. None occurred in a posted “gun-free zone.” Most occurred in homes, in parking lots, or at parties.

- Based on 2016 data from the department of health, Tennessee’s suicide rate is on the rise, especially in young people, ages 10-18. **One person between the ages of 10 - 24 commits suicide every four days, and every day, at least one person over the age of 45 takes their own life.** Firearms remain the most common means of suicide death in Tennessee, accounting for 61 percent of the recorded suicide deaths in 2016.

- The Violence Policy Center released the annual report on female victimization last fall. Using the most recent data, **Tennessee was ranked fourth in the nation for women murdered by men.** Of the women murdered by men, 71 percent were killed with a gun. 96 percent were murdered by a man they knew, most often a man with whom they have had a romantic relationship. Although Tennessee has constantly been in the top ten states, the most recent report was the highest the state has ever been ranked.

- **Tennessee led the entire nation in negligent storage shootings last year.** In 2017, 31 Tennessee children shot themselves or someone else with a negligently stored gun. Texas was second with 23. Of all U.S. cities, Memphis had the highest number of these shootings (14) while Nashville was fourth with six. Of the 31 incidents in Tennessee last year, 13 of the children died. The youngest victim was infant who was unintentionally shot by a 3-year-old sibling. Of all the shooters, 18 were under age 13. Twelve were under age ten. In comparison, in 2016, there were 22 incidents and six deaths.

- In December, the TBI issued a first of its kind report detailing the nature and volume of reported firearm-related crimes over a four-year period. The report began with a letter from director Mark Gwynn who concluded by saying: “I am deeply concerned with the findings of this report reflecting a substantial increase in firearm-related crimes in our state. This increase puts an additional strain on Tennessee’s law enforcement resources and poses a serious threat to public safety.”

  > From 2013 to 2016, **firearm-related criminal offenses increased by 24.8%**. The TBI points out that the increase in gun violence is not related to the 2.4% increases in population.
  > The number of reported **murders involving a firearm increased by 54.7%** in the four-year study period.
  > **Aggravated Assaults** accounted for the largest portion of reported firearms-related crime, and increased by 30.5% from 2013 to 2016.
  > Males (85.8%) were nine times more likely to engage in firearm-related criminal offenses than females (8.8%).
Keeping guns out of the wrong hands - the hands of children and prohibited purchasers such as criminals, abusers, and those adjudicated mentally ill - should be a high priority for our state.

Yet:

• We do not require background checks for the private sale of guns. It is legal for an individual to sell a gun (handgun, hunting rifle, or assault-style rifle) to another individual without even a requirement to verify that they are a resident. Although many crime guns are stolen, there have been a number of documented cases of prohibited purchasers (gang members, domestic abusers, or other criminals) purchasing guns in parking lots of gun shows.

• The current background check system used by licensed dealers (federal firearm license holders, or FFLs) has critical issues. In Tennessee, background checks are conducted by the TBI using their TICS (Tennessee Instant Check System) technology. TICS is actually considered better than the national system. However, audits conducted in 2015 and 2017 revealed that there is a lack of uniformity in how court data is uploaded into the system, meaning that some prohibited purchaser data is not being uploaded in a timely fashion or in some cases, not at all.

• Gun thefts from gun sellers and pawn shops are on the rise nationally and here in Tennessee. “Smash and grab” thefts where thieves smash windows and grab as many guns as possible occur with startling regularity. These guns end up being sold on the street, trafficked to other cities and states, and used to commit crimes. There are no federal laws pertaining to theft protection and Tennessee has no law requiring gun stores and pawn shops to have specific or enhanced security measures in place to prevent gun thefts. Enhanced security measures might include a requirement for gun sellers to have bars on the windows or lock their inventory in a safe at night. In 2017, there were dozens of these types of robberies resulting in around 400 firearms being stolen.

• Gun thefts in general are on the rise. Here in Tennessee, gun thefts from cars are common, especially since the passage of the “guns in trunks” law. Although there is a requirement to store a gun securely in a vehicle - out of view, in a locked glove box or console, laws governing firearm storage in vehicles do not appear to be enforced. In Tennessee, we do not even have a requirement to report a lost or stolen gun.

• Although the number of Tennessee kids injured and killed as a direct result of irresponsible gun storage continues rise, our state has no laws on the books that expressly address gun storage or hold adults responsible for keeping loaded guns secured and away from children. Although the gun lobby has succeeded in convincing legislators that simply telling children not to touch guns is an adequate means of prevention, the academic literature on the subject clearly says otherwise. In addition to the numerous published studies, a report issued this summer by the U.S. Government Accountability Office specifically addressed the NRAs Eddie Eagle program and that children who received the Eddie Eagle training were just as likely to pick up a gun as children who had not received the training.
UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES OF TENNESSEE FIREARM LAWS

Based on the belief that more guns in more places will make us safer, and encouraged by the National Rifle Association, the Tennessee Legislature has been systematically loosening our already lax gun laws. By this logic, we should see a decrease in the amount of crime and a reduction in the number of gun deaths. But, as we see from the TBI report and other measures, the inverse is in fact the case as we see gun violence of all types increasing, not decreasing.

This is not lost on members of law enforcement.

Memphis Police Director Mike Rallings noted that in 2013, there were 378 guns stolen out of cars in Memphis. In 2016, 851 guns were stolen out of cars in Memphis.

"Guns in cars is one thing I will always talk about. We saw an increase in the amount of guns being stolen," he [Rallings] said.

In 2014, Tennessee implemented a law allowing gun owners to legally tote their loaded firearms in their vehicles even if they don’t have a state-issued handgun-carry permit.

"Laws have unintended consequences," said Rallings. "We cannot ignore that as a legislature passes laws that make guns more accessible to criminals that has a direct effect on our violent crime rate."

