

Resolution to Congratulate Governor Abigail Spanberger and the Democratic members of the 2026 Virginia General Assembly for enacting 16 new common-sense firearms laws.

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The leadership and membership of the Alexandria Democratic Committee applauds our Democratic leadership in Richmond for enacting 16 vital new laws that are designed to save lives.

According to the Virginia Department of Health and the CDC respectively, in Virginia, as it is in our nation, gunfire is the leading cause of death for children and teens one to 17 years old. Additionally, according to the Violence Policy Center, nationally, there are an average of nine murder-suicides by gun per week. A notably tragic occurrence took place on April 16, the 19th anniversary of the Virginia Tech shootings, which took 32 innocent lives. It was committed by former Lt. Governor Justin Fairfax when he gunned down his wife, Cerina, and then took his own life, while their two teenagers were in their house.

Thankfully, our Democratic government has been working on preventing gun tragedies to save lives.

On July 1, 16 new firearms laws were enacted in Virginia. This was the first year since Democrats last had control of the legislature that we have seen such dramatic change for the better in our gun laws.

- **HB19 (Delegate Adele McClure)** — Closing the Boyfriend Loophole to make sure convicted domestic abusers cannot exploit a legal technicality to keep their firearms.
- **HB93 (Senator Elizabeth Bennett-Parker), SB38 (Senator Barbara Favola)** — Prohibiting the transfer of firearms when a protective order is issued to protect women, families, and all Virginians from violence.
- **HB21 (Delegate Dan Helmer)** — Holding the firearm industry accountable when negligent business practices contribute to gun violence.
- **HB40 (Delegate Marcus Simon)** — Cracking down on ghost guns to take untraceable, unregistered firearms off Virginia streets and give law enforcement the ability to track weapons used in crimes.
- **HB110 (Delegate Amy Laufer), SB496 (Senator Dave Marsden)** — Reducing stolen firearms and keeping law enforcement safe by prohibiting unsecured handguns in unattended motor vehicles.
- **HB1071 (Delegate Amy Laufer)** — Enhancing teacher and school staff training on Virginia's red flag laws. The legislation strengthens mandatory training for Virginia school employees so they can more effectively identify, respond to, and manage situations involving potential threats to student safety. This includes:
 - Red flag law training — equipping teachers and staff with the knowledge and skills to recognize warning signs, follow legal procedures, and coordinate with law enforcement when necessary

- Emergency preparedness — ensuring staff know how to act quickly and safely in crisis situations, including when a red flag is triggered

- **HB217 (Delegate Dan Helmer), SB749 (Senator Saddam Salim)** — Protecting Virginia families, law enforcement, and communities by prohibiting the future sale of assault-style weapons.
- **HB1524 (Delegate Garrett McGuire)** — Keeping dangerous firearms out of public spaces by prohibiting the public carry of assault-style weapons.
- **HB1523 (Delegate Garrett McGuire)** — Creating a certification for Violence Prevention Professionals to build a trained workforce to interrupt violence before it starts.
- **HB969 (Delegate Marcia Price)** — Establishing the Virginia Gun Violence Prevention Center Workgroup to create the infrastructure to make Virginia a national leader in gun violence prevention.
- **HB1015 (Delegate Kathy Tran)** — Prohibiting firearm possession by individuals convicted of a hate crime.
- **HB702 (Delegate Joshua Cole)** — Encouraging firearm sell-back programs to give Virginians a safe, simple way to get unwanted guns out of homes and out of circulation.
- **HB871 (Delegate Mark Downey), SB348 (Senator Jennifer Boysko)** — Requiring safe storage of firearms to protect children and prevent theft.
- **HB201 (Delegate Laura Jane Cohen), SB109 (Senator Stella Pekarsky)** — Empowering parents and keeping families safe by requiring school boards to notify parents of safe storage requirements.
- **HB1525 (Delegate Garrett McGuire)** — Restoring universal background checks by closing the Lynchburg Loophole.
- **HB901 (Delegate Rip Sullivan), SB495 (Senator Creigh Deeds)** — Expanding the list of individuals eligible to petition for an emergency substantial risk order to make sure families and community members have the ability to intervene before a tragedy.

In 2020, under the leadership of Democratic Gov. Ralph Northam, our government enacted:

- A universal background check law on ALL firearms sales.
- An emergency substantial risk order law, also known as our Red Flag law;
- A one-handgun-a-month purchase limit, that had previously been shown to dramatically reduce gun trafficking when first enacted under Democratic Gov. Doug Wilder;
- A mandatory reporting bill for lost or stolen guns; and,
- Stricter penalties for leaving unsecured firearms around children.