



6th District Congressional Candidate Angus McQuilken announces comprehensive gun violence prevention proposal

“I won’t take no for an answer on meaningful and effective national gun laws”

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Contact: Josh Troop, 617-803-5125, josh@angusforcongress.com

Beverly, MA— 6th District Congressional Candidate Angus McQuilken today announced a comprehensive set of proposals to address the crisis of gun violence in America. His announcement follows a mass shooting in Minneapolis this past weekend that killed one and injured eleven, the latest in an unacceptable pattern of mass shootings across the nation.

A leading advocate for gun violence prevention for nearly 30 years, McQuilken is the co-founder of the Massachusetts Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence. He has also served as a board member for States United to Prevent Gun Violence, and as Chief of Staff to State Senator Cheryl Jacques, lead sponsor of the Massachusetts Gun Control Act of 1998. The Coalition, made up of more than 100 member organizations, was formed after the 2012 massacre of children and educators at the Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown Connecticut.

McQuilken recently earned the Moms Demand Action 2020 Gun Sense Candidate Distinction.

“I have spent most of my adult life working to ensure that Massachusetts has the strongest, most effective gun laws in the nation,” said McQuilken. “We have created a model here that works, and we have one of the lowest gun death rates of any state in the nation to show for it. Our laws are a model for the nation, but we need leaders who will insist on congressional action to address this public health crisis in America. I won’t take no for an answer on meaningful and effective national gun laws.”

Today, McQuilken proposed the following measures to reduce gun violence:

- Require that states implement a responsible licensing system for ownership of all firearms in order to maintain eligibility for federal homeland security and public safety grant funding, with licensing decisions made by law enforcement at the local level based on a standard of suitability.
- Require state-level registration of all firearm sales, both primary and secondary, to ensure law enforcement access to sales records during criminal investigations.
- Require a comprehensive background check every time a gun is sold by a gun dealer or in a private sale.
- Reinstate the national ban on semi-automatic assault weapons and high capacity ammunition magazines.
- Repeal laws that shield gun manufacturers from liability for irresponsible marketing and manufacturing of their products.
- Require that firearms be regulated by the Federal Consumer Product Safety Commission, like all other consumer products.
- Repeal provisions in federal law that prevent the sharing of ATF firearms trace information with local law enforcement and public health researchers.
- Ensure ongoing federal funding for research at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and grant funding for researchers in academic institutions looking into the root causes of gun violence and how to prevent it.

“The federal government has failed to address the gun violence crisis for more than a generation,” said McQuilken. “This is a problem that’s only getting worse, with a record number of more than 40,000 gun deaths in the U.S last year alone. This set of comprehensive proposals is made up of measures that we know work because we made them work in Massachusetts. As a member of Congress, I will build a broad based national coalition to insist on the change we need, with the capacity to out-lobby the National Rifle Association.”

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