

## Pass Meaningful Gun Violence Prevention Legislation

JCPA strongly urges Congress to take immediate action to stop the proliferation of gun violence and hate. While we are heartbroken by the recent shootings in this country, we know that they are not isolated tragedies. In just the last three years, 11 innocent people were gunned down at a synagogue in Pittsburg; 17 were killed at a school in Parkland, 58 were brutally murdered at a concert in Las Vegas, and 59 were slaughtered at a nightclub in Orlando in 2016. This is just a fraction of the mass shootings that have taken place. Each year, there are tens of thousands more gun-related deaths that do not make national headlines.

The Jewish community has a deep and abiding concern for public safety. Driven by our belief in the sanctity of life and the commandment against murder, we are committed to a comprehensive approach to confronting gun violence. It is critical that we restore the safety of our schools, communities, and public spaces. While no single solution will prevent all future tragedies, we must take action now.

JCPA calls upon government leaders to immediately pass gun violence prevention legislation. It is urgent that Congress pass common sense measures, such as expanding background checks and reinstating the ban on assault weapons and large-capacity ammunition magazines, which serve no other purpose than to inflict maximum carnage.

### Act Now!

**Senators should pass the two bipartisan bills to expand background checks already approved by the House of Representatives.**

- The **Bipartisan Background Checks Act (H.R. 8)** would expand background checks to nearly all gun purchases and close the “gun show loophole,” which over 90% of Americans support.
- The **Enhanced Background Checks Act (H.R. 1112)** would close the “Charleston Loophole.” This bill would extend the amount of time dealers must wait for a response from the national background check system before making a sale to at least 10 days instead of the current three days. It is this loophole that enabled a white supremacist shooter in Charleston, South Carolina, to buy a gun and kill nine people, despite possessing a disqualifying criminal record. Closing this loophole would not only help keep guns out of the hands of potential mass shooters, but also thousands of other dangerous people like domestic abusers.

**Congress should pass a new Assault Weapons Ban (S. 66/H.R. 1296), which expired in 2004.** This legislation, which now has bipartisan support in the House, would ban semi-automatic firearms and large-capacity magazines. When used in mass shootings, assault weapons or high capacity magazines result in [47 percent more deaths compared to other incidents](#).

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*The Jewish Council for Public Affairs (JCPA) is the hub of the Jewish community relations network, representing over 125 local Jewish community relations councils and 17 national Jewish agencies. Together our network builds consensus on behalf of the entire Jewish community to promote a just and pluralistic American society, advocate for human rights around the world, and support Israel's quest for peace and security.*