

# Host a Coffee + Calls with Virginia Moms for Change

## IT'S EASY:

- Gather a few friends (3-5)
- Invite them over for coffee (or pizza or wine!)
- Have call scripts ready
- Have reps' numbers ready
- Make your calls
- Snap a pic
- Post to Instagram using #coffeeandcalls and tag @virginiamomsforchange

\*If weekdays don't work for you, that's okay - you can still host this event and leave voicemails!



# WHY?

- To encourage community across Virginia #bettertogether
- So more representatives hear from more constituents across Virginia
- To inspire others to use their voice
- To make activism more fun



# BACKGROUND ON BILLS

- The Assault Weapons Ban of 2023 – Senate Code S. 25 / House Code H.R. 698: The AWB would make it illegal to import, sell, manufacture or transfer assault weapons and large-capacity magazines without criminalizing those already in existence. Chuck Schumer needs to call this to a vote, anyone including Virginias can ask him to call this to a vote. This was in effect from 1994-2004. While it was in effect mass shooting fatalities decreased by 70%. Since it expired, the US experiences a 183% increase in gun massacres and a 239% increase in gun fatalities.



# BACKGROUND ON BILLS

- The Office of Gun Violence Prevention Act of 2023 – Senator Code 2. 951 / House of Reps Code H.R. 1699: This bill would create an office consisting of government officials and those affected by gun violence to
  - Advance policy recommendations about guns
  - Advance accurate data and research about gun violence
  - Perform state and local outreach and education
  - Coordinate across various sectors
  - Maximize and coordinate programs and services related to preventing gun violence



# BACKGROUND ON BILLS

**The Bipartisan Background Checks Act of 2023 – Senate Code S. 494 / House Code H.R. 715:** This bill aims to close several loopholes in our current federal laws that require background checks for any firearm purchases.

Examples of loopholes include:

- No background checks at gun shows, yard sales, craigslist
- The Charleston Loophole (if a background check does not come back to a licensed seller within three days, they can still sell the gun to the buyer. Typically when there is a delay it means that there is a red flag in a background check, including with the 2015 Charleston Church Shooting, where the perpetrator would have failed the check).

According to a recent Fox News Poll, 87% of voters support universal background checks.



# SCRIPT FOR SENATORS KAINÉ AND WARNER

- Both of our Senators co-sponsor key pieces of gun safety legislation, as do all Virginian Democrats in the House of Reps.
- "Hi, my name is [YOUR NAME] and I am a constituent. I want to thank the Senator/Representative for supporting commonsense gun legislation and urge them to be a leader on the Assault Weapons Ban and get it passed!"
- Kaine (202) 224-4024
- Warner (202) 224-2023



# SCRIPT FOR DEMOCRAT REPS

- All Virginian Democrats in the U.S. House of Representatives co-sponsor key pieces of gun legislation.
- "Hi, my name is [YOUR NAME] and I am a constituent. I want to thank the Senator/Representative for supporting commonsense gun legislation and urge them to be a leader on the Assault Weapons Ban and get it passed!"



# SCRIPT FOR REPUBLICAN REPS

- None of the Republicans in the U.S. House of Representatives co-sponsor any gun safety legislation.
- "Hi, my name is [YOUR NAME] and I am a constituent. I am concerned about the state of guns in America. I am calling to urge them to co-sponsor H.R. 1699 The Office of Gun Violence Prevention Act. Preventing senseless deaths is my #1 issue."





# SCRIPT FOR GOV. YOUNGKIN AND LT. GOV SEARS

- Governor Glenn Youngkin (804-786-2211)
- Lt. Governor Winsome Sears (804-786-2078)
- "Hi, my name is [YOUR NAME] and I am a Virginia voter. I am calling in honor of the many victims who die from gun violence in our communities every day. I am asking the Governor/Lt. Gove to use his/her voice and position to fight for commonsense gun violence prevention laws and push for more resources to support community violence intervention programs. This is my #1 priority."



# SCRIPT FOR VIRGINIA HOUSE SPEAKER TODD GILBERT

- Todd Gilbert (540-459-7550) - Republican
- "Hi, my name is [YOUR NAME] and I am a Virginia voter. I am worried about gun violence in in our communities and the fact that guns are the leading cause of death for children in this country. I urge Rep Gilbert to fight for common sense gun violence prevention laws and push for more resources to support community violence intervention programs. This is my #1 issue.



# SCRIPT FOR VIRGINIA SENATE MAJORITY LEADER DICK SASLAW

- Dick Saslaw (703-978-0200) - Democrat
- "Hi, my name is [YOUR NAME] and I am a Virginia voter. I am worried about gun violence in in our communities and the fact that guns are the leading cause of death for children in this country. I want to thank Rep Saslaw for his past support of common sense gun violence prevention laws and urge him to continue to fight to push for these laws and for more resources to support community violence intervention programs. This is my #1 issue.

