

## **SUMMARY: GOV. MALLOY'S COMMON SENSE GUN SAFETY REFORMS**

### **PART 1: PROPOSED LEGISLATIVE ACTION**

#### **1. Make Background Checks Universal and Comprehensive**

*Today, you need a background check if you buy from a gun dealer, but not if you purchase at a gun show or in a private sale – that needs to change.*

- ✓ Require background checks to be performed prior to the transfer of *any* firearm in *any* circumstance.
- ✓ Make individuals that have been convicted of any offense involving a firearm, the use of force, or the threat of force, ineligible to obtain a firearm.
- ✓ Expand permitting to cover more guns, excluding only those traditionally designed for hunting and sporting.
- ✓ Require firearms and ammunition dealers to maintain electronic records of all firearms and ammunition purchased and sold.

#### **2. Ban Large Capacity Magazines**

*High-capacity magazines unsafely and unnecessarily increase the destructive power of firearms.*

- ✓ Ban large capacity magazines and other ammunition feeding devices that hold more than ten rounds.

#### **3. Strengthen the Assault Weapons Ban**

*Connecticut must update its definition of assault rifle. Current laws don't classify the weapon used at Sandy Hook as an assault weapon – common-sense says otherwise.*

- ✓ Define "assault weapons" as any semiautomatic weapon that has at least one military feature. The purchase and sale of firearms meeting these new guidelines would be banned.

#### **4. Promote Safer Gun Storage**

*Safe storage needs to be a cornerstone of responsible gun ownership, so that we keep legally owned guns from falling into the wrong hands.*

- ✓ Amend the storage requirements so that gun owners must store their guns (whether loaded or unloaded) in a manner inaccessible not just to children, but to anyone that shouldn't have access.
- ✓ Require that training in safe storage be a part of certified firearms training courses, and that educational materials be included with permits, firearm and ammunition purchases, and at gun clubs and ranges.

#### **5. Improve Enforcement of Existing Laws**

*Too often, it isn't clear that firearm laws are being broken until it's too late.*

- ✓ Require the following groups to alert police when an individual is seen or known to be engaging in unlawful behavior involving a firearm: gun permit holders, firearm safety instructors, and employees of gun retailers, gun ranges, and gun clubs.
- ✓ Such behavior would include straw purchasing, unlawful transfer or purchase of a firearm, unsafe storage of a firearm, and possession of a banned firearm or magazine.

## **PART 2: EXECUTIVE ACTION**

The Governor will undertake the following actions directly:

- ✓ Direct state police and request state's attorneys, probation officers, parole officers, local police, and bail commissioners to report on how they prioritize crimes involving firearms pursuant to 51-277c.
- ✓ Direct the OPM Undersecretary on Criminal Justice, in consultation with state police, to determine what additional information or resources are needed to ensure the completeness and accuracy of state background checks for firearm permit applicants.
- ✓ Direct state agencies to reexamine protocols for exchanging information to ensure that background checks and state and federal databases contain the most up-to-date information about permit applicants, permit holders and firearm purchasers.
- ✓ Request criminal justice agencies and victim advocacy groups to report on the level of awareness and use of the existing law regarding seizure of firearms; request feedback on how to increase awareness and make it easier to report when someone who owns a firearm may pose a risk to self and others.
- ✓ Direct the state crime lab to report on the backlog of firearms traces/analysis and summarize what resources would be necessary to clear the backlog.
- ✓ Direct the state police to report to the Sentencing Commission and the OPM Undersecretary for Criminal Justice on available firearms statistics, including how many military-style assault weapons not subject to the ban have been sold in Connecticut in recent years.
- ✓ Work with congressional leaders and the CDC to request that Connecticut be added to the National Violent Death Reporting System.
- ✓ Direct the Criminal Justice Policy Advisory Commission to develop uniform standards/guidelines for local and state police to apply in determining an applicant's suitability to be granted a firearm.
- ✓ Direct the Criminal Justice Policy Advisory Commission to develop specific, uniform standards/guidelines for the Board of Firearm Permit Examiners to apply in assessing whether a firearm permit should be reinstated.

## **PART 3: RECOMMENDATIONS TO SANDY HOOK ADVISORY COUNCIL**

In addition to the Governor's proposed legislative changes and executive actions, there are other ideas for preventing gun violence that warrant further deliberation. To that end, the Governor will ask the Sandy Hook Advisory Council to produce specific recommendations on the impact and feasibility of reform in the following areas:

- ✓ Whether additional changes to mandatory reporting laws should be considered, including appropriate behavioral and mental health criteria, and whether physicians, behavioral health professionals, social workers and other professionals should be included as mandatory reporters of firearms safety.
- ✓ Whether owners of firearms should be required to carry additional insurance.
- ✓ Whether additional gun storage requirements should be mandated by law.