

Taylor, Heather

From: Gunaratna, Mahen
Sent: Thursday, February 15, 2018 8:44 AM
To: Gabel, Pearl
Cc: Torres, Edwin
Subject: Re: Info on the FL shooting and ERPO

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 15, 2018, at 8:33 AM, Gabel, Pearl <Pearl.Gabel@nj.gov> wrote:

FYI- from Gifford's team

Pearl Gabel
Digital Director
Office of Governor Phil Murphy
State of New Jersey
Pearl.Gabel@nj.gov
646-250-6872

From: Nico Bocour <nbocour@giffords.org>
Sent: Thursday, February 15, 2018 8:31:42 AM
To: Gabel, Pearl
Subject: Info on the FL shooting and ERPO

Hi Pearl -

As you know there was an awful shooting at a high school in Florida yesterday. While the news is still very much developing, I did want to reach out because the early reporting on the shooter appears to be demonstrative of a situation where an Extreme Risk Protective Order (ERPO) would be valuable, and potentially live-saving. ERPO is the policy I discussed with Kate McDonnell and Justin Dews last Friday and which continues to be a top priority for Giffords. I'd love the opportunity to discuss more with you all.

The ERPO is a legal mechanism that allows families and household members and law enforcement to petition a court for a civil order to temporarily reduce access to guns based on evidence that an individual is **exhibiting dangerous behaviors** and poses a threat to themselves or others. The policy is not a "mental health" policy, as it looks at dangerous behaviors and threats, rather than focusing on things like specifics diagnosis. This is important because, as we know, the vast majority of those experiencing mental illness are not violent towards others and are actually more likely to be a victim than a perpetrator. The ERPO looks at things like a history of domestic abuse, substance abuse, depression, threats, abuse of animals, and other indicators that indicate a substantial risk.

I expect there will be discussion in the coming weeks on what could have been done to keep firearms out of the hands of this individual, who under current law, appears to have been able to purchase and possess his guns legally.

I've attached our **factsheets** on the ERPO and below is some additional information we have gathered so far on the Florida shooting and shooter, and I've highlighted the pieces that seem to be most relevant to the ERPO. And here is the [online version](#) of our message guide on ERPO.

I would be happy to chat further about this policy and anything else that might be helpful. Please don't hesitate to reach out!

Best,
Nico

What We Know So Far

The Incident

- The Broward County Sheriff's department responded around 2pm ET to a shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, FL., which is about 30 miles northwest of Fort Lauderdale, according to the Coral Springs Police Department. ([USA Today](#)).
- A man pulled the fire alarm "creating a scene of chaos before shooting" ([ABC Miami](#)). The school had already had a fire drill earlier that day ([CBS News](#)).
- The school district released a statement explaining the shooting happened closed to dismissal time. When students heard what sounded like gunfire, the school was placed on lockdown. ([USA Today](#))
- The gunman began shooting outside and then continued shooting inside (Sheriff update/[NBC News](#))
- Broward County Public Schools Superintendent said the school had received no warnings or threats of the shooting. ([Buzzfeed](#))
- The shooter was still at large as the school was evacuated. ([Bloomberg](#))

The Shooter

- The suspect is in custody ([Broward Sheriff](#)). Name is Nikolas Cruz, 19. ([Broward Sheriff](#)). He was taken to a local hospital for medical clearance after exhibiting labored breathing, before being transferred to the sheriff's office ([Broward Sheriff](#)).
- Cruz formerly attended the school and was expelled last year ([Broward Sheriff](#)) for disciplinary reasons (Sheriff interview). He now attends a school for at-risk youth ([Miami Herald](#))
- A math teacher reports Cruz had threatened other students in the past and was no longer allowed on campus with a backpack. ([Miami Herald](#))
- The math teacher also said students told him the shooter was interested in a female student "to the point of stalking her" ([NYT](#))
- The gunman remained at large for about 30 minutes before the shooting was reported ([NY Daily News](#))
- The suspect left the area by blending in with students leaving school ([ABC](#)) but did not work ([CNN](#))
- A student reports that the shooter had guns, carried guns, people often talked about him "shooting up the school" ([CNN](#), 6:47). Another student recalled the shooter kicking glass out of a window in a classroom and running away ([Miami Herald](#))
- People say the shooter enjoyed showing off his firearms and his mother "would resort to calling the police to have them come to their home to talk some sense" into him ([NYT](#))
- A former neighbor who lives on an "elegant" street said Cruz told her his family had to move out of their home in the neighborhood about a year ago because they could no longer afford it ([NYT](#))
- Screen shots of an Instagram page said to belong to Mr. Cruz show many photos of a man holding firearms and ammunition used in a semiautomatic AR-15 rifle. One photo shows several guns, including rifles with scopes, laying on a bed. Another appears to show a frog that had been killed. ([NYT](#))
- After being expelled from high school, Cruz worked as a cashier at Dollar Tree ([NYT](#))
- After Cruz's mother died, he moved in with a friend's family. The family asked that his AR be locked in a cabinet ([Miami Herald](#))
- Cruz participated in ROTC at Douglas, where some classmates have described him as violence-obsessed and "a little off" while others have said he seemed completely normal ([Sun-Sentinel](#))

The Victims

- 17 people dead (Broward County sheriff) 12 in building, 2 outside the school, 2 people at hospital, and 1 on Pine Island Road. Some victims are still in surgery. (6:30pm sheriff briefing).
- Individuals killed are a mix of students and adults. ([Boston Globe](#))
- 15 wounded ([Miami Herald](#))

- Senator Bill Nelson confirmed that there were fatalities confirmed inside the school. ([CBS News](#))
- Margate Fire Department reports 20 to 50 people might be injured. The U.S. Coast Guard and Palm Beach County are sending helicopters to help. A number of people could be seen being loaded into ambulances on a stretcher. ([CBSMiami](#))
- Coral Springs Mayor reports "multiple fatalities". ([Sun Sentinel](#))
- At around 7pm, doctors at Broward North said all victims they received were gunshot victims ([presser/NBC News](#))

The Weapons

- Police are reporting the recovery of an AR-15 rifle and multiple magazines. (CNN) Sheriff confirms this ([Boston Globe](#))
- Bill Nelson saying the shooter had gas mask, smoke grenades (CNN interview around 7:27pm)
- The gun was purchased legally by Cruz. He owned it when he moved in with his friend's family after the death of his mother about 3.5 months ago. The family required the gun be locked in a cabinet to which Cruz had a key. ([Sun-Sentinel](#))