Rallings has also spoken out about the disconnect between local law enforcement and legislators, specifically about guns in parks. Knoxville Police Chief David Rausch opposed guns in parks and testified against the bill that was ultimately passed in 2015.

Chief Rausch said, "When we’re on scene, trained law enforcement, others bringing firearms onto that location certainly causes concern. First of all we don’t know who’s carrying legally and who isn’t, and so people concealing firearms and bringing them into that venue becomes a major concern because we don’t know what their intent is when they have those firearms."

During the “guns on campus” debate in 2016, campus police chiefs from east and west Tennessee traveled to Nashville to testify against the bill.

Bruce Harper, Chief of Police and Vice President of Administration at the University of Memphis spoke on his own and on behalf of all 46 Tennessee Board of Regents schools:

“If this legislation passes, it will put our responding police officers in even more challenging situations involving life and deaths decisions."

John Edens, Chief of Police at Northeast State Community College, and law enforcement and military veteran also spoke:

“People with gun permits simply do not have the training. And my concern, I’ll be totally frank with this committee, is in one direction- my concern is for the safety of the students, staff, and faculty on all the campuses across the TBR and more particularly at Northeast State Community College.

And, I can tell you – the bottom line is – if this bill passes, our campuses will be less safe. What really concerns me, too is – I work with eight police officers and it’s my duty as Chief of Police- I ask them and the state of Tennessee asks them to put their life on the line every day. It’s my job to make sure that they have the training and experience to carry out their jobs. This will make their jobs more dangerous. Bottom line.”
RELEVANT TENNESSEE DATA

Tennessee Gun Thefts from Licensed Dealers

Across the nation, and here in Tennessee, thefts from gun stores and pawn shops are on the rise. The number of robberies of federal firearms licensees reported to the ATF have increased 227 percent since 2013 and burglaries of such gun purveyors are up 71 percent over that same period. There are no federal laws requiring those with a federal firearms license (or FFL) to take steps to prevent theft. Anyone “engaged in the business” of selling firearms, such as gun stores or pawn shops, must have a federal firearms license. A number of states, including Alabama and West Virginia, have state laws that require FFLs to take reasonable measures, such as locking inventory up at night.

Based on the reports below, criminals were able to steal over 350 guns – handguns and long guns – from stores that lacked adequate security measures. Those guns are now on our streets being used to commit crimes.

Reward offered after 25 firearms stolen from Columbia gun store
Kings Firearms
Columbia
February 2018
25 guns stolen

12 guns stolen during Henry County “smash and grab” burglary
Guns N’ Gear
Paris
February 2018
12 handguns stolen

Long guns stolen during break-in at Smyrna pawn shop
Kwik Cash Pawn Shop
Smyrna
January 2018
Multiple long guns stolen

Clarksville gun store owner says group stole 31 guns in Christmas Day break-in
Double Tap Tactical
Clarksville
December 2017
25 semi-automatic pistols, three revolvers, and three rifles stolen

Reward offered in Dickson gun store burglary
Golden Eagle Pawn
Dickson
December 2017
Approximately 19 firearms stolen

Dozens of guns stolen from Murfreesboro gun outlet Friday night
Murfreesboro Outdoor Gun Shop
Murfreesboro
December 2017
More than 45 guns stolen

ATF offering reward in Mount Juliet gun store robbery
nRange Gun Store
Mt. Juliet
December 2017
Approximately 18 guns stolen

Multiple shotguns, rifles and more stolen from Smyrna gun store Thursday
Guns n More
Memphis
November 2017
Multiple guns stolen
Reward offered after 24 firearms stolen from Murfreesboro gun store
On Target Gun Store
Murfreesboro
November 2017
**24 guns stolen**

17 Guns Stolen In Monday Morning Pawn Shop Robbery
Pawn Plus
Memphis
November 2017
**17 guns stolen**

ATF offers $7,000 reward in Smyrna Gun Store Robbery
Guns n More
Smyrna
October 2017
**Approximately 24 firearms stolen**

Three masked men break into Gallatin store, steal high-powered guns
Sumner Gun and Supply
September 2017
**18 guns stolen**

43 guns stolen from Memphis gun range; $5,000 reward offered
Range USA
Memphis
July 2017
**43 guns stolen**

About 15 guns stolen from Mt. Juliet store; $5,000 reward offered
Guns & Ammo Store
Mt. Juliet
June 2017
**Approximately 15 handguns guns stolen**

Reward Offered In Theft of 45 Guns From Clarksville Gun Store
Tactical Edge
Clarksville
June 2017
**45 guns stolen**

Guns Stolen During Madison Smash-&-Grab
nRange Gun Store
Nashville/Madison
June 2017
**Multiple guns stolen**

Cash reward offered for information on La Vergne gun store burglary
Specialty Arms
LaVergne
May 2017
**Approximately 39 guns stolen**

17 guns stolen from Nashville pawn shop, $10K reward offered for information
Cash America Pawn
Nashville
February 2017
**17 guns stolen**

Nearly two dozen guns stolen from pawn shop
AA Pawn
Memphis
January 17
**23 guns stolen**
Background Checks
Each year, the TBI’s TICS background check system processes hundreds of thousands of firearm transactions. And every year, tens of thousands of purchasers are denied. Every year, background checks in Tennessee prevent dangerous people from legally purchasing a firearm. Although some denials are appealed and overturned, the majority are upheld. The question is how many of those who are denied then go to a gun show and buy a gun in a parking lot? Or seek out a gun from an online gun exchange?

*Source: TBI

Permit Holder Data
Although it is true that the vast majority of permit holders are law abiding citizens, every year, there are many permits that are denied and many that are suspended or permanently revoked. There were more revocations in 2016 than in any previous year.

