

# Support Common Sense Steps To Prevent Gun Violence



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**Since 2013, we have had nearly 400 school shootings, according to [Everytown for Gun Safety](#). Like most Americans, NEA members overwhelmingly support universal background checks. But they are only a first step — we need a comprehensive approach to addressing gun violence that includes the common sense steps discussed below.**

## **STRENGTHEN BACKGROUND CHECKS (H.R. 8/S. 42 and H.R. 1112)**

- ▶ On January 8 — the eighth anniversary of the mass shooting in Arizona that killed six and injured 15, including former Representative Gabrielle Giffords — bills were introduced in both chambers to **expand background checks**.
- ▶ The Bipartisan Background Checks Act of 2019 (H.R. 8) and Background Checks Expansion Act (S. 42) require a background check for **every gun sold**, including those purchased at gun shows and over the internet, as well as most transfers.
- ▶ The Enhanced Background Checks Act of 2019 (H.R. 1112) extends the initial background check review period from **three to 10 days**. (Under current law, the “Charleston loophole” allows gun ownership to be transferred after three days even if the background check is incomplete.)
- ▶ The March 2018 [Monmouth University Poll](#) found that the **vast majority of Americans** (83 percent) support comprehensive background checks for all gun sales, including 69 percent of NRA members and 78 percent of gun owners who are not NRA members.

## **DRAMATICALLY EXPAND FOCUS ON MENTAL HEALTH**

- ▶ Increase funding and access to **school-based health centers and their staffs**. Proper diagnosis can and often starts in our schools, yet there is a shortage of counselors, nurses, social workers, and psychologists in public education.
- ▶ Expand and increase **professional development funding** for educators in the areas of bullying, mental and behavioral health, cultural competence, restorative practices, and classroom management.

## **TAKE A HOLISTIC APPROACH TO SCHOOL SAFETY**

- ▶ We need **fewer guns** in schools, not more.
- ▶ To help ensure students get a well-rounded education, increase funding for Student Support and Academic Enrichment grants, **Title IV-A of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)**, but do not divert resources from this grant to arm educators.
- ▶ The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Prevention have authority to research gun violence as a **public health issue** — now, Congress needs to provide funding for such research.