The Community

- Just yesterday Parkland was ranked safest city in Florida. ([Brian Entin - WSVN7](#))
- The high school (grades 9-12) has approximately 3,000 students (NBC News).
- Superintendent states that there are typically two law enforcement cars on campus. (CNN)
- The school distributed information on how to respond to an active shooter situation as recently as December. ([ABC](#))

Response

- The shooter has been charged with 17 counts of premeditated murder ([NBC](#))
- CBS Miami's Rick Folbaum was speaking over text message with a student at the school who is hiding in a closet. "All of a sudden there was a really loud noise.....people are crying the closet," the student wrote to him. ([CBSMiami](#))
- White House spokeswoman Lindsay Walters said [President Trump](#) has been made aware of the shooting. "We are monitoring the situation," Walters said. "Our thoughts and prayers are with those affected." ([The Hill](#)) [Trump tweet](#): "My prayers and condolences to the families of the victims of the terrible Florida shooting. No child, teacher or anyone else should ever feel unsafe in an American school."
- ATF agents are in the area to assist Broward Sheriffs and Coral Springs PD. ([Reuters](#))
- "Just spoke to Broward School Superintendent. Today is that terrible day you pray never comes." -[Marco Rubio](#)
- Over 150,000 school children have experienced some kind of school shooting scenario since Columbine (CNN, 4:47PM)
- [MOC tweets](#)
- Broward County Sheriff: "People who are the victim of mental health illnesses in this country, are being treated, in the opinion of this sheriff, they should not be able to buy, surround themselves, purchase or carry a handgun. Those things don't mix." (Broward County Sheriff/[NBC](#))
- Gov Rick Scott: When asked how the gunman was able to acquire semiautomatic rifle, Scott said: "There is a time to continue to have these conversations about how, through law enforcement, how through mental illness funding, to keep people safe, and we'll continue to do that." ([NBC](#))

Nico Bocour

State Legislative Director

Giffords: Courage to Fight Gun Violence

973-715-9385 | giffords.org

@GiffordsCourage

Looking for Americans for Responsible Solutions or the Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence? We're now united in name and mission as Giffords and Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence. Join us!

<ERPO FAQ 12.5.pdf>

Taylor, Heather

From: Gunaratna, Mahen
Sent: Tuesday, February 20, 2018 7:25 PM
To: Acevedo, Liza
Subject: Re: touching base from Giffords

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 20, 2018, at 7:24 PM, Acevedo, Liza <Liza.Acevedo@nj.gov> wrote:

From: Nico Bocour [<mailto:nbocour@giffords.org>]
Sent: Tuesday, February 20, 2018 4:25 PM
To: Acevedo, Liza <Liza.Acevedo@nj.gov>
Subject: touching base from Giffords

Hi Liza -

Would either of you have time quickly to chat about the ERPO legislation in the next few days? I heard that Governor Murphy announced that he is interested in signing the bill and we're obviously very excited to learn that. I did just want to have a very quick call about some messaging that might be useful, as well as an upcoming press conference we're putting together to unveil our cost of gun violence report.

Or if there is someone else in your office I should chat with about all of this, that's fine too.


Thanks,
Nico

Nico Bocour
State Legislative Director
Giffords: Courage to Fight Gun Violence
973-715-9385 | giffords.org
[@GiffordsCourage](https://twitter.com/GiffordsCourage)

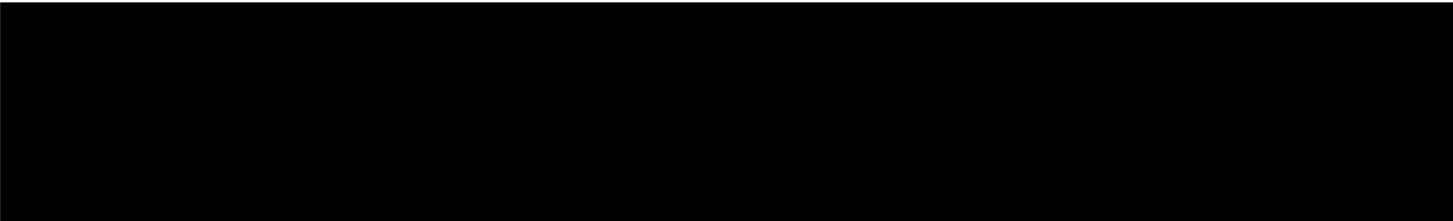
Looking for Americans for Responsible Solutions or the Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence? We're now united in name and mission as Giffords and Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence. Join us!

Taylor, Heather

From: Gunaratna, Mahen
Sent: Tuesday, April 10, 2018 1:02 PM
To: McDonnell, Kate; Garg, Parimal; Braz, Justin; Platkin, Matthew
Cc: Dews, Justin
Subject: RE: NJ ERPO language and cost of gun violence report draft



From: McDonnell, Kate
Sent: Tuesday, April 10, 2018 10:55 AM
To: Garg, Parimal <Parimal.Garg@nj.gov>; Braz, Justin <Justin.Braz@nj.gov>; Platkin, Matthew <Matthew.Platkin@nj.gov>; Gunaratna, Mahen <Mahen.Gunaratna@nj.gov>
Cc: Dews, Justin <Justin.Dews@nj.gov>
Subject: FW: NJ ERPO language and cost of gun violence report draft



From: Nico Bocour [<mailto:nbocour@giffords.org>]
Sent: Tuesday, April 10, 2018 10:34 AM
To: McDonnell, Kate <Kate.McDonnell@nj.gov>
Cc: Dews, Justin <Justin.Dews@nj.gov>
Subject: Re: NJ ERPO language and cost of gun violence report draft

Hi Justin and Kate -

Attached is the embargoed copy of the Cost of Gun Violence in New Jersey report. We are planning to release this on Monday morning at a press conference in Trenton. Let me know if you have any questions!

Thanks,
Nico

Taylor, Heather

From: GOV Discovery Search Mailbox3
Subject: FW: Quote for Govs release

From: William Castner [REDACTED]
Date: May 6, 2018 at 2:51:06 PM EDT
To: Mahen.Gunaratna@nj.gov, Liza.Acevedo@nj.gov
Subject: Fwd: Quote for Govs release

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Nico Bocour <nbocour@giffords.org>
Date: May 6, 2018 at 2:32:06 PM EDT
To: Bill Castner [REDACTED]
Subject: Quote for Govs release

"Leadership requires courage and commitment. While running for office Phil Murphy committed to doing more to protect New Jersey families and communities. We stood by his side then and are proud to stand with him today as we announce a new effort to address the trauma and tragedy brought on by senseless gun violence," said **former Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords, co-founder of Giffords**. "We are excited to partner with Governor Murphy and Bill Castner to make sure New Jersey continues to be a national leader on gun safety. This is a model that will show others how we can take the fight against gun violence to the next level."