*Source: Tennessee Dept. of Safety and Homeland Security
Negligent-Storage Shootings

Every year, hundreds of American children pick up an irresponsibly-stored, unsecured, loaded gun and pull the trigger, injuring or killing themselves or another person, most often a friend or sibling. Tennessee led the nation in these types of fully preventable shootings last year. Safe Tennessee began tracking these in 2015. Note: these numbers do not include incidents where an adult unintentionally shoots a child, only incidents where a child shoots themselves or another person with an accessible, loaded gun.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INCIDENTS</th>
<th>INJURIES</th>
<th>DEATHS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Women Murdered by Men

Female intimate partners are more likely to be murdered with a firearm than all other means combined. The presence of a gun in domestic violence situations increases the risk of homicide for women by 500%. According to U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Supplementary Homicide Reports, in states that require a background check for every handgun sale, 38% fewer women are shot to death by intimate partners.

Domestic violence is one of the key predictors of gun violence.

Tennessee has an ongoing problem with domestic violence and shootings related to domestic violence. We have consistently ranked in the top ten for women murdered by men. Data below is from the Violence Policy Center:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RANK</th>
<th>HOMICIDE RATE PER 100K FEMALES</th>
<th>WOMEN KILLED BY MEN</th>
<th>WOMEN KILLED BY GUN*</th>
<th>WOMEN WHO KNEW KILLER**</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2.10</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>1.58</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1.65</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>1.60</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1.80</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1.91</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* For homicides in which the weapon used could be identified
** For homicides in which the victim to offender relationship could be identified
Firearm Suicides

Far more people kill themselves with a firearm each year than are murdered with one. In Tennessee, well over half of all suicides are firearm suicides. Although most are adults, some are young people who gain access to a family member’s gun. Firearm suicides have been studied extensively by mental health professionals.

Published, academic research is clear that suicides by gun are unique in both their impulsivity and lethality. About 85% of attempts with a firearm are fatal: that’s a much higher case fatality rate than for nearly every other method. Many of the most widely used suicide attempt methods have case fatality rates below 5%. Attempters using other means have time to reconsider mid-attempt. They can summon help. Many are rescued mid-attempt. Non-firearm suicides often fail. Once the trigger of a gun is pulled, there is no turning back. 

Data below is from the Centers for Disease Control.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>ALL SUICIDE DEATHS</th>
<th>FIREARM SUICIDE DEATHS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>1,111</td>
<td>675</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>1,068</td>
<td>638</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>997</td>
<td>644</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>1,030</td>
<td>676</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>978</td>
<td>626</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>955</td>
<td>591</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>943</td>
<td>585</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
WHERE TENNESSEE GUN DEATHS HAPPEN

Firearm Death by County - All Intents

Overall, firearm deaths are most prevalent in rural counties. This is due largely to the frequency of firearm suicides which are far more common in rural areas. The majority of these suicides are older, white males. Data below is from the Centers for Disease Control Fatal Injury mapping tool. This image represents rate of firearm deaths between 2008-2014, all intents (homicide, suicide, and violence-related).

2008-2014, Tennessee
Death Rates per 100,000 Population
Firearm, All Intents, All Races, All Ethnicities, Both Sexes, All Ages
Annualized Crude Rate for Tennessee: 15.35

Reports for All Ages include those of unknown age.
* Rates based on 20 or fewer deaths may be unstable. These rates are suppressed for counties (see legend above), such rates in the title have an asterisk.

Produced by: the Statistics, Programming & Economics Branch, National Center for Injury Prevention & Control, CDC
Data Sources: NCES National Vital Statistics System for numbers of deaths; US Census Bureau for population estimates.
Firearm Death by County - Firearm Suicides Only

Firearm suicides are very common in rural areas, likely due to the access. Concentration of firearms is greatest in rural counties. Data below is from the Centers for Disease Control Fatal Injury mapping tool. This image represents rate of firearm suicide deaths between 2008-2014, all intents.

2008-2014, Tennessee
Death Rates per 100,000 Population
Firearm, Suicide, All Races, All Ethnicities, Both Sexes, All Ages
Annualized Crude Rate for Tennessee: 9.50

Produced by: the Statistics, Programming & Economics Branch, National Center for Injury Prevention & Control, CDC
Data Sources: NCES National Vital Statistics System for numbers of deaths; US Census Bureau for population estimates.
Firearm Death by County - Violence-related

It is well-known that gun violence in Shelby County is an ongoing problem. Recent rates of gun violence in Memphis surpass rates of gun violence in Chicago. It is therefore unsurprising to see Shelby County represented in the map below as having a high rate of gun death. What is surprising is the high rates of violence-related firearm death in rural counties. This image represents rate of firearm deaths between 2008-2014, that are violence-related only. “Violence-related” includes homicides and legal intervention. Homicides include criminal acts such as drug or gang-related murders as well as domestic violence shootings, altercations turned deadly due to presence of firearm, and road rage shootings. Legal intervention includes incidents where law enforcement used deadly force.

2008-2014, Tennessee
Death Rates per 100,000 Population
Firearm, Violence-related. All Races, All Ethnicities. Both Sexes. All Ages
Annualized Crude Rate for Tennessee: 14.48

Produced by: the Statistics, Programming & Economics Branch, National Center for Injury Prevention & Control, CDC
Data Sources: NCES National Vital Statistics System for numbers of deaths; US Census Bureau for population estimates.
ACADEMIC RESEARCH ON RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN FIREARM LAWS AND RATES OF GUN VIOLENCE AND GUN DEATH

There are numerous published, peer-reviewed academic studies that address the relationship between a state’s firearm laws and their rate of gun death. Below are sample of some of the most recent studies.

