

First Major Gun Reform Legislation in Nearly 30 Years

(Excerpted from 7-5-22 report by Colorado Ceasefire)

The Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, a product of intense negotiations, was signed into law on 6/25/22

Here is what it does:

- Includes juvenile criminal and mental health records in background checks for gun buyers under the age of 21. *(Colorado law denies transfers of firearms to individuals who had convictions that as an adult would constitute burglary, arson, or any felony involving the use of force of the use of a deadly weapon.)*
- Extends background check clearance to 10 days from 3. *(In 2021, Colorado enacted a law to remove the “day limit.” In Colorado, if you don’t pass a background check, you can’t receive the firearm.)*
- Allocates \$750 million for states that create Extreme Risk Protection Order laws, which allow guns to be temporarily removed from people deemed dangerous by a judge and to support the creation of crisis intervention court programs. *(Colorado enacted an ERPO law in 2019.)*
- Closes the “boyfriend loophole” by expanding current law to bar people convicted of domestic violence from buying a gun to those whose relationship with the abuser is as an “intimate partner.” Negotiations trimmed it from being retroactive, and placed a five-year limit on the prohibition for first-time offenders who did commit violent misdemeanors. *(Colorado closed the boyfriend loophole in 2021, but it is not limited to five years and also applies to relinquishment and to permanent protection orders.)*
- Allocates \$13.2 billion to schools and communities for mental health programs, and includes \$300 million over five years for school resource officers and additional security.
- Establishes lengthy prison sentences (15-25 years) for “straw purchasers” if the guns are used in connection with serious criminal activity. Straw purchasers are people who buy guns for those who are prohibited purchasers. *(Colorado enacted a straw purchaser law in 2020 that establishes a class 4 felony (2 to 6 years).)*
- Clarifies what constitutes a firearms dealer. Prior to this law the term “firearm sellers” was ambiguous. The new definition requires anyone selling guns with the main intent of making a profit to obtain a Federal Firearms License. This should increase the number of background checks and address the gun show loophole. *(Colorado voters closed the gun show loophole in 2000, and the state enacted universal background checks to cover private sales in 2013.)*

[For a little more on these, refer to a 3-page description from Senator Chris Murray’s office.](#)