--

Nico Bocour
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Looking for Americans for Responsible Solutions or the Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence? We're now united in name and mission as Giffords and Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence. Join us!

Taylor, Heather

From: Gunaratna, Mahen
Sent: Monday, May 7, 2018 10:29 PM
To: Gabel, Pearl; Torres, Edwin
Subject: Tweet by Gabrielle Giffords on Twitter

Pls RT:



Gabrielle Giffords (@GabbyGiffords)

5/7/18, 4:26 PM

We are excited to partner with [@GovMurphy](#) and Bill Castner to make sure New Jersey continues to be a national leader on gun safety. This is a model that will show others how we can take the fight against gun violence to the next level. nj.gov/governor/news/... twitter.com/GovMurphy/stat...

Download the Twitter app

Sent from my iPhone

Taylor, Heather

From: GOV Discovery Search Mailbox3
Subject: FW: ANNOUNCEMENT: Giffords Law Center Applauds New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy and Attorney General Gurbir Grewal for Decisive Efforts to Crack Down on Illegal Sales of Ghost Guns

From: William Castner [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, June 12, 2018 3:48 PM
To: Platkin, Matthew <Matthew.Platkin@nj.gov>; Gunaratna, Mahen <Mahen.Gunaratna@nj.gov>; Bryan, Dan <Dan.Bryan@nj.gov>; Roseman, Derek <Derek.Roseman@nj.gov>; Dews, Justin <Justin.Dews@nj.gov>
Subject: Fwd: ANNOUNCEMENT: Giffords Law Center Applauds New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy and Attorney General Gurbir Grewal for Decisive Efforts to Crack Down on Illegal Sales of Ghost Guns

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Nico Bocour <nbocour@giffords.org>
Date: June 12, 2018 at 3:12:33 PM EDT
To: Adam Skaggs <askaggs@giffords.org>, William Castner [REDACTED]
Subject: Fwd: ANNOUNCEMENT: Giffords Law Center Applauds New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy and Attorney General Gurbir Grewal for Decisive Efforts to Crack Down on Illegal Sales of Ghost Guns

FYI!

Nico Bocour
State Legislative Director
Giffords: Courage to Fight Gun Violence
973-715-9385 | giffords.org
@GiffordsCourage

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Jacques Petit <jpetit@giffords.org>
Date: Tue, Jun 12, 2018 at 3:07 PM
Subject: ANNOUNCEMENT: Giffords Law Center Applauds New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy and Attorney General Gurbir Grewal for Decisive Efforts to Crack Down on Illegal Sales of Ghost Guns

FYI <https://giffords.org/2018/06/nj-ghost-guns/>

**GIFFORDS
LAW CENTER**

TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE

ANNOUNCEMENT: Giffords Law Center Applauds New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy and Attorney General Gurbir Grewal for Decisive Efforts to Crack Down on Illegal Sales of Ghost Guns

Giffords Law Center and partners in FACT litigation coalition will work closely with New Jersey to combat gun violence by holding unscrupulous gun sellers accountable.

Washington DC—Today, former Representative Gabrielle Giffords and her husband, Captain Mark Kelly, applauded New Jersey's new effort to combat illegal online sales of ghost guns in the Garden State. Last month, Representative Giffords and Captain Kelly joined New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy to announce a new effort within the Murphy administration to reduce gun violence in the state and the appointment of Bill Castner as Senior Advisor on Firearms.

The announcement also identified a new, unprecedented public-private effort on gun-safety litigation, combining the investigative and enforcement powers of the state with the expertise of the nation's leading gun litigation coalition. Giffords Law Center and its partners in the Firearms Accountability Counsel Taskforce (FACT) work with attorneys at a dozen of the nation's premier law firms, bringing unparalleled legal resources to the legal fight against gun violence. Leveraging these resources and Attorney General Grewal's leadership will ensure effective enforcement of existing gun laws and enable legal action against the rogue elements of the gun industry that threaten public safety in the Garden State.

"As New Jersey strengthens its efforts to keep guns from dangerous people and crack down on gun traffickers, a dark side of the gun industry is taking hold on the Internet," said **Adam Skaggs, Chief Counsel of Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence**. He continued, "We applaud Governor Murphy and Attorney General Grewal for ensuring that New Jersey's strong gun laws are enforced effectively and holding the scofflaw merchants in this dangerous online marketplace accountable. Giffords Law Center and our partners in the FACT coalition will support New Jersey's continuing leadership on gun violence as the Garden State provides the nation a model for responsible leadership on gun safety."

"Once again Governor Murphy and our Attorney General are delivering on their commitment to take aggressive actions to protect New Jerseyans against dangerous and illegal firearms," said **Bill Castner, Senior Advisor on Firearms**. "The ghost gun industry needs to be — and will be — closed for business in the Garden State."

The Firearms Accountability Counsel Taskforce (FACT) is a coalition led by Giffords Law Center, the Brady Center to Prevent Gun Violence and the Brennan Center for Justice, which works with lawyers from the nation's preeminent law firms to reduce gun violence.

Related Resources:

REPORT - Economic Cost of Gun Violence in New Jersey

This comprehensive report released recently by Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence, notes that local businesses are severely impacted when gun violence occurs, as shootings keep customers and tourists away and often limit hours of operation. On average, there are 2,014 shootings in New Jersey each year, resulting in **directly measurable costs of over \$1.2 billion annually**. That includes:

- **Healthcare costs:** \$93 million

- **Law enforcement and criminal justice expenses:** \$131 million
- **Costs to employers:** \$8 million
- **Lost income:** \$918 million

Much of this tab is picked up by the public. Up to 85% of gunshot victims, for example, are either uninsured or on some form of publicly funded insurance. Additionally, law enforcement efforts are funded entirely by taxpayer dollars. **As a result, the direct annual cost of gun violence to New Jersey taxpayers is approximately \$273 million.**

Even more striking, when indirect costs that impact families and communities are factored in, the overall estimate of the economic cost of gun violence rises to \$3.3 billion per year.