Easiness of Legal Access to Concealed Firearm Permits and Homicide Rates in the United States
Michael Siegel MD, MPH, Ziming Xuan ScD, SM, MA, Craig S. Ross PhD, MBA, Sandro Galea MD, DrPH, MPH, Bindu Kalesan PhD, MPH, MSc, Eric Fleegler MD, MPH, and Kristin A. Goss PhD, MPP

Key findings: Shall-issue laws were significantly associated with 6.5% higher total homicide rates, 8.6% higher firearm homicide rates, and 10.6% higher handgun homicide rates, but were not significantly associated with long-gun or non-firearm homicide. Shall-issue laws are associated with significantly higher rates of total, firearm-related, and handgun-related homicide.

Right-to-Carry Laws and Violent Crime: A Comprehensive Assessment Using Panel Data and a State-Level Synthetic Controls Analysis
John J. Donohue, Abhay Aneja, Kyle D. Weber

Key Findings: Right-to-carry (RTC) laws are associated with higher aggregate violent crime rates, and the size of the deleterious effects that are associated with the passage of RTC laws climbs over time. Violent crime in RTC states was estimated to be 13 to 15 percent higher – over a period of 10 years – than it would have been had the state not adopted the law.

Firearm legislation and firearm mortality in the USA: a cross-sectional, state-level study
Dr Bindu Kalesan, PhD, Matthew E Mobily, MD, Olivia Keiser, PhD, Jeffrey A Fagan, PhD, Sandro Galea, MD
The Lancet (2016)

Key findings: Very few of the existing state-specific firearm laws are associated with reduced firearm mortality, and this evidence underscores the importance of focusing on relevant and effective firearms legislation. Implementation of universal background checks for the purchase of firearms or ammunition, and firearm identification nationally could substantially reduce firearm mortality in the USA.

Effects of Policies Designed to Keep Firearms from High-Risk Individuals
Daniel W. Webster and Garen J. Wintemute

Key findings: Mounting evidence indicates that certain laws intended to increase the accountability of firearm sellers to avoid risky transfers of firearms are effective in curtailing the diversion of guns to criminals, in particular the more rigorous permit-to-purchase (PTP) handgun laws, comprehensive background checks, strong regulation and oversight of gun dealers, and laws requiring gun owners to promptly report lost or stolen firearms. Evidence that lower levels of guns being diverted to criminals will translate into less gun violence is less robust, but it appears that rigorous PTP handgun laws are protective against homicides and suicides.

Firearm Legislation and Firearm-Related Fatalities in the United States
Eric W. Fleegler, MD, MPH; Lois K. Lee, MD, MPH; Michael C. Monuteaux, ScD; David Hemenway, PhD; Rebekah Mannix, MD, MPH
Journal of the American Medical Association (2013)

Key Findings: A higher number of firearm laws in a state are associated with a lower rate of firearm fatalities in the state, overall and for suicides and homicides individually.
STRENGTH OF GUN LAWS VS RATES OF GUN DEATHS

The Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence issues an annual “scorecard” of states’ gun laws. The scores are based on factors such as whether or not a state has expanded background checks, gun violence restraining orders, stand your ground laws, strong dispossession laws, and the state’s permitting process. In this graphic, it’s clear that states with stronger gun laws have lower rates of gun death.

Gun Law ‘Grades’ and Gun Death Rates
The Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence finds that states where guns are more regulated tend to have lower gun death rates. In its grading system, the strongest gun regulations get an “A;” the weakest, an “F.”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GRADE</th>
<th>GUN DEATH RATE PER 100,000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hawaii</td>
<td>2.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Massachussetts</td>
<td>3.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York</td>
<td>4.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connecticut</td>
<td>4.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Jersey</td>
<td>5.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>7.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maryland</td>
<td>9.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rhode Island</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illinois</td>
<td>9.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washington</td>
<td>9.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delaware</td>
<td>10.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minnesota</td>
<td>6.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iowa</td>
<td>7.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wisconsin</td>
<td>8.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pennsylvania</td>
<td>10.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michigan</td>
<td>11.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oregon</td>
<td>11.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colorado</td>
<td>12.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Hampshire</td>
<td>8.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nebraska</td>
<td>9.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virginia</td>
<td>10.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ohio</td>
<td>10.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Carolina</td>
<td>11.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indiana</td>
<td>12.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

States in red have death rates above the national average of 10.5.

U.S. RATE: 10.5

* Nevada’s grade of F would improve to a C-minus if a recently passed ballot initiative mandating universal background checks is implemented. So far, the state has failed to do so. Source: Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence.
Opponents of gun law reform often point to the city of Chicago as an example of gun laws not being effective. While it’s true that Illinois does have strong gun laws and Chicago has numerous ordinances related to firearms, Chicago’s rate of gun death is actually lower than many other American cities, including Memphis. And Illinois’ rate of gun death is far lower (9.0) than Tennessee’s (15.1). Chicago is also about an hour away from Indiana, a state with with lax gun laws and no requirement for background checks for private sales of guns.
WHERE HOMICIDES ROSE IN 2016

Chicago was one of numerous large cities to notch higher homicide rates last year.

Note: The city of Orlando has excluded the victims of the Pulse nightclub shooting from its 2016 homicide count. Its adjusted rate was not high enough to make this list.

*Reflects partial homicide counts reported as of November or December 2016.


Comparing five-year averages of per-capita rates provides a more accurate picture than raw single-year totals.

Note: The city of Orlando has excluded the victims of the Pulse nightclub shooting from its 2016 homicide count. Its adjusted rate was not high enough to make this list.

Sources: Police data, news reports.
The Safe Tennessee Project is advocates for evidence-based legislation that both respects the second amendment and can reduce the number of Tennesseans injured and killed by bullets each year. While we understand that criminals will always find ways to obtain guns, we believe that it is in the interest of public safety and public health to make it as difficult as possible for them to do so.

