



To: Interested Parties

From: Everytown for Gun Safety

Date: August 4, 2020

Subject: “Demanding Women” Conversation Series Reveals Every Major Potential VP Candidate Will Champion Gun Safety Laws

Over the last few months, Everytown for Gun Safety Action Fund and its grassroots volunteer network, Moms Demand Action, hosted a 12-part virtual conversation series called “Demanding Women: Quarantine Conversations About Gun Violence,” in which we’ve spoken to prominent women leaders who are also reported potential vice presidential contenders: founder of Fair Fight Action [Stacey Abrams](#), Sen. [Tammy Baldwin](#) (D-WI), Rep. [Karen Bass](#) (D-CA), Rep. [Val Demings](#) (D-FL), Sen. [Tammy Duckworth](#) (D-IL), Sen. [Kamala Harris](#) (D-CA), Sen. [Amy Klobuchar](#) (D-MN), Atlanta Mayor [Keisha Lance Bottoms](#), Gov. [Michelle Lujan Grisham](#), former national security advisor [Susan Rice](#), Sen. [Elizabeth Warren](#) (D-MA), and Gov. [Gretchen Whitmer](#).

These conversations, which together garnered more than 1.6 million organic views, are a powerful indication that the politics on gun safety has changed, and candidates will campaign on this issue instead of running from it. They also underlined the fact that women have led the gun violence prevention movement for generations, and will continue to do so moving forward—because whoever Joe Biden chooses next week as his vice presidential candidate, she will be a leader on gun safety.

To wrap up this series, we created this report summarizing the gun violence prevention credentials of the women leaders we interviewed during “Demanding Women.” We found that not only are all of the vice presidential contenders champions of gun safety, but all of those who have received NRA grades have proudly received Fs.

This report makes it clear that no matter who Joe Biden selects next week to join him on the ballot, we can and will win on the issue of gun safety this November—and then pass the common-sense gun safety laws so many Americans are demanding.

**Demanding Women Conversation Series: Where Reported Vice Presidential Contenders Stand on
Gun Safety**

as of August 2020 (in alphabetical order)

- **Stacey Abrams**, founder of Fair Fight Action
 - Stacey Abrams [kicked off the “Demanding Women” series](#) with a discussion about the disproportionate impact of gun violence and coronavirus on Black and brown communities and rising hate and racism experienced by the East Asian communities during the pandemic. In her powerful closing statement, she said “We know that gun violence has a direct connection to poverty, to desperation, and we can solve those problems by calling out the disparities as they exist. But we must also participate in our own salvation... If we are silent, we will get what we’ve gotten, and I don’t believe that’s what we need for the next decade. This isn’t about asking for more than we deserve, it’s about asking for exactly what we deserve.”
 - As part of her 2018 gubernatorial campaign, Abrams advocated for background checks on all gun sales, extreme risk laws, keeping guns out of the hands of domestic abusers and stalkers, the repeal of Georgia’s guns on campus law, and support for violence prevention programs, including hospital interventions, community-based interruption strategies, and research.¹
 - As a Georgia State Representative, Abrams voted against guns on campus legislation in 2017² and 2016³ and “guns everywhere” legislation in 2014.⁴
 - In 2018, she received an “F” grade from the NRA.⁵
- **Tammy Baldwin**, U.S. Senator and gun owner from Wisconsin
 - Senator Tammy Baldwin [joined the “Demanding Women” series](#) to discuss gun violence amid the COVID-19 pandemic. She said that, “background checks should be the law of the land,” and added that, “in my state, responsible gun owners and non-gun owners alike think it is just common sense” to require background checks on all gun sales. She also noted how inspired she was by gun violence prevention advocates, saying, “You inspire me... When I see youth activism, when I see Moms Demand Action, you are tenacious... Continue to stand up, speak up and speak out.”
 - In the 116th Congress, Sen. Baldwin has cosponsored numerous pieces of Everytown-endorsed legislation, including legislation requiring background checks on all gun sales,⁶ regulating 3D-printed guns,⁷ prohibiting gun possession by people convicted of violent hate crimes,⁸ the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act (including

¹ <https://staceyabrams.com/guns/>

² 2017 Georgia House Bill 280. Signed into law in 2017.

³ 2015 Georgia House Bill 859. Passed by legislature but vetoed by governor.

⁴ 2013 Georgia House Bill 60. Signed into law in 2014.