###

For nearly 25 years, the legal experts at Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence have been fighting for a safer America by researching, drafting, and defending the laws, policies, and programs proven to save lives from gun violence.

If you would rather not receive future communications from Giffords, let us know by clicking [here](#).
Giffords, PO Box 51196, Washington, DC 20091 United States

This comprehensive report released recently by Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence, notes that local businesses are severely impacted when gun violence occurs, as shootings keep customers and tourists away and often limit hours of operation. On average, there are 2,014 shootings in New Jersey each year, resulting in **directly measurable costs of over \$1.2 billion annually**. That includes:

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Giffords, PO Box 51196, Washington, DC 20091 United States

Taylor, Heather

From: GOV Discovery Search Mailbox3
Subject: FW: ghost guns - 60 minutes

From: William Castner <williamcastner@castnerlaw.us>
Sent: Thursday, August 23, 2018 6:03:33 PM
To: Platkin, Matthew; Gunaratna, Mahen; Dews, Justin
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: ghost guns - 60 minutes

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Adam Skaggs <askaggs@giffords.org>
Date: August 23, 2018 at 4:56:00 PM EDT
To: William Castner [REDACTED] Jeremy Feigenbaum
<Jeremy.Feigenbaum@njoag.gov>
Subject: ghost guns - 60 minutes

Gentlemen — hope you're doing well, and Jeremy, hope you're having a terrific vacation.

Just a heads-up that we have been speaking with a producer at 60 Minutes, who is in the preliminary stages of developing a story on ghost guns. (This is a story they're looking at for several months down the line, like late fall or winter.)

I touted all the incredible work in New Jersey and made clear that if they want to talk to any leaders on ghost guns, they'll find them in the Garden State. As their work continues, if there is interest from the General or Governor in speaking with them, I would be delighted to make the connection. Meanwhile, I'll keep you posted as to what I learn as things develop.

All best,

Adam

J. Adam Skaggs
Chief Counsel
Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence
917.680.3473 | giffordslawcenter.org
@JAdamSkaggs

This e-mail message may contain privileged or confidential information. If you are not the intended recipient, please delete it, notify the sender immediately by telephone or return email, and do not use or disseminate this information. Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence and its attorneys provide general information about gun laws and policies to interested groups, individuals, and legislators, and receipt of such information from Giffords Law Center does not create an attorney-client relationship. Thank you.

Taylor, Heather

From: GOV Discovery Search Mailbox3
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Breathtaking photo from after the Kavanaugh hearing

From: "Gunaratna, Mahen" <Mahen.Gunaratna@nj.gov>
Date: Tuesday, September 4, 2018 at 7:15 PM
To: Bill Castner [REDACTED] "Gabel, Pearl" <Pearl.Gabel@nj.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Breathtaking photo from after the Kavanaugh hearing

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 4, 2018, at 4:57 PM, Bill Castner [REDACTED] wrote:

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Giffords.org" <info@giffords.org>
Date: September 4, 2018 at 4:46:28 PM EDT
To: William Castner [REDACTED]
Subject: Breathtaking photo from after the Kavanaugh hearing
Reply-To: info@giffords.org



William -

See this breathtaking photo from earlier today? It's the father of a young girl killed at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida trying to shake Brett Kavanaugh's hand at his Supreme Court confirmation hearing.



** Photo credit: Andrew Hamik, Associated Press*

Sadly, Kavanaugh ignored him, buttoned his suit coat, and was ushered away.

The truth is, Brett Kavanaugh is a Second Amendment radical. He believes that limiting access to the weapon that killed 17 people in Parkland, Florida is the same thing as limiting free speech.

We have to stop him. His confirmation threatens strong gun laws already passed in states like Connecticut, and it would threaten any gun safety legislation passed in the future by the next Congress.

We're in the fight, but we can't do it alone.

Can you make a \$50 donation to Giffords PAC soon to help us in the fight to stop Brett Kavanaugh's confirmation to serve on the Supreme Court?

This confirmation will have a long-lasting impact on gun safety legislation across the country. We must do everything we can to stop Brett Kavanaugh. We will. But we need you with us.

All our best,

The team at Giffords



This email was sent to [REDACTED]. We try to send only the most important information and opportunities to participate via email, but click [here](#) if you'd like to unsubscribe. Giffords PAC was started to support elected officials who step up to fight the gun violence epidemic. Thank you for standing with Gabby and Mark.

Taylor, Heather

From: GOV Discovery Search Mailbox3
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Connecting Jacques and Murphy comms team

From: Jacques Petit <jpetit@giffords.org>
Sent: Monday, January 27, 2020 3:06 PM
To: Gunaratna, Mahen <Mahen.Gunaratna@nj.gov>
Cc: Altman, Alexandra <Alexandra.Altman@nj.gov>; Coyne, Megan <Megan.Coyne@nj.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Connecting Jacques and Murphy comms team

Hey yall, Matt Friedman over at Politico is going to preview Gabby's visit in tomorrow's NJPlaybook. I'm planning on sending him our advisory today and wanted to make sure you all got eyes on it before it goes to him. Please take a look and let me know of any edits/revisions before the end of the day today if you can. Thanks.

FOR PLANNING PURPOSES: January 28, 2020
CONTACT: Jacques Petit, jpetit@giffords.org

ADVISORY: Former Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords to Join Governor Murphy in Jersey City to Announce Important Progress in New Jersey Violence Intervention Efforts

Washington, D.C. — On Wednesday, January 29th at 11 AM EST, former **Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords**, co-founder of Giffords, will travel to Jersey City, New Jersey for a press conference hosted by **Governor Phil Murphy** to highlight New Jersey's Violence Intervention Programs. The press conference will detail grants that will be awarded to hospitals for hospital-based violence intervention programs to reduce gun violence in New Jersey's most impacted communities.

Supporting efforts for state funding for violence intervention and prevention programs has been a top priority for Giffords. Giffords has worked closely with Governor Phil Murphy and Majority Leader Lou Greenwald on a package of violence intervention bills that has newly been enacted in the Garden State. The recently signed NJVIP law will help launch and enhance violence reduction initiatives in communities impacted by interpersonal gun violence. Modeled after effective state grant programs in Massachusetts and New York, the New Jersey Violence Intervention Program would provide competitive multi-year grants to cities and non-profit organizations implementing effective, evidence-based violence intervention initiatives.