**Background Checks**
Expand background checks to cover all gun sales, including those by private sellers.

Nine states (California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Nevada, New York, Oregon, Rhode Island, Washington) and DC now require universal background checks at the point of sale for all classes of firearms, whether they are purchased from a licensed dealer or unlicensed seller. Two other states (Maryland and Pennsylvania) require point of sale background checks for handguns but not for long guns, like rifles and shotguns. Instead of a point of sale background check, four states (Hawaii, Illinois, Massachusetts, and New Jersey) require all firearm purchasers to obtain a permit, issued after a background check, in order to buy any firearm. Four more states (Iowa, Michigan, Nebraska, and North Carolina) have this permit and background check requirement for the purchase of handguns, but not long guns.

**Gun Violence Restraining Orders or Extreme Risk Protection Orders**
Enact “gun violence restraining orders” (GVROs) also known as Extreme Risk Protection Orders (ERPOs). GVROs provide loved ones with lifesaving tools that can prevent gun tragedies before they occur. Gun violence protective order laws, also known as gun violence restraining orders and extreme risk protection orders, allow families and household members, as well as law enforcement officers, to petition a court to remove a person’s access to guns if he or she poses an imminent danger to self or others.

Currently California (2014), Washington (2016), and Oregon (2017) have GVRO/ERPO laws. Legislators in New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, Virginia, Wisconsin, Illinois, Missouri, Minnesota, Michigan, and perhaps Massachusetts are all considering or expect to file GVRO legislation.

Indiana and Connecticut have similar laws that grant law enforcement the clear legal authority to temporarily remove firearms from individuals when there is probable cause to believe they are at a significant risk of harm to self or others.

A recent study conducted by Duke University showed a link between a GVRO law in Connecticut and a reduction in suicides.

In August of 2017, the American Bar Association House of Delegates approved resolution 118B that urges state and local governments to enact laws and regulations authorizing courts to issue gun violence restraining orders, including ex parte orders that don’t require the presence of the targeted person.

**MaKayla’s Law**
Expand reckless endangerment statutes to include situations where unsecured guns are left accessible to children, are fired by a minor, and lead to injury or death. Current Tennessee statutes regarding child access are vague, ambiguous, and rarely result in charges being filed.

Fourteen states and the District of Columbia have laws that impose criminal liability on persons who negligently store firearms, where minors could or do gain access to the firearm. Typically, these laws apply whenever the person “knows or reasonably should know” that a child is likely to gain access to the firearm.

**Voluntary “Do Not Buy” List**
Create a mechanism for those who believe they are suicidal to voluntarily add their name to a “do not sell” registry.
Gun Storage in Vehicles
Enforce requirement that gun owners storing firearms in their vehicles take reasonable measures to deter theft. Unattended guns in vehicles must be locked in a glove box or console and in cars that are locked. A visible, insecure gun in an unlocked vehicle is a form of an attractive nuisance. Those who do not take these steps should be charged, especially if their failure to store the gun results in a stolen firearm.

Gun Store Theft Deterrents
Require gun sellers - gun stores and pawn shops - to take reasonable measures to deter theft, such as bars on windows or locking inventory in a safe at night. Other states, including Alabama and West Virginia, have such requirements.

Gun Theft Reporting
Require gun owners to report stolen or lost guns within a reasonable timeframe. Laws requiring the reporting of lost or stolen firearms reduce illegal gun trafficking, making it easier for law enforcement to ensure that deadly weapons do not make their way into dangerous people's hands. From preventing straw purchases to disarming prohibited persons, reporting laws protect citizens and make communities safer.

Currently nine states (California, Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Rhode Island) and DC require firearm owners to report the loss or theft of any firearms to law enforcement. A tenth state, Maryland, requires individuals to report the loss or theft of handguns and assault weapons but not other firearms, while an eleventh state, Michigan, requires owners to notify law enforcement about firearm thefts but not lost firearms. New Jersey has also adopted a relevant law imposing civil liability for acts perpetrated with stolen firearms. In New Jersey, if a registered assault weapon is used in the commission of a crime, the registered owner of that weapon is civilly liable for any damages resulting from that crime. This liability does not apply if the assault weapon was stolen and the registered owner reported the theft to law enforcement within 24 hours of his or her knowledge of the theft.

Safe Storage Signage
Require gun sellers to post signs encouraging safe and responsible storage of firearms at cash registers. The sign would be a simple, 8 1/2 x 11 PDF file that could be downloaded from a Department of Safety website and easily printed.

Non-legislative Policy Recommendations

Law Enforcement Round Table
Police officers and police chiefs understand gun violence better than most legislators and policy experts. They should be asked what they feel are their biggest challenges and their opinion on strategies to reduce the number of people shot and killed in our state. The TBI should also be included.

TICS Study
A thorough review of the current TICS database and protocols for uploading data. The TBI has developed a useful tool, but if users are not using it properly, it cannot be as effective as it should be. Establishing procedures and reasonable timeframes for inputting data should be established. Strengthening the TICS database is in the interest of public safety.

Child Access Prevention/Negligent-Storage Education
Funds should be allocated to either the Department of Health or Department of Safety to develop a messaging campaign encouraging safe storage of firearms.
THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA V HELLER DECISION

In 2003, Dick Anthony Heller and other plaintiffs challenged the District of Columbia’s decades-old laws banning possession of handguns and requiring firearms in the home to be stored locked or disassembled.

After the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled the laws unconstitutional under the Second Amendment (1) – the only time a federal appellate court had ever invalidated a gun law on Second Amendment grounds – the U.S. Supreme Court agreed to hear the case. This set the stage for the Court’s first ruling on the Second Amendment in almost 70 years.

