



Texas Gun Sense 2017 Legislative Agenda

The 85th Legislative Session comes during a public health crisis in Texas. 3,200 Texans died by gunfire in 2015 and many more were seriously injured. We can do more to protect Texans without infringing on gun owners' rights.

Texas Gun Sense (TGS) is a statewide nonprofit and nonpartisan organization advocating for common sense, evidence-based policies to reduce gun injuries and deaths.

We call on state leaders to adopt common sense policy changes to reduce suicides, firearm accidents, and homicides.

Contact:
Andrea Brauer,
Executive Director
andrea@txgunsense.org
512.565.4480

Reduce suicides and accidents from firearms.

1. In March 2016 the *Department of State Health Services' Texas Child Fatality Review Team* published a report with a recommendation for a statewide public awareness campaign on safe storage. **Support HB 111 by Rep. Moody, HB 631 by Rep. Howard, and SB 1960 by Sen. Lucio, Jr.**

2. Improve state efforts to educate the public and license holders about recognizing the risk of suicide and safely securing firearms. **Support HB 3340 by Rep. Thompson, and SB 1778 by Sen. Garcia.**

Surveys show that most gun owners in the state support the sensible regulation of firearms.

Keep guns out of the hands of people already prohibited from owning them and improve state enforcement.

3. Under federal law, individuals who have been involuntarily committed to an institution or adjudicated as "mentally defective" by a court may not possess firearms. Despite this federal prohibition, however, problems with enforcement still exist at the state level. And while most people living with mental illness are not violent, a high percentage of Texans who die by suicide have an underlying mental illness. Texas' ability to address these problems and enforce the prohibition is hampered because unlike 34 other states, we do not have equivalent state laws. **Enact state laws that mirror the federal law to (1) knowingly sell firearms to persons in these prohibited categories and (2) prohibit this small segment of the population from possessing firearms in order to support law enforcement at the state level. Support HB 2655, and HB 2543 by Rep. Nevarez.**

4. Strengthen the background check system so criminals, domestic abusers, and others at high risk of harming themselves or others do not have easy access to guns. **Support HB 259 by Rep. Anchia, HB 2034 by Rep. Blanco, and HB 4200 by Rep. Hinojosa.**

Help families protect loved ones, give law enforcement more tools to protect the community, and establish state laws needed for improved public safety.

5. Create a Lethal Violence Protective Order (LVPO) that would allow family members or law enforcement to petition a court for a temporary order prohibiting a person from possessing firearms if clear and convincing evidence shows that the individual poses an imminent risk of injury or death to self or others. **Support SB 434 by Sen. Rodriguez, and HB 866 by Rep. Moody.**

6. Establish a state straw purchase law to crack down on people unlawfully purchasing firearms for others. **Support SB 206 by Sen. West and HB 4037 by Rep. Anchia.**

Increase understanding of gun violence and develop targeted solutions.

7. Direct a Texas university to conduct a comprehensive study of Texas gun violence. **Support HB 4061, by Rep. Hinojosa, which establishes a task force on violent deaths.**

Oppose efforts that weaken current laws and put public safety at risk, and support other efforts to strengthen laws that would enhance gun safety and public protection.