[Click here to read about the state of gun violence in New Jersey.](#)

WHERE:
Mary McLeod Bethune Life Center
140 Martin Luther King Dr.
Jersey City, NJ 07305

WHEN:
Wednesday, January 29 at 11 AM EST

WHO:

- **Former Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords**, co-founder of Giffords
- **New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy**

- New Jersey Attorney General Gurbir Grewal

Related Resources:

REPORT: New Jersey Gun Violence Impact Analysis and Policy Audit

REPORT: A Case Study in Hope: Lessons from Oakland's Remarkable Reduction in Gun Violence

REPORT: Economic Cost of Gun Violence in New Jersey

This comprehensive report released recently by Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence notes that local businesses are severely impacted when gun violence occurs, as shootings keep customers and tourists away and often limit hours of operation. On average, there are 2,014 shootings in New Jersey each year, **resulting in directly measurable costs of over \$1.2 billion annually. That includes:**

- **Healthcare costs:** \$93 million
- **Law enforcement and criminal justice expenses:** \$131 million
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Even more striking, when indirect costs that impact families and communities are factored in, the overall estimate of the economic cost of gun violence rises to \$3.3 billion per year.

###

Giffords is a nonprofit organization dedicated to saving lives from gun violence. Founded by former Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords and her husband, Navy combat veteran and retired NASA astronaut Captain Mark Kelly, Giffords inspires the courage of people from all walks of life to make America safer.

On Thu, Jan 23, 2020 at 8:50 PM Gunaratna, Mahen <Mahen.Gunaratna@nj.gov> wrote:

Looping Alex to get you a draft of our release once it's ready.

No issue.

Megan will work with you on the social.

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 23, 2020, at 5:07 PM, Jacques Petit <jpetit@giffords.org> wrote:

Hey Mahen, just talked to our team and we're fine with doing the joint release. Let me know what you need from me to get that going—I'll work on a quote.

Two questions for you: I know you mentioned announcing the event via the governor's public schedule, but would you be opposed to us floating Gabby's visit for a preview story earlier in the week?

Secondly, what is your team's plan for social that day, and do you mind if I connect our digital person with your team?

Thanks,

Jacques

On Wed, Jan 22, 2020 at 2:14 PM Gunaratna, Mahen <Mahen.Gunaratna@nj.gov> wrote:

Yes – looping Mary Beth to set something up

From: Jacques Petit <jpetit@giffords.org>
Sent: Wednesday, January 22, 2020 1:31 PM
To: Gunaratna, Mahen <Mahen.Gunaratna@nj.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Connecting Jacques and Murphy comms team

Hey Mahen, I apologize for not calling, the Virginia stuff took away a lot of time that day and toward the end of the week. Are you free before Friday to chat about the 29th?

On Fri, Jan 17, 2020 at 3:01 PM Jacques Petit <jpetit@giffords.org> wrote:

Gotcha. I can call you at 5:15ish.

On Fri, Jan 17, 2020 at 3:00 PM Gunaratna, Mahen <Mahen.Gunaratna@nj.gov> wrote:

Bit tied up now, but am free after 5:00 p.m.

From: Jacques Petit <jpetit@giffords.org>
Sent: Friday, January 17, 2020 2:58 PM
To: Cornavaca, Deborah <Deborah.Cornavaca@nj.gov>
Cc: Gunaratna, Mahen <Mahen.Gunaratna@nj.gov>; Nico Bocour <nbocour@giffords.org>; Jeremy Feigenbaum <Jeremy.Feigenbaum@njoag.gov>; William Castner <williamcastner@castnerlaw.us>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Connecting Jacques and Murphy comms team

Thanks, Nico.

Mahen, I can call you in about an hour if that works for you.

On Fri, Jan 17, 2020 at 2:29 PM Cornavaca, Deborah <Deborah.Cornavaca@nj.gov> wrote:

[REDACTED]

Deborah Cornavaca
Deputy Chief of Staff
Office of the Governor
State of New Jersey

From: Gunaratna, Mahen <Mahen.Gunaratna@nj.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 17, 2020 2:13:45 PM
To: Nico Bocour <nbocour@giffords.org>; Cornavaca, Deborah <Deborah.Cornavaca@nj.gov>;
Jeremy Feigenbaum <Jeremy.Feigenbaum@njoag.gov>; William Castner
<williamcastner@castnerlaw.us>; Jacques Petit <jpetit@giffords.org>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Connecting Jacques and Murphy comms team

Thanks, Nico!

Jacques, if you want to chat further at any point, my cell is [REDACTED]

Best,

Mahen

Mahen Gunaratna
Communications Director
Governor Phil Murphy

mahen.gunaratna@nj.gov | (609) 777-2475 (office)

From: Nico Bocour <nbocour@giffords.org>

Sent: Friday, January 17, 2020 2:12 PM

To: Cornavaca, Deborah <Deborah.Cornavaca@nj.gov>; Jeremy Feigenbaum <Jeremy.Feigenbaum@njoag.gov>; William Castner <williamcastner@castnerlaw.us>; Gunaratna, Mahen <Mahen.Gunaratna@nj.gov>; Jacques Petit <jpetit@giffords.org>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Connecting Jacques and Murphy comms team

Hi team -

Just writing to connect you all directly. Copied on this chain is Jacques Petit, our regional press secretary. Looking forward to the 29th!

Thanks!

Nico

Nico Bocour
State Legislative Director
Giffords: Courage to Fight Gun Violence
973-715-9385 | giffords.org

Explore our [Annual Gun Law Scorecard](http://gunlawscorecard.org) — Is your state doing enough to save lives?
gunlawscorecard.org

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Jacques Petit
Regional Press Secretary
Giffords: Courage to Fight Gun Violence
504-481-9234 | giffords.org @GiffordsCourage

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Taylor, Heather

From: GOV Discovery Search Mailbox3
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Governor Raimondo to Hold Gun Violence Prevention Roundtable with Former Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords

From: Governor's Office <josh.block@governor.ri.gov>
Date: January 29, 2020 at 2:45:18 PM EST
To: "Gunaratna, Mahen" <Mahen.Gunaratna@nj.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Governor Raimondo to Hold Gun Violence Prevention Roundtable with Former Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords
Reply-To: josh.block@governor.ri.gov



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 29, 2020

CONTACT:
Josh Block
Josh.Block@governor.ri.gov
401-222-8060

****MEDIA ADVISORY****

Thursday, January 30, 2020

**Governor Raimondo to Hold Gun Violence Prevention Roundtable
with Former Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords**

PROVIDENCE, RI- Governor Raimondo will hold a roundtable tomorrow with local leaders, survivors, and advocates, including Former Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords, to discuss how Rhode Island can work to become a national leader in gun violence prevention.

