



For Immediate Release

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New Yorkers Against Gun Violence Announces 2016 State Legislator Rankings

New York City, June 21, 2016 - New Yorkers Against Gun Violence (NYAGV) today released its [2016 rankings](#) for members of the NY State Assembly and Senate. The rankings are based on the legislators' votes on gun bills since January 2013, including the [2013 NY SAFE Act](#), a 2015 Senate vote to [repeal portions of the SAFE Act](#), and a [2015 Assembly vote on Nicholas's Law](#) (firearm safe storage).

Out of 150 Assembly members, 44 legislators have a **Fail**; 20 a **Needs Improvement**; 78 an **Above Average**; and two an **Incomplete**. Assembly members received a **Fail** if they voted against both the *NY SAFE Act* that closed the private sale loophole and strengthened the assault weapons ban, and *Nicholas's Law* that would require firearms to be stored safely when not in the owner's possession or control. A **Needs Improvement** rating was given if they voted for the *SAFE Act* but against *Nicholas's Law*; an **Above Average** rating given if they voted for both measures; and an **Incomplete** if there was no voting record. Out of 63 Senators, rankings included 23 who received a **Fail**; nine who rated a **Needs Improvement**; two with an **Average**; and 27 with **Above Average**. The newest Senator, Todd Kaminsky, received an **Above Average** ranking based on his record in the Assembly.

Leah Gunn Barrett, NYAGV Executive Director, said, "At the end of the 2016 legislative session and after last week's massacre in Orlando, it is important that voters know where their legislators stand on gun safety. The 2013 SAFE Act strengthened New York's gun laws by closing the private sale loophole and toughening the assault weapons ban. These are common sense laws that need to be passed by Congress if we are to begin to address our national epidemic of gun violence."

Polls show that a clear majority of voters support the [NY SAFE Act](#), firearm safe storage and [other gun safety measures](#). Barrett continued, "To remain a leader in gun safety, we must do more. New York lacks a firearm safe storage law (Nicholas's Law) that would prevent gun thefts and reduce unintentional shootings, particularly of children; there are gaps in our domestic violence laws that allow those with a misdemeanor domestic violence conviction to keep guns in their possession; the nearly 2,000 NY licensed firearm dealers are not regularly inspected which means not all are following federal laws; and law enforcement does not have the twenty-first century tools like microstamping that it needs to solve gun crimes."

"Gun violence is tearing families apart and we must be on the right side of history by taking action to protect our communities," said NYC Public Advocate Letitia James. "This scorecard is an important tool in educating New Yorkers on where their elected officials stand on one of the most critical issues of our time. Together, we must stand up to the NRA and take back our country from the scourge of gun violence."

"Given the proliferation of shooting incidents that continue to take place in this country, it is time that we as Legislators step up and pass common sense gun laws. We are grappling with a gun violence epidemic that cannot continue to be ignored, or swept under the rug because of politics. We need to go what is in the best interest of Americans, and this means passing laws like the NY Safe Act, and laws that mandate safe storage of guns. This is not about taking away Americans' Second Amendment Rights; this is about creating a safe space for people to live while they exercise that right. How long do we sit idly by as tragedy after tragedy takes place, and we provide platitudes and well wishes instead of action," said Council Member Jumaane D. Williams.

Paul McQuillen, NYAGV Upstate Coordinator, said, "Voters in upstate NY are proud of the common sense gun legislation support that we receive from many of our legislators. We are ready, willing and able to stand by these legislators as they have stood by us in the fight to make our state safer. We will continue to support those who support us and oppose those who don't. There is more we can do and more that our legislators can do; working cooperatively in these efforts, NYS can remain a national leader in gun safety."

New Yorkers Against Gun Violence is a statewide advocacy group working to reduce gun violence through advocacy and education designed to encourage action, influence public opinion and lead to policy change. With a primary focus on New York State, the organization also advocates at the local and national levels for sensible gun laws, policies and practices that protect New York State residents from gun violence.

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