Write to your representatives and tell them to STOP Gun Violence
97% of Americans want expanded background checks.

Americans kill each other with guns 25x the rate of other high-income countries.

Every 16 hours, a woman is shot dead by her current or former partner.
ACCESS TO A GUN IN THE HOME INCREASES THE RISK OF DEATH BY SUICIDE BY 300%
What Happens to a Bill When a Legislative Session Ends?

- The “new” Congressional session starts with a clean slate; there is no business pending.
- All of the "H.R." and "S." numbered titles that have been discussed and debated for the past two years will be archived.
- Not all Bills get reintroduced.
- Some Bills that were sponsored by members who are not returning are essentially orphans, waiting for someone to take them up and commit to introducing them.
- A bill must be passed by both the House and Senate in identical form and then be signed by the President to become law.
In March, 2020, Mitch McConnell admitted that there were 395 House Bills sitting in the Senate that will not be introduced.

HR 8 establishes new background check requirements for firearm transfers between private parties (i.e., unlicensed individuals)

H.R. 8 was introduced January 8, 2019 by Democratic California Rep. Mike Thompson, and passed the House in a 240 – 190 vote February 27, 2019. However, the Bill was promptly tabled March 4, 2019 after introduced in the Senate.
- VAWA (Violence Against Women Act)
- is the federal government’s response to the 4 crimes of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking
- Passed by House, but never made it to Senate for vote.
- Write to Congress and tell them to reintroduce VAWA Act
Extreme risk laws (aka Red Flag Laws) give family members, law enforcement and (in certain states) health professionals or school administrators an avenue to prevent a person in crisis from harming themselves or others by temporarily removing guns and preventing the purchase of others.

In short, this life-saving measure prevents a temporary crisis from becoming a permanent tragedy — without threatening a person's Second Amendment rights.
• Nineteen states and Washington, D.C., have enacted versions of extreme risk law, but NOT TEXAS!

• Two bills introduced in LAST TX Legislative session, but didn’t come out of committee

• Proposed 87th Session - House Bill 3191 - Relating to requiring a person who is the subject of a family violence protective order or arrested for or charged with an offense involving family violence to surrender firearms owned by the person.
• House Bill 52 & House Bill 245 banning private firearms sales at gun shows.
• House Bill 118 banning private firearms transfers between certain family members and friends.
• House Bill 127 banning long gun open carry with limited exceptions.
• House Bill 164 & House Bill 395 red flag gun confiscation legislation requiring firearms surrender.
• House Bill 172 & House Bill 241 banning the sale or transfer and possession of semi-automatic firearms.
• House Bill 178 & House Bill 234 banning the sale or transfer and possession of standard capacity magazines that hold more than 10 rounds.
• House Bill 185 requiring firearms to be stored in locked gun cases, safes or cabinets.
• House Bill 196 repealing key elements of Texas' castle doctrine law, including stand your ground and no-duty-to-retreat. The Castle Doctrine presumes that using force is reasonable and justified when another person unlawfully and with force enters or attempts to enter your habitation, vehicle, or work-place.
• House Bill 201 repealing Texas' campus carry law.
• House Bill 231 raising the minimum age for purchase of semi-automatic rifles and shotguns.
• House Bill 238 repealing the state firearms preemption law and allowing local governments to restrict guns.
We must demand action to save lives.

- Please urge your senators to re-introduce and support:
  - Senate - Background Check Expansion Act 2019
  - House - Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)
  - Senate - Extreme Risk Law
  - House - Extreme Risk Law
  - State – Extreme Risk Law
WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Tell Governor Abbott, Lt. Governor Patrick, your Texas representative and your Texas senator that you expect gun violence prevention bills to pass this legislative session.
- Passing bills to enact universal background checks, extreme risk protection orders, and safe gun storage are key.
A NEW WRINKLE

- In TODAY’s DMN - GOP Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick led the charge for the rule change that was approved Wednesday.
- The Senate voted 18 to 13 along party lines to lower the threshold of support needed to bring a bill to the floor to 18 - matching the current count of GOP Senators.
- The action basically limits the Dem say in which bills come to the floor.
What can you do?

- Write, call, email your state and federal representatives.
- Tell them you want them to support or reintroduce bills to protect women (and men) from domestic violence!
- Tell them you want them to support or reintroduce bills to stop gun violence!
- Email: [https://tinyurl.com/WRITELEG](https://tinyurl.com/WRITELEG)
**Sample Phone Script:**

My name is [your name], and I am a constituent from [city]. I am calling to urge you to help reintroduce and support the Violence Against Women Act. The Violence Against Women Act is one of the cornerstones in America’s fight against domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking. [Optional: VAWA is important to me, because . . .] Every VAWA reauthorization has been bipartisan and responsive to the identified needs of victims and survivors. This reauthorization can be no different. The Violence Against Women Act maintains critical protections for vulnerable communities, invests in evidence-based prevention, and makes meaningful changes to protect victims and survivors. Anything less, is unacceptable.

**Sample Letter or Email:**

Dear

We need an Extreme Risk Protection Order to Keep Texans Safe! As you know, Extreme Risk Protection Order (ERPO) laws are state laws that provide families and law enforcement officers with a formal civil legal process to temporarily remove an individual's access to firearms if they pose a danger to themselves or others. An ERPO law in Texas could save lives just as they have in other states. Studies have shown the effectiveness of ERPO in preventing suicides, homicide and mass shootings. Nineteen states and the District of Columbia have ERPO laws—including states with only Republican leadership and states with Republicans and Democrats sharing power in elected leadership. Safety is a bipartisan issue.

Please file or support an ERPO bill this coming legislative session. A Texas ERPO law is a no-cost solution that would help those who are at risk of harming themselves or others, protect the general public, and save lives.
www.templeshalomdallas.org/sisterhood