



**MOMS DEMAND ACTION FOR GUN SENSE IN AMERICA**  
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## MEMORANDUM

To: Joint Interim Commission on 21<sup>st</sup> Century Firearm Laws  
From: Anne Leader, Volunteer Chapter Leader, Alabama Chapter, Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America  
Date: January 9, 2017  
Re: Follow-up to testimony given at Public Hearing 11.30.17

During the November meeting of the commission, data and facts given in my testimony were questioned. Herein please find additional information on those points:

- Arizona is frequently cited by the gun lobby as a state where permitless carry has had led to decreased crime, pointing to a decrease in the state's gun homicides as proof. However, Arizona's gun homicide rate was **already** on the decline prior to implementing their permitless carry law. Moreover, since implementation of permitless carry in 2010, aggravated assaults with a firearm—another serious gun crime—increased by 44%.<sup>1</sup> That increase represents 1,519 more aggravated assaults committed in 2016 than in 2010.<sup>2</sup>
- Alaska and Wyoming are also often cited as permitless carry states with low gun homicide rates. However, data from these two states is too small and too variable to assess trends in gun homicide. Moreover, when all gun deaths are accounted for, Alaska ranks first for gun death per capita; Wyoming is tied for third place with Alabama and Mississippi.<sup>3</sup>
- Missouri, which passed permitless carry in late 2016, has seen an increase in gun crime in the first half of 2017. A recent survey released by the Major Cities Chiefs Association shows that the number of homicides in St. Louis actually increased by almost 6% in the first half of 2017 over the same period in 2016.<sup>4</sup> Over the survey

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<sup>1</sup> Arizona Department of Public Safety, Report: Crime in Arizona 2010: An annual report compiled by Access Integrity Unit of the Arizona Department of Public Safety, p. 24. Retrieved from: <https://www.azdps.gov/about/reports/crime>. Arizona Department of Public Safety. Report: Crime in Arizona 2016: p. 33. Retrieved from: <https://www.azdps.gov/about/reports/crime.f>

<sup>2</sup> *Id.*

<sup>3</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Deaths Leading Causes for 2015, Supplemental Table I-30, available at [https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr66/nvsr66\\_06\\_tables.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr66/nvsr66_06_tables.pdf).

<sup>4</sup> Major Cities Police Chief's Association, Violent Crime Survey – January 1 to June 30 2016 and 2017 - National Totals, available at: [https://majorcitieschiefs.com/pdf/news/mcca\\_violent\\_crime\\_report\\_2017\\_and\\_2016\\_midyear\\_07312017\\_update.pdf](https://majorcitieschiefs.com/pdf/news/mcca_violent_crime_report_2017_and_2016_midyear_07312017_update.pdf).

period, non-fatal shootings increased by a staggering 22%—from 980 to 1,197 shootings.<sup>5</sup>

- At the public hearing I cited a 15% increase in aggravated assaults with a firearm in St. Louis County through August 2017. Through October of this year, St. Louis City also experienced a 22% increase in aggravated assaults with a gun over the same period in 2016. The Missouri Senate voted to override Governor Jay Nixon’s veto of permitless carry legislation in September 2016. The Missouri law eliminated the requirement to get a permit to carry a concealed firearm in public. Previously, a person had to complete a firearm-safety training course, pass a background check, and get a permit in order to carry a concealed firearm in public in Missouri.

As the commission has chosen to examine the permitless carry laws in Kansas, Mississippi, Missouri, and West Virginia, I submit some more information on gun legislation and gun violence in these states:

- Alabama is tied for 3<sup>rd</sup> place for death by firearm injury with Mississippi (and Wyoming) with 19.6 gun deaths per 100,000 residents in 2015, the most recent year for which complete data is available.<sup>6</sup>
  - In Alabama, this represents an almost 16% increase over 2014 (16.9 deaths per 100,000 residents).<sup>7</sup>
  - In Mississippi, it represents a 7% increase (18.3 deaths per 100,000 residents).<sup>8</sup>
  - Missouri is the next deadliest state, ranking 8<sup>th</sup>, with 18.1 gun deaths per 100,000 residents in 2015, an 18% increase over 2014.<sup>9</sup>
  - West Virginia ranks 16<sup>th</sup>, with 15.1 gun deaths per 100,000 residents; Kansas, 33<sup>rd</sup> with 11.3 gun deaths per 100,000 residents.<sup>10</sup> Please note that these totals include gun suicides, unintentional shootings, and gun homicides.
- None of the five states under comparison (AL, KS, MO, MS, WV) requires a criminal background check for gun sales by unlicensed sellers, allowing a person to purchase a firearm at a gun show or online without a background check.

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<sup>5</sup> *Id.*

<sup>6</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Deaths Leading Causes for 2015, Supplemental Table I-30, available at [https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr66/nvsr66\\_06\\_tables.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr66/nvsr66_06_tables.pdf).

<sup>7</sup> Compare Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Deaths Leading Causes for 2015, Supplemental Table I-30, available at [https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr66/nvsr66\\_06\\_tables.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr66/nvsr66_06_tables.pdf), with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Deaths Leading Causes for 2014, Table 19 at [https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr65/nvsr65\\_04.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr65/nvsr65_04.pdf).

<sup>8</sup> *Id.*

<sup>9</sup> *Id.*

<sup>10</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Deaths Leading Causes for 2015, Supplemental Table I-30, available at [https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr66/nvsr66\\_06\\_tables.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr66/nvsr66_06_tables.pdf).