October 21, 2013

NCADV supports gun safety legislation that saves domestic violence victims lives

Urge Your Members of Congress to Support House bill providing for Commonsense Background Checks!

One year ago, on October 21, 2012, Zina Daniel was tracked down and murdered by her estranged husband. After years of abuse, Zina obtained a restraining order against him; a restraining order that would have blocked him from legally buying a gun at a dealer. Instead, Radcliffe Haughton found a private seller on Armslist.com and bought a gun without a background check. He proceeded to Zina’s place of work - a spa in Brookfield, WI - killed her, two of her coworkers and injured 4 others.

In memory of Zina and thousands of other women, survivors of domestic violence-related gun violence and domestic violence National Coalition Against Domestic Violence is joining with Mayors Against Illegal Guns, Moms Demand Action and the National Task Force to End Sexual and Domestic Violence to urge Congress to pass common sense legislation that will keep illegal guns out of the hands of domestic abusers.

Since 1998, the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) has blocked the sale of more than 2 million guns to prohibited purchasers, including the sale of more than 250,000 guns to individuals who have been convicted of a felony, domestic violence-related misdemeanors, or subject to a protective order. But there is a dangerous loophole. In current law, prohibited purchasers are easily able to obtain firearms through private sales and transfers at gun shows or on the internet. Over 6.6 million guns are transferred each year through private sales; no questions asked.

This loophole leaves women dangerously exposed. On average 46 women are shot to death each month by current or former intimate partners. That is why Congress must take action on common sense reforms like the Manchin-Toomey amendment and the Public Safety and Second Amendment Rights protection Act of 2013 (HR 1565). These proposals will close the private sale loophole for guns sold online or at gun shows. In states that require background checks for every gun sale, 38% fewer women are killed with a gun by their intimate partner. Background checks save women’s lives.

We need Congress to hear our voice. If our elected officials say they stand for protecting women from domestic violence, they need to stand for common sense gun violence prevention legislation like Manchin-Toomey and King-Thompson.

And that’s where you come in. You can #DemandAction from Congress. Click here to choose 1 of 3 easy ways to let your voice be heard.
1. Call your Senator.
2. Post a message on Facebook or Tweet.
3. Sign Elvin Daniel’s letter asking Congress to pass background check legislation in honor of his sister Zina Daniel Haughton.

For more information about the connection between firearms see:
- What is the connection between firearms and domestic violence? A toolkit for talking with the media by the National Resource Center on Domestic Violence.
- A blog radio podcast featuring Rita Smith, Executive Director, NCADV & Brina Milikowsky, Mayors Against Illegal Guns.
- This fact sheet and infographic on the fatal connection between guns and victims of domestic violence from DemandAction.