WHEN: Thursday, January 30, 2020 – 1:45 p.m.

WHO:

- Governor Gina Raimondo
- Former Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords, co-founder of Giffords
- Attorney General Peter Neronha
- Rhode Island State Police Colonel Jim Manni
- Diana Garlington, gun violence survivor
- Erica Keuter, gun violence survivor
- Myra Latimer, gun violence survivor
- Sydney Montstream-Quad, gun violence survivor
- Teresa Moretti, gun violence survivor
- Giovanna Rodriguez, gun violence survivor
- Wassa Bagayoko, founding member, Thoughts, Prayers, Action
- Liz Lemer MaClay, founder, Guns into Plowshare Project
- Jordan Seaberry, public policy director, Nonviolence Institute

WHERE:

State Room
Rhode Island State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

###

[Visit Governor Raimondo's Website](#)

Governor's Office | 82 Smith Street, Providence, RI 02903

[Unsubscribe Mahen.Gunaratna@nj.gov](#)

[Update Profile](#) | [About Constant Contact](#)

Sent by josh.block@governor.ri.gov in collaboration with



Taylor, Heather

From: GOV Discovery Search Mailbox3
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: New Annual Gun Law Scorecard Reveals Gun Safety Movement Continues Remarkable Rise As More Americans than Ever Protected by Stronger Laws

From: Gunaratna, Mahen <Mahen.Gunaratna@nj.gov>
Sent: Thursday, February 6, 2020 4:51:53 PM
To: William Castner [REDACTED]
Cc: Platkin, Matthew <Matthew.Platkin@nj.gov>; Dews, Justin <Justin.Dews@nj.gov>; Bryan, Dan <Dan.Bryan@nj.gov>; Cornavaca, Deborah <Deborah.Cornavaca@nj.gov>; Gabel, Pearl <Pearl.Gabel@nj.gov>; Coyne, Megan <Megan.Coyne@nj.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: New Annual Gun Law Scorecard Reveals Gun Safety Movement Continues Remarkable Rise As More Americans than Ever Protected by Stronger Laws

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 6, 2020, at 4:42 PM, William Castner [REDACTED] wrote:

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Molly Voigt <mvoigt@giffords.org>
Date: February 6, 2020 at 12:19:14 PM EST
To: Molly Voigt <mvoigt@giffords.org>, Nico Bocour <nbocour@giffords.org>, Tiffany Garner <tgarner@giffords.org>
Subject: New Annual Gun Law Scorecard Reveals Gun Safety Movement Continues Remarkable Rise As More Americans than Ever Protected by Stronger Laws

Hello all,

We wanted to make sure you saw the release of our annual gun law scorecard! This year's scorecard reveals another year of enormous progress for the gun safety movement. We know that is in large part due to all of your work in the states and are so pleased to see continued progress this year!

We look forward to continuing to work with you all in 2020 and please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions, concerns, or ways that we can be supportive this year and beyond.

Best,
Molly, Nico, and Tiffany

FYI <https://giffords.org/press-release/2020/02/2019-scorecard-national-press-release/>

GIFFORDS LAW CENTER

TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 6, 2020

CONTACT: Jason Phelps, jphelps@giffords.org

NATIONAL RELEASE: New Annual Gun Law Scorecard Reveals Gun Safety Movement Continues Remarkable Rise As More Americans than Ever Protected by Stronger Laws

*For the first time in the Scorecard's history, more Americans live in A
states than in F states*

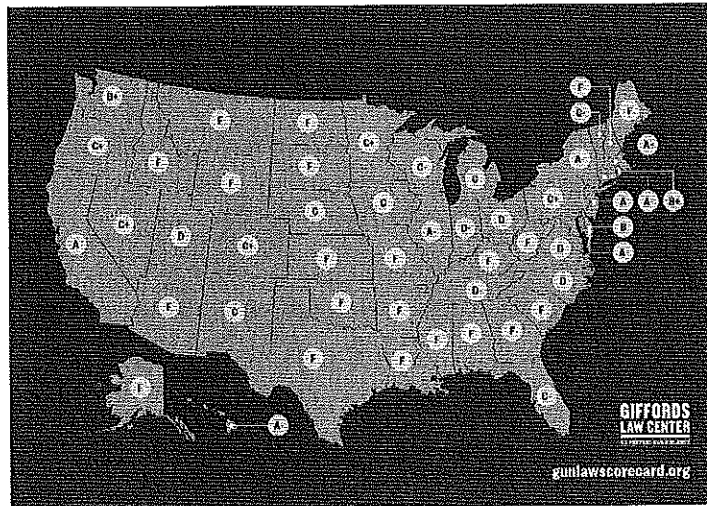
*During the same week President Trump's State of the Union failed to
detail a gun safety agenda, 2019 Scorecard reveals state leaders
continue making unprecedented progress*

Washington, D.C. — Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence released its [Annual Gun Law Scorecard](#), an analysis that grades and ranks each state on the strength of its gun laws—revealing that fewer people die from gun violence in states with strong gun laws. **The 50-state analysis found that for the first time in the history of the *Gun Law Scorecard*, more Americans live in A states (98.7 million) than in F states (94.7 million).**

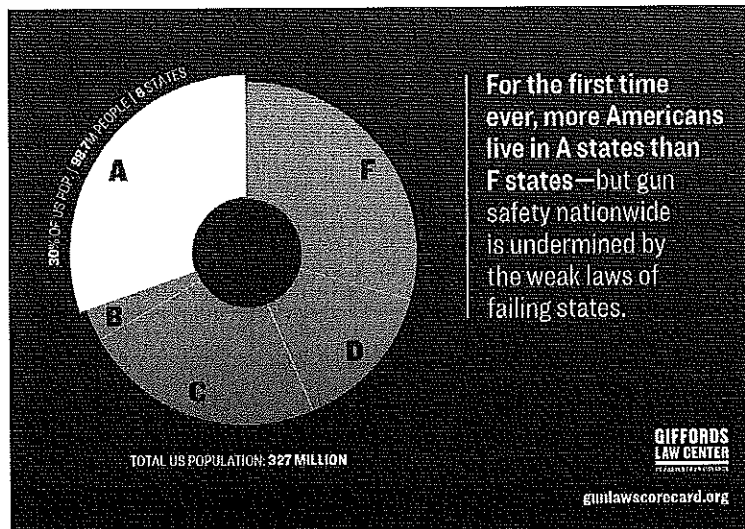
Just days after President Donald Trump gave a State of the Union speech where he failed to detail a gun safety agenda, the *Scorecard* proves that state lawmakers continue to make lifesaving progress in passing stronger gun laws. Since the tragic shooting in Parkland, Florida, states have passed more than 135 gun safety laws. **In 2019 alone, 22 states and the District of Columbia signed 70 gun safety bills into law.**