The Court’s Holding: The Supreme Court issued its historic decision in District of Columbia v. Heller on June 26, 2008. (2) In a 5-4 ruling written by Justice Antonin Scalia, the Court held that the Second Amendment confers an individual right to possess firearms unrelated to service in a well-regulated state militia. The Court struck down the District’s ban on handgun possession, finding that “the inherent right of self-defense has been central to the Second Amendment” and that handguns are “overwhelmingly chosen by American society” for self-defense in the home, “where the need for defense of self, family, and property is most acute.” (3) The Court also struck down the District’s requirement that firearms in the home be stored unloaded and disassembled or bound by a trigger lock or similar device, because the law contained no exception for self-defense.

An Abrupt About-Face From Prior Precedent: The Court’s ruling in District of Columbia v. Heller represents a radical departure from the Court’s previous interpretation of the Second Amendment in United States v. Miller, 307 U.S. 174 (1939). In the Miller case, the Court stated, in a unanimous decision, that the “obvious purpose” of the Second Amendment was to “assure the continuation and render possible the effectiveness of” the state militia, and the Amendment “must be interpreted and applied with that end in view.” (4) In reliance on Miller, hundreds of lower federal and state appellate courts have rejected Second Amendment challenges to our nation’s gun laws over the last seven decades. (5)

The Right is Not Unlimited: Although the Heller decision establishes a new individual right to “keep and bear arms,” the opinion makes clear that the right is not unlimited, and should not be understood as “a right to keep and carry any weapon whatsoever in any manner whatsoever and for whatever purpose.” (6) The Court provides examples of gun laws that it deems “presumptively lawful” under the Second Amendment, including those which:

• Prohibit the possession of firearms by felons and the mentally ill;
• Forbid firearm possession in sensitive places such as schools and government buildings;
• Impose conditions on the commercial sale of firearms.

The Court makes clear that this list is not exhaustive. (7) The Court also concludes that the Second Amendment is consistent with laws banning “dangerous and unusual weapons” not “in common use at the time,” such as M-16 rifles and other firearms that are most useful in military service. (8) Finally, the Court declares that its analysis should not be read to suggest “the invalidity of laws regulating the storage of firearms to prevent accidents.” (9)

The Standard of Review: The Heller decision fails to articulate a legal standard of review, or test, to be applied in evaluating other laws under the Second Amendment. Thus, the decision provides little guidance to lower courts or legislators, creating new uncertainty in this area and inviting litigation. (10)

The Second Amendment Applies Only to the Federal Government: Because Heller considered laws of the District of Columbia (a federal enclave), the Court stated that the question of whether the Second Amendment applies to the states is “a question not presented by this case.” (11) While the Heller Court did not rule on whether the Second Amendment applies to state or local governments, the Court did note its earlier decisions holding that “the Second Amendment applies only to the Federal Government.” (12) These decisions remain the law of the land.
3 Id. at 2817.
5 The Heller Court dismissed the Miller case as not “a thorough examination” of the Second Amend- ment, and limited Miller to the proposition that “the Second Amendment does not protect those weapons not typically possessed by law-abiding citizens for lawful purposes, such as short-barreled shotguns.” Heller, supra note 2, at 2814.
6 Id. at 2816.
7 Id. at 2817 n. 26.
8 Id. at 2817.
9 Id. at 2820.
10 Immediately after the Heller decision was issued, the gun lobby led suits challenging handgun possession bans in San Francisco, Chicago and other Illinois communities. The San Francisco prohibition applies only to public housing.
11 Heller, supra note 2, at 2813 n. 23.

(c) The Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence
Nashville murder rate nears record in 2017

Posted: Jan 05, 2018 6:41 PM CST
Updated: Jan 05, 2018 6:41 PM CST
Reported by Kevin Trager

NASHVILLE, TN (WSMV) -

2017 was nearly a record-breaking year for annual homicides in Nashville.

Last year, 107 people were murdered, compared to the city’s all-time high of 112 in 1997.

The alarming statistic is made worse by the rapid increase in annual murders in recent years. In 2014, 41 people were killed in Nashville. The city has seen a nearly 160 percent increase in murders over the past four years.

Many of the victims and alleged killers were just teenagers. Staff at the Oasis Center of Nashville are working with youth to try and steer them towards a path away from crime and violence.

"The young person feels like they don't have a voice, like no one hears them," Ron Johnson said. "It's an epidemic."

Metro police spokesperson Kristen Mumford told News 4 a majority of the 2017 homicides involved people who knew each other and were "engaged in risky behavior." Only a few of the crimes involved a victim and suspect who were complete strangers.

If you know a teenager who needs a mentor, the Oasis Center is looking for more young people to participate in programs. Call them at 615-327-4455.

Copyright 2018 WSMV (Meredith Corporation). All rights reserved.
With a month to go in 2017, the total number of homicides in Knoxville and Knox County this year has hit the highest mark in nearly two decades.

The Nov. 20 shooting of 36-year-old James Kevin Bell in South Knoxville was the 30th homicide in city limits this year. Six killings have occurred in the county.

Those are the highest figures since 1998, when city and county authorities together investigated 40 killings, according to the Murder Accountability Project, a nonprofit group that obtains homicide data reported to the federal and state governments.

Police Chief: 'We're all trying to figure out why'

Knoxville Police Chief David Rausch, who is the general chair of midsize agencies for the International Association of Chiefs of Police, said he has spoken to colleagues across the country about this year's spike in violence.

"Violent crime is up in practically every city in the country right now, and we're all trying to figure out why," Rausch said in a Nov. 29 phone interview.

Police said Bell's killing — like most homicides in Knoxville — stemmed from a dispute over illegal drugs. An uptick in heroin and fentanyl dealing has led to more violence, Rausch said.

"We're constantly out trying to stop those who are dealing drugs," Rausch said, citing the Knoxville Police Department's participation in a handful of task forces that aim to target drug dealers.

"I get a little tired of hearing this comment that we've lost the war on drugs. ... I equate it to if you would allow trash to pile up in your house. Ultimately, you'd be overrun with trash. And so if we just ignore drug dealing, then you could imagine what the results would be."

