

March 14, 2018

The Honorable Douglas A. Ducey
Governor
State of Arizona
1700 W. Washington St.
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Dear Governor Ducey,

The National Association of Social Workers Arizona Chapter (NASWAZ) is very concerned about the gun violence that has tragically impacted our communities. We join with concerned citizens and groups to promote legislation that assures safety and security in our state and in our schools. We offer the recommendations below for your consideration. We wish to promote reasonable, effective, and sensible responses to curb gun violence.

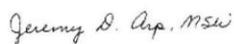
We advocate for legislation that:

- Assures universal application of current waiting periods between the purchase of a firearm and actual possession of the weapon. This allows time for a background check to be completed and reduces the likelihood of impulsive acts of violence by the purchaser, whether in a domestic violence situation or a suicide attempt.
- Provides family members, acquaintances or law enforcement officials the opportunity to petition a court to issue an *ex parte* order to remove firearms from an individual who poses an immediate and present danger of causing personal injury to one's self or another with a firearm. This approach is similar to a Red Flag Act or Lethal Violence Protection Act passed by other states.
- Bans assault weapons and high-capacity ammunition magazines.
- Supports school-based mental health services provided by onsite counselors and social workers to assist students and teachers when a student experiences a crisis.
- Rejects arming teachers on school grounds as a solution to the gun violence on campus.
- Restores state funding for Mental Health First Aid targeted to school aged youth and the adults who work with them.
- Promotes educational programs about safely storing guns at home and at businesses.

NASWAZ stands ready to work with you in solving the problem of gun violence. Please act to provide a common-sense approach to gun regulation and providing security for our state. The safety of our homes, schools, places of business, and communities depends upon effective gun measures to protect human lives.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Jeremy D. Arp, MSW, ACSW
Executive Director, NASWAZ