

## RUBIO PLAN TO ADDRESS GUN VIOLENCE

The tragedy at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida was the result of multiple system failures, requiring a multi-faceted approach to prevent future mass shootings. Congress must work to create a more effective system to prevent gun violence *before* it happens. The following solutions are necessary to help ensure our nation does not endure another mass shooting.

**Problem:** Our schools are woefully unprepared to prevent an attack before it occurs. There are currently insufficient programs in place to report people like the Parkland shooter and to coordinate among law enforcement, school officials, and mental health experts.

- ✓ **Solution:** Congress must **pass the *STOP School Violence Act*** to strengthen school security, provide school training to identify threats, and create school threat assessment and crisis intervention teams that coordinate with law enforcement agencies and school personnel to identify students or former students who may pose a threat of violence and intervene to stop them before they act.

**Problem:** Law enforcement and family members who have identified dangerous and threatening behavior of an individual currently have limited options to try to remove firearms from that individual's possession or ensure they cannot purchase firearms.

- ✓ **Solution:** Congress must pass legislation on **gun violence protection orders** to provide law enforcement and close family members the option of obtaining a court order to prevent firearm purchases and possession by individuals who pose a threat and also provide due process protections. Such legislation should also allow for an emergency petition by the court to immediately – under limited circumstances – prohibit the purchase or possession of a firearm by such individual.

**Problem:** Federal law effectively enables school systems to decline reporting dangerous students to law enforcement.

- ✓ **Solution:** Congress must **change the federal youth PROMISE program** so that a school district plan under the PROMISE program does not delay or discourage law enforcement from being alerted to dangerous, violent or hazardous behavior.

**Problem:** The NICS background check database does not currently include all necessary information.

- ✓ **Solution:** Congress must **pass the *Fix NICS Act*** to improve the background check system and ensure that individuals who should not be able to purchase or be in possession of a firearm are not passing background checks due to lack of proper information in the background check system.

**Problem:** Existing laws related to firearms are not being enforced.

- ✓ **Solution:** The federal government must **increase prosecutions of straw purchasers** and those who knowingly try to buy firearms when they are legally prohibited from doing so.
- ✓ **Solution:** In addition, the federal government should be required to notify states when a prohibited person tries to buy a firearm, yet fails the required background check. Congress must **pass the *NICS Denial Notification Act*** to strengthen communication between federal and state law enforcement agencies and increase investigations and prosecutions of these individuals. States should implement policies and practices to enable local law enforcement to better investigate such incidents.

**Problem:** The Federal Bureau of Investigation failed the victims, their families, survivors, and the entire community in Parkland.

- ✓ **Solution:** Congress must hold federal agencies accountable for their failures. In particular, Senator Rubio has called for the Senate to **conduct an investigation into the Federal Bureau of Investigation's** failures regarding the Parkland tragedy.

**Problem:** We must better understand the causes of and solutions to prevent gun violence.

- ✓ **Solution:** Congress must **clarify that the Centers for Disease Control** can research gun violence.

**Problem:** Those intent on doing harm can currently purchase accessories to effectively better mimic the operation of a machine gun.

- ✓ **Solution:** Congress must support – and if necessary – work with the administration to **ban bump stocks**.