The 'angst' in the air

Another possible factor is harder to pin down.

Police are "paying a lot of attention" to "this angst that seems to be in the air where it seems okay to express hate," Rausch said. "I don't know that it's a factor, but it certainly is something we're watching."

Knoxville Mayor Madeline Rogero issued the following statement to USA TODAY NETWORK - Tennessee:

"Any increase in violent crime is alarming, and any loss of life is a tragedy. Our police officers are working long hours to bring to justice those responsible for acts of violence and to bring closure to
families and friends of victims. Proactively, we’ll continue to partner with residents, business owners and faith leaders in our communities to reduce opportunities for crime and to make our neighborhoods safe."

Knoxville police have made arrests in 14 killings this year, Rausch said. Another three cases have been cleared by exceptional means, KPD spokesman Darrell DeBusk said, using a term to say the killing was deemed justified, the suspect died, or other outside circumstances prevented prosecution.

Meanwhile, all six of the homicide cases handled by the Knox County Sheriff’s Office this year have been closed.

Two of those killings were fatal shootings by sheriff's deputies that were deemed justified. Two were murder-suicides, and in the other two cases, arrests have been made.

For the most part, this year's homicides have followed trends set by years past. Most city victims tend to be young and black, whereas most county victims tend to be older and white.

This year's youngest victim so far, Adrian Howell Jr., was just three months old. City police announced his death the day after they responded to reports that a woman was dangling him over a rail on a third-floor balcony of Townview Towers.

Adrian died from blunt force trauma to the head, police said. His mother, 19-year-old Tierra Williamson, was held for more than a week at a Chattanooga mental health facility before being booked into the Knox County jail. She faces a charge of first-degree murder.

This year's oldest victim was 87-year-old Irene Alexander. County authorities said her husband, Hamilton Alexander, also 87, fatally shot her on Feb. 6 before turning the gun on himself.

Note: The homicide count in this story includes murders, manslaughter and homicides that authorities said were justified. Vehicular homicides and murder charges against drug dealers connected to overdose deaths are not included.

Reporter Travis Dorman can be reached at 865-342-6315 or at travis.dorman@knoxnews.com. Follow him on Twitter @travdorman.
Memphis had fewer homicides in 2017, but 200 killed

Yolanda Jones, USA TODAY NETWORK – Tennessee

Published 5:49 p.m. CT Jan. 2, 2018 | Updated 6:08 p.m. CT Jan. 2, 2018

Esteban Dominges was shot and killed three days before Christmas outside his home in southeast Memphis. Police said Dominges and his wife had just pulled up in their driveway in the 4200 block of Boyce on Dec. 22 when two men approached and demanded money. He and one of the men struggled over the gun and Dominges was shot.

No arrests have been made in Dominges' slaying — the last homicide of 2017.

Memphis had 200 homicides in 2017, down from the 228 slayings in 2016, the deadliest year recorded in the city in two decades.

MPD Police Director Michael Rallings told The Commercial Appeal last year that he attributed the 2016 increase in violence to a combination of increased gang activity, access to guns and domestic violence related incidents.

Memphis Mayor Jim Strickland said at his New Year's Day prayer breakfast Monday that he couldn't say why there was a decline in homicides in 2017 over 2016, but noted that the city is hiring more police officers and providing programs to help children in the city.

"I don't have to remind you of the challenges that our youth have. Just turn on the news, there was a recent incident at a mall. Teenagers on the police blotter or the shameful number of children living in poverty," Strickland said.

Bill Gibbons, president and executive director of the Memphis Shelby Crime Commission, said the decline in homicides in the city is "very, very encouraging news."

"But we have a long way to go to get where we need to be," Gibbons said Tuesday.

Gibbons said the crime-fighting plan, dubbed Operation: Safe Community, is being utilized by the city and law enforcement to help reduce crime along with recruiting and retaining MPD officers.

"And a key part of the plan is increasing community involvement in reducing crime," Gibbons said. "We are seeing an increase in neighborhood watch groups in a number of communities that have had high crime rates in the past. We're seeing an increase in productive CrimeStoppers tips, so all of that is encouraging."

But he said it will take time to see a "significant impact on crime."

"It would be a leap to say that any of these steps we've taken have already had a significant impact on the crime rate because a lot of these are just being implemented, so it is going to take a while to really have an impact in a measurable way," Gibbons said. "If we are talking this time next year we will probably have a much better feel for the impact these various steps are having."

He pointed to New York as a poster city for its implementation of strategies over the last two decades that have worked to combat crime in that city.

New York recorded 290 killings last year, compared with 2016, when the city had 334 homicides.

"Twenty years ago, people kind of accepted a high crime rate, but they don't accept that in New York City, so it has been a change in the mindset, and I think we can see that in Memphis as well," Gibbons said. "In Memphis, many citizens are speaking out and conveying that criminal conduct is unacceptable. I think the fact that we have this plan in place and the community is behind it is setting the right tone, and that is important."

The homicide drop in Memphis reflects a decline in major cities across the country last year. In addition to New York, Chicago also experienced a decrease in homicides in 2017, according to the Associated Press.

Strickland said even though homicides declined last year in Memphis, there is still work to do.

"I tell people, if you only remember two things I say in this speech, remember that we have a crime plan and we are implementing it," Strickland said. "We are going to get long-term results, but it just takes a while to turn it around."

2017 Memphis homicides

- Of the 200 homicides in Memphis in 2017, 14 were ruled justified.
- 129 of the 2017 homicides have been solved and 71 remained unsolved.
- In 123 of the 2017 homicides, police said the victims and the suspects knew each other.
- 17 children were killed last year, including 10-year-old Richard Jordan III, whose shooting death remains unsolved.
Gun Store Thefts on the Rise
MOUNT JULIET, TN (WSMV) -

Another gun store in Middle Tennessee has been targeted by thieves.

