



## II. Gun Violence Prevention

- A. **Governor Baker has failed to take advantage of his position as a Republican Governor of a state with strong and effective gun violence prevention laws.** Given these attributes, **Baker could do a lot to dispel the National Rifle Association’s fear-mongering** myths that efforts to reduce gun violence are actually a plot to take all guns away and eliminate individual liberties. However, **Baker has said little and done less, and certainly hasn’t exhibited any leadership or worked to build visibility for Massachusetts’s documented success in reducing gun violence.** (Lehigh, S., 3/21/18, “Baker and DeLeo, take to the stage on gun safety,” The Boston Globe; Miller, J., 2/26/18, “Governors reflecting US divide over guns,” The Boston Globe)
- B. **Governor Baker appointed the President of the Gun Owners’ Action League (GOAL), the MA chapter of the National Rifle Association (NRA), as the Commissioner of the Commonwealth’s Dept. of Fish and Game.** (Cassidy, C., 7/7/17, “Charlie Baker gives Fish & Game gig to gun guy,” Boston Herald; Berkshire Eagle, 11/20/17) Although it was removed after the Parkland tragedy, there had been a link on the state Dept. of Fish and Game website to the Gun Owners’ Action League.)
- C. **Displaying his typical lack of leadership, Governor Baker has only said that he is open to the Extreme Risk Protective Orders (“Red Flag”) bill in the MA Legislature but would not commit to signing it.** This bill would allow a judge to temporarily remove firearms from people who are found to present a high risk to injure themselves or others, at the request of a family member, a friend, or law enforcement. The Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association has endorsed the bill. A similar law has been in place in Connecticut for 14 years and is estimated to have saved 76 lives. (Schoenberg, S., 5/7/18, “Massachusetts Gov. Charlie Baker open to considering ‘red flag’ bill,” Mass Live; NECN, 5/23/18, “Massachusetts Legislature passes ‘extreme risk’ gun bill”) Since the Parkland tragedy, three states have passed such laws and eighteen others are considering them. (Pindell, J., 5/24/18, “Unlike many gun measures, ‘red flag’ laws are actually passing. It looks like Mass. will be next,” The Boston Globe)
- D. **Governor Baker initially supported Attorney General Maura Healey’s crackdown on the sale of copycat assault weapons, but then changed his mind and began questioning it, using talking points from the gun industry.** MA has a long-standing ban on assault weapons (including copies and duplicates), but the gun industry has been defying the ban for years by making copycat weapons specifically designed to skirt the law. Last year, 10,000 of these rapid-

fire assault weapons with large magazines holding dozens of bullets were sold in MA. Several top law enforcement officials, as well as 30 gun violence prevention organizations, support Healey's crackdown. (Miller, J., 7/26/16, "Baker administration raps Healey's gun crackdown," The Boston Globe; Stop Handgun Violence, 8/11/16, "An open letter asking Governor Charlie Baker to support assault weapons ban," <http://www.stophandgunviolence.org/awb-charlie-baker-letter>)

- E. **Baker picked for his running mate and Lt. Governor a former State Representative who received a 100% rating from GOAL.** (Vote Smart, retrieved from the Internet 5/28/18, "Rating Group: Gun Owners' Action League 2014 positions," <https://votesmart.org/interest-group/46/rating/7553#.WwwhAkgvzIU>)
  
- F. **More than three years after the state passed legislation to allow participation in the national database for checking gun purchasers, the MA Department of Criminal Justice Information Services is taking weeks and sometimes months to provide information to the database.** Thus, reports from the state's courts on mental health, substance abuse, and domestic violence cases that should prevent someone from purchasing a gun are not submitted to the background check system on a timely basis. This could allow an individual to buy a gun in another state when he or she should be barred from making that purchase. (Rocheleau, M., 2/26/18, "Mass lagging on gun database," The Boston Globe)
  
- G. **When Baker ran in 2014, he received a 94% rating from the state chapter of the NRA and refused to support a federal assault weapons ban.** Recently, he has said that the MA assault weapon ban is working and the federal government should adopt something similar. (OnTheIssues, retrieved from the Internet 5/29/18, "Charlie Baker on gun control," [http://www.ontheissues.org/Governor/Charlie\\_Baker\\_Gun\\_Control.htm](http://www.ontheissues.org/Governor/Charlie_Baker_Gun_Control.htm); Dumcius, G., 2/28/18, "Massachusetts Gov. Baker says feds should adopt something similar to state's assault weapons ban," Mass Live; Miller, J., 10/15/14, "Super PAC goes after Charlie Baker on gun control," The Boston Globe)