"The president and Senate have an established track record of following the NRA's orders. Meanwhile, state lawmakers are charting a different course, passing hundreds of laws that have brought countless communities increased peace and safety," said **Robyn Thomas, executive director of Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence**. "The rise of gun safety laws, which accelerated after Parkland captured the nation's attention and crystalized demands for action shows that leaders on both sides of the aisle are taking action. Looking to the states that made improvements over the past year demonstrates that more legislatures are awakening to the fact that the time to act is now. However with 21 states still earning F grades, it's clear we have work to do. The light we shined on trafficking this year proves that as many states move forward, it's time for the federal government to step up and do more to protect residents of every state

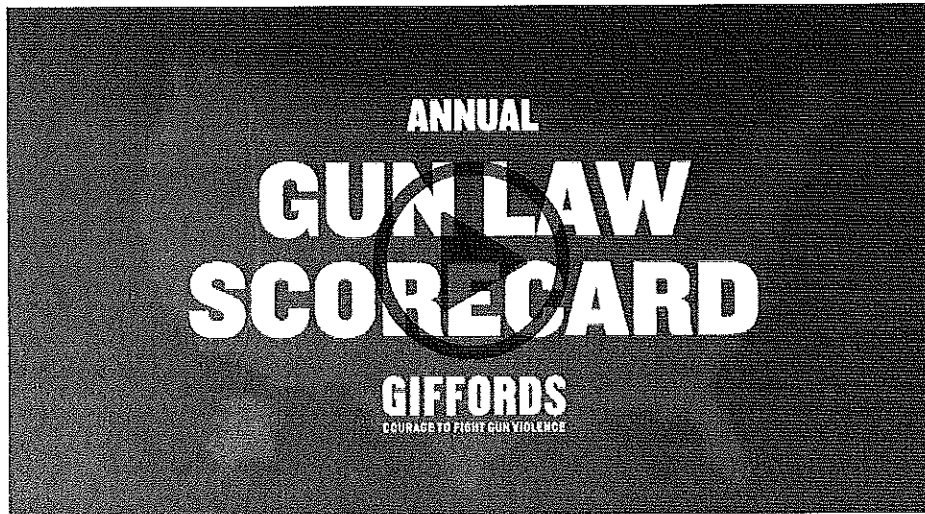
from the risk of gun violence. Year after year, it is our intention to show legislators, activists, and citizens that progress is possible. We hope they use the *Gun Law Scorecard* to evaluate the safety of their state and make informed choices that will lead to a safer America.”



Giffords Law Center’s *Annual Gun Law Scorecard* underscores the fact that gun laws save lives in the states that work to enact them. **This progress is making a lasting impact across the country.** For the first time in the history of the *Gun Law Scorecard*, more Americans live in A states (98.7 million) than F states (94.7 million.) Between 2012 and 2019, the number of Americans living in states with A grades increased by more than 45 million, while the number of people living in states with D and F grades declined.



Many places around the country where progress was once thought improbable have seen marked improvements in the past year. For example, after the election of a new governor in New Mexico with a mandate to pass stronger gun laws, the state saw a dramatic shift in its grade—moving from an F to a C as a package of bills was passed to strengthen background checks and disarm domestic abusers.



While last year saw 70 gun safety bills signed into law in 22 states and DC, the changes in **seven states** were significant enough to raise these states' grades:

- **Illinois (B+ to an A-):** Passed comprehensive gun dealer regulations
- **Colorado (C to a C+):** Passed an extreme risk protection order
- **Nevada (D to a C+):** Passed universal background checks, an extreme risk protection order law, a bump stock ban, and a child access prevention law
- **Nebraska (C- to a C):** Directed funding to proven community violence intervention strategies
- **New Mexico (F to a C):** Passed background checks and enacted a domestic violence law
- **Vermont (D+ to a C-):** Received additional points for its previously enacted domestic violence law
- **Utah (D- to a D):** Passed a bill requiring more reporting of prohibited purchaser records to NICS

2019 Gun Law Scorecard Spotlight: Firearms Trafficking

The 2019 *Annual Gun Law Scorecard* also takes a close look at the impact firearms trafficking has on undermining state gun laws. The United States suffers from an inconsistent patchwork of state laws—allowing guns to move easily from states with weak gun laws into those with stronger regulations. **Notably, eight of the 10 states that traffic firearms at the highest rates have F grades.**

California, for example, has the strongest gun laws in the nation. Neighboring states with weaker gun laws fuel gun crime and violence in the state by contributing to the more than 10,000 guns trafficked into California each year.

Similar situations occur in other states with strong gun laws, like Illinois and Maryland. Nearly half of the guns used in crime in Illinois—and nearly 60% of the guns used in crime in Chicago—are trafficked in from states with weaker gun laws. Most of these guns come from Indiana, which lacks many of the important gun safety protections Illinois has passed. Southern states with F grades, like Missouri, Kentucky, and Mississippi, also traffic hundreds of crime guns into Illinois each year.

In Maryland, the state with the highest rate of crime gun imports, traffickers bring nearly three times as many guns into Maryland compared to the state average. Maryland sits within what is known as the Iron Pipeline, a route used to traffic firearms from Southern

states with weak gun laws to Northeastern states with stronger laws. Nearly a third of crime guns used in Maryland were originally sold in Virginia. Guns from Georgia and Florida are also major contributors to gun crime in the state.

Until we pass strong federal gun safety laws, the lifesaving strides made by states like California, Illinois, and Maryland will continue to be jeopardized by neighboring states with weak gun laws, leaving all Americans at greater risk of gun violence.

Visit the *Annual Gun Law Scorecard* at gunlawscorecard.org.