Last Sunday, roughly 18 guns were stolen during a break-in at nRange on Lebanon Road in Mt. Juliet.

The ATF is currently working more than a dozen gun store thefts in the Midstate this year alone.

Surveillance photos show this most recent theft at nRange. Tennessee does not have any laws requiring gun stores and pawn shops to have specific security measures in place to prevent gun thefts. They are required by law to notify the ATF and local police within 48 hours after a theft has occurred.

The ATF and NSSF offer $5,000 rewards when guns are stolen from gun stores.

“We don't close a case until that theft is resolved,” said ATF special agent Michael Knight.

Knight said the ATF will work with gun stores to offer suggestions and look at ways to improve security.

“But, the businesses have their own right to put in whatever measure they see fit for that particular area, that particular gun store,” Knight said.

He said these gun store grabs have a snowball effect.

“That's that first criminal act,” he said of gun store thefts. “(The guns are) going to be used potentially in other criminal acts, not only in Middle Tennessee, but after a short period of time (will) transit to other parts of the country.”

At Royal Range in Bellevue, extra precautions are taken to make sure the building and guns inside are secure. Since opening in 2015 they have not experienced any gun thefts.

But across the state, more gun stores are being targeted and hundreds of firearms are in the wrong hands.

Art Cason is the general manager of Royal Range. He knows there is no room for complacency when it comes to securing his store.

“Our firearms are secured by locking devices, (so are) our cabinets. We spend quite a bit of money on security, cameras on site and off site as well,” Cason said.

Each time Cason learns about another gun store burglary, he looks at ways to improve his store’s security.

“Making sure we provide the safest environment possible when we’re open, and also keep the premises as safe as possible from any criminal activity,” he said.

If people have personally owned firearms, they should record serial numbers, take a picture of the firearm and keep it stored in a safe location.

Anyone with information about the theft at nRange should contact the ATF at 800-283-4867, or the Mt. Juliet Police Department at 615-754-8477.

Information also can be sent to ATF via the mobile app here by using the Nashville field division as the location.

Copyright 2017 WSMV (Meredith Corporation). All rights reserved.
Suicides in Tennessee Reach Record-Breaking High

An average of three people died by suicide each day in Tennessee in 2016, the highest recorded in Tennessee in more than 35 years.

Jan. 9, 2018, at 1:28 p.m.

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — An average of three people died by suicide each day in Tennessee in 2016, the highest recorded in the state in more than 35 years.

News outlets cite Tennessee health officials as saying white middle-aged men in rural areas account for a majority of the deaths. White males make up 40 percent of Tennessee's population, but made up 77 percent of suicide deaths in 2016.

But officials from the Tennessee Department of Health's Office of Health Statistics say suicides also are increasing among those 10 to 19 years old.

East Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network official Amy Dolinky says the vast majority of people kill themselves with guns.

Dolinky says the difficulty of talking about feeling suicidal and the stigma surrounding mental illness have contributed to the rise in suicides.
Gun violence restraining orders backed by House of Delegates

BY DEBRA CASSENS WEISS
POSTED AUGUST 15, 2017, 9:25 AM CDT

Updated: A measure addressing gun violence won approval from the ABA House of Delegates on Tuesday, despite some opposition by those who raised due process issues.

Resolution 118B urges state and local governments to enact laws and regulations authorizing courts to issue gun violence restraining orders, including ex parte orders that don’t require the presence of the targeted person.

Those petitioning for a restraining order should provide documented evidence that a person poses a serious threat to himself or to others, according to the resolution. There should also be a verifiable procedure to ensure surrender of guns and ammunition pursuant to a restraining order, the resolution says.

The restraining order should be reported to appropriate state and federal databases so that a person subject to the order is unable to obtain a gun or gun license while the order is in effect, the resolution says.

Estelle Rogers of the Section of Civil Rights and Social Justice spoke in favor of the resolution. “Gun violence restraining orders are a modest common-sense reform to address at least one piece” of the gun violence problem, she said.

The right to keep and bear arms isn’t absolute, Rogers told the House. The Second Amendment protects the rights of law-abiding and responsible citizens, but not those who pose a serious threat to themselves or others, she said.

Also speaking in favor of the resolution was Monte Frank of Newtown, Connecticut, who lives close to the elementary school where 20 children and six school staff members were killed in a mass shooting in 2012.

Connecticut had enacted a gun seizure law in 1999 that was used 762 times to remove guns from potentially violent people from 1999 to 2013. “I wish it had been used in Newtown,” said Frank.

Police found guns in 96 percent of the cases in which they conducted a search under the law, he said. Researchers estimated that for every 10 to 20 gun seizures under the law, one suicide had been averted, according to Frank, a Connecticut Bar Association delegate.

Peter Langrock of Vermont spoke against the resolution. “I’m here because I’m a lawyer and I believe in the Constitution,” he said.

Langrock said such orders raise First Amendment concerns because they could target people based on speech, including statements on social media. Langrock also said the ex parte orders raise 14th Amendment due process concerns, and gun seizures based on such orders raise Fourth Amendment concerns.

The Law Student Division also opposed the resolution because of concerns about ex parte orders, said delegate Rene Morency.

The resolution was approved by a voice vote.

A report to the House of Delegates says incidents of mass shootings have demonstrated the need for gun violence protection orders. “In many of these incidents,” the report says, “community members noted warning signs beforehand, but there was nothing they could do to remove the shooter’s access to guns before the tragedy.”

California, Connecticut, Indiana and Washington have laws providing for gun violence restraining orders, while police in Illinois and Massachusetts can try to remove guns from potentially dangerous people through gun licensing laws.

Follow along with our full coverage of the 2017 ABA Annual Meeting.

Updated headline at 3:50 p.m. on Aug. 17.