



**Independent Women's Voice®**

# The Gun Control Debate

## in 60 Seconds

### What's at Stake:

We all want to see fewer mass killings and less gun violence.

#### **Bad Solution:**

New federal gun control legislation would:

- Not change criminal behavior. It only creates a false sense of security.
- Make law-abiding citizens less safe, especially victims of domestic violence.
- Turn law-abiding citizens into instant felons for ordinary, safe behavior.
- Be cost prohibitive for the poorest families to protect themselves.

In short, gun control legislation does not focus on the root causes of human behavior, including violence, crime and untreated mental illness. At the heart of gun control initiatives is the hope that criminals will obey the law, but in fact they rarely do.

**Instead, ordinary law-abiding gun owners would bear the burden of the proposed laws.** For example: A woman who has recently left a violent relationship would be placed in a far more vulnerable position, reducing her ability to protect herself or her children.

### A Better Path Forward: Allow Choice in Self-Defense

There is no one-size-fits-all solution for anyone's choice of how to keep him/herself and loved ones safe. Some people choose to own firearms:

- Concealed carry permit holders are the most law-abiding segment of society.
- The CDC reports 500,000 annual uses of firearms in defense of self or others.
- States and cities with the least restrictive laws on gun ownership are safer than those with the most restrictive laws on gun ownership.

Adding new restrictions on firearms will not change criminal behavior, but could make law-abiding people less safe:

- The law-abiding are already making good decisions about buying firearms. Keeping their choice in place keeps them as safe as they can be.
- Vulnerable people, including women in unsafe homes or neighborhoods, should not have to beg for permission to defend themselves.
- Law enforcement should not waste valuable time on those who otherwise comply with the law. Their focus should be on those who are actually committing crimes.

# Addressing Concerns:

CONCERNS	RESPONSES
We need enhanced background checks to reduce gun violence	Studies indicate that more stringent background checks do not reduce crime—no matter how much we hope they would. Very few criminals, as few as 1.3 percent, obtain their firearms from a retail source. ( <b>Source:</b> Bureau of Justice Statistics)
Having more guns in more public places will inevitably lead to more gun violence.	The numbers don't bear that out. A full 96 percent of mass shootings take place in gun-free zones. Someone intent on mass murder isn't going to be deterred by a sign prohibiting guns.
Ordinary citizens shouldn't have to be the ones to defend their families. That's the job of the police.	Law enforcement response times might be 2-15 minutes (in urban areas, and longer in rural areas). If an armed assailant broke in to your home with intent to rape or kill, even two minutes is too long.