[Click here to view the State of Gun Violence in all 50 states](#)

Experts Available for Comment

- **Robyn Thomas**, Executive Director, Giffords Law Center
- **Laura Cutilletta**, Managing Director, Giffords Law Center
- **Allison Anderman**, Senior Counsel, Giffords Law Center

###

For over 25 years, the legal experts at Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence have been fighting for a safer America by researching, drafting, and defending the laws, policies, and programs proven to save lives from gun violence.

--

Molly Voigt

State Legislative Manager

Pronouns: She/Her/Hers

Giffords: Courage to Fight Gun Violence

401-741-2037 | giffords.org

@mollyvoigt

Taylor, Heather

From: GOV Discovery Search Mailbox3
Subject: FW: Gabby's 50th Birthday - request for a video message

> From: Nico Bocour <nbocour@giffords.org>
> Date: May 29, 2020 at 11:51:27 AM EDT
> To: William Castner <williamcastner@castnerlaw.us>
> Subject: Gabby's 50th Birthday - request for a video message
>
>
> Hi Bill,
>
> I hope you're doing well! I can only imagine how much you all are managing right now, and I hope you know how much everyone is watching New Jersey's efforts with admiration.
>
> I know that capacity is scarce, especially for the Governor, but I wanted to reach out because we are hosting a 50th birthday fundraiser for Gabby and as a close friend of Gabby's, we would love for Governor Murphy to record a short video message with a toast for Gabby on this milestone birthday.
>
> This virtual event will feature a variety of special performances and tributes to Gabby and will be attended by a broad range of supporters and friends. We hope the Governor will be willing to help us celebrate this big day for Gabby and help set Giffords up for success this fall and into next year.
>
> If the Governor is willing, here are some guidelines our team put together for the recordings of the birthday toasts.
>
> * General message: Make a happy birthday toast to Gabby, and share a warm remembrance or memory with her.
> * Length: Up to 30 seconds.
> * How to film: Using your phone camera is encouraged. This should be simple and sweet.
> * Camera orientation: Landscape.
> * Where it'll be used: Played during online birthday party and fundraiser for Gabby, and potentially shared on Giffords social media.
> * Camera tips: Wipe your camera lens clean first and look for a neutral background.
> * DEADLINE for Submission: June 4th
>
> In the event it is helpful, I've also attached our teams general tips and suggestions on recording a video message. You can send your video to me or my colleague James at jbaumer@giffords.org<mailto:jbaumer@giffords.org>. We are happy to answer any questions you have.
>
> While we're not able to celebrate in person, we hope this will be an evening of warmth and togetherness in celebration of Gabby who never ceases to inspire us all. We would really love to have Governor Murphy's participation!
>
> Thanks,
> Nico
>
>
> -----
>
> Nico Bocour
>

> State Legislative Director

>

> Giffords: Courage to Fight Gun Violence

>

> 973-715-9385 |

giffords.org<[https://urldefense.com/v3/__http://giffords.org__;!!J30X0ZrnC1oQtbAlfKFM0dey18EMCBgEPubgZDNb_ynECR9HQPPwEQ1MDhvv4vHG42a5udUNcMqoknr28WRIqw\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/__http://giffords.org__;!!J30X0ZrnC1oQtbAlfKFM0dey18EMCBgEPubgZDNb_ynECR9HQPPwEQ1MDhvv4vHG42a5udUNcMqoknr28WRIqw$) >

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> Explore our Annual Gun Law

Scorecard<[https://urldefense.com/v3/__https://lawcenter.giffords.org/scorecard/__;!!J30X0ZrnC1oQtbAlfKFM0dey18EMCBgEPubgZDNb_ynECR9HQPPwEQ1MDhvv4vHG42a5udUNcMqoknp94vhlBw\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https://lawcenter.giffords.org/scorecard/__;!!J30X0ZrnC1oQtbAlfKFM0dey18EMCBgEPubgZDNb_ynECR9HQPPwEQ1MDhvv4vHG42a5udUNcMqoknp94vhlBw$) > — Is your state doing enough to save lives?

>

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gunlawscorecard.org<[https://urldefense.com/v3/__https://lawcenter.giffords.org/scorecard/__;!!J30X0ZrnC1oQtbAlfKFM0dey18EMCBgEPubgZDNb_ynECR9HQPPwEQ1MDhvv4vHG42a5udUNcMqoknp94vhlBw\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https://lawcenter.giffords.org/scorecard/__;!!J30X0ZrnC1oQtbAlfKFM0dey18EMCBgEPubgZDNb_ynECR9HQPPwEQ1MDhvv4vHG42a5udUNcMqoknp94vhlBw$) >

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> Nico Bocour

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> State Legislative Director

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> Giffords: Courage to Fight Gun Violence

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> 973-715-9385 |

giffords.org<[https://urldefense.com/v3/__http://giffords.org__;!!J30X0ZrnC1oQtbAlfKFM0dey18EMCBgEPubgZDNb_ynECR9HQPPwEQ1MDhvv4vHG42a5udUNcMqoknr28WRIqw\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/__http://giffords.org__;!!J30X0ZrnC1oQtbAlfKFM0dey18EMCBgEPubgZDNb_ynECR9HQPPwEQ1MDhvv4vHG42a5udUNcMqoknr28WRIqw$) >

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> Explore our Annual Gun Law

Scorecard<[https://urldefense.com/v3/__https://lawcenter.giffords.org/scorecard/__;!!J30X0ZrnC1oQtbAlfKFM0dey18EMCBgEPubgZDNb_ynECR9HQPPwEQ1MDhvv4vHG42a5udUNcMqoknp94vhlBw\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https://lawcenter.giffords.org/scorecard/__;!!J30X0ZrnC1oQtbAlfKFM0dey18EMCBgEPubgZDNb_ynECR9HQPPwEQ1MDhvv4vHG42a5udUNcMqoknp94vhlBw$) > — Is your state doing enough to save lives?

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gunlawscorecard.org<[https://urldefense.com/v3/__https://lawcenter.giffords.org/scorecard/__;!!J30X0ZrnC1oQtbAlfKFM0dey18EMCBgEPubgZDNb_ynECR9HQPPwEQ1MDhvv4vHG42a5udUNcMqoknp94vhlBw\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https://lawcenter.giffords.org/scorecard/__;!!J30X0ZrnC1oQtbAlfKFM0dey18EMCBgEPubgZDNb_ynECR9HQPPwEQ1MDhvv4vHG42a5udUNcMqoknp94vhlBw$) >