⁵ 2018 NRA grade

⁶ S. 42 (116th Congress)

⁷ S.1831 (116th Congress)

⁸ S. 1462 (116th Congress)

closing the boyfriend and stalker loopholes),⁹ regulating assault weapons,¹⁰ and extreme risk legislation.¹¹

- In 2013 as Senator,¹² and in 2011 as Representative,¹³ Sen. Baldwin voted against concealed carry reciprocity.
- In 2018, she received an “F” grade from the NRA.¹⁴
- **Karen Bass**, U.S. Representative from California
 - Representative Karen Bass [joined the “Demanding Women” series](#) to discuss how gun violence, police violence, and the COVID-19 pandemic disproportionately impact Black communities. On gun violence, she said: “I believe we know how to solve the problem. The problem in our country is that we just never make a sustained commitment to address [it]. A crisis happens, we throw a few dollars at a situation. If things get better, we say things got better, you no longer need the money, which is the exact opposite. I think that we just really need the strong commitment, number one, to get guns off the street, and then number two, to deal with some of the underlying social and economic drivers of gun violence.”
 - In 2019, Rep. Bass voted for key Everytown-endorsed gun safety measures, including background checks on all gun sales,¹⁵ addressing the Charleston loophole,¹⁶ the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act (including closing the boyfriend and stalker loopholes),¹⁷ and legislation that would have appropriated \$50 million in annual funding for research on gun violence.¹⁸ She also voted against concealed carry reciprocity.¹⁹
 - In the House of Representatives, Rep. Bass has chaired a hearing on community based solutions to gun violence²⁰ and participated in a sit-in against gun violence.²¹
 - As Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, Rep. Bass was one of the chief architects of the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act.²²
 - In 2018, she received an “F” grade from the NRA.²³
- **Keisha Lance Bottoms**, Mayor of Atlanta

⁹ S. 2843 (116th Congress)

¹⁰ S. 66 (116th Congress)

¹¹ S. 506 (116th Congress)

¹² S.Amdt. 719 to S. 649 (113th Congress)

¹³ H.R. 822 (112th Congress)

¹⁴ 2018 NRA grade

¹⁵ HR 8 (116th Congress)

¹⁶ HR 1112 (116th Congress)

¹⁷ HR 1585 (116th Congress)

¹⁸ House Appropriations Committee’s 2020 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies funding bill (116th Congress)

¹⁹ <http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2017/roll663.xml>

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<https://bass.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/rep-bass-chairs-hearing-community-based-solutions-gun-violence>

²¹ <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1425486387477498>

²² <https://www.politico.com/news/2020/06/30/karen-bass-police-reform-345656>

²³ 2018 NRA grade

- Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms [joined the “Demanding Women” series](#) to discuss gun violence, COVID-19, and police violence from a mayor’s perspective. On the police killing of Rayshard Brooks, she said, “there are some bigger issues at play if we have officers on our streets who don’t think that there’s another way, that there is an alternative.” She added that, “We’ve got to stop being reactive and make sure that we are proactive with our policies.”
- In 2020, Mayor Bottoms joined 214 mayors in signing onto a letter from The United States Conference of Mayors urging immediate action from the government on gun safety legislation.²⁴
- After the fatal shooting of Rayshard Brooks by Atlanta police, Mayor Bottoms announced a series of changes aimed at dramatically overhauling how the Atlanta Police Department uses force—including mandating de-escalation techniques before an officer employs deadly force and making it so police officers are required to intercede when they see other officers engaging in unreasonable applications of force.²⁵
- **Val Demings**, U.S. Representative from Florida
 - Representative Val Demings [joined the “Demanding Women” series](#) to discuss addressing gun violence and systemic inequities during the COVID-19 pandemic. She recognized that people learn about gun violence in many different ways, saying, “Some people know about gun violence because they’ve unfortunately personally gone through it in their families. Some read about it. Some hear about it on the news.” But—she added—no matter how one learns about gun violence, it’s “going to take every responsible person to get involved if we are going to significantly reduce gun violence in Florida and all over this nation.”
 - In 2019, Rep. Demings voted for key Everytown-endorsed gun safety measures, including background checks on all gun sales,²⁶ addressing the Charleston loophole,²⁷ the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act (including closing the boyfriend and stalker loopholes),²⁸ and legislation that would have appropriated \$50 million in annual funding for research on gun violence.²⁹
 - Rep. Demings voted against concealed carry reciprocity³⁰ and wrote an op-ed in The Hill opposing the legislation in 2017.³¹
 - In 2018, Rep. Demings introduced “the Secure Communities and Safe Schools Act” to prevent the Trump administration from using anti-terrorism funding to give guns to educators. She had intended to introduce the proposal as an amendment to another bill,

²⁴ <https://www.atlantaga.gov/Home/Components/News/News/13116/>

²⁵ <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/15/us/rayshard-brooks-keisha-bottoms-atlanta.html>

²⁶ HR 8 (116th Congress)

²⁷ HR 1112 (116th Congress)

²⁸ HR 1585 (116th Congress)

²⁹ House Appropriations Committee’s 2020 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies funding bill (116th Congress)

³⁰ <http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2017/roll663.xml>

³¹ HR 38 (115th Congress);

<https://thehill.com/blogs/congress-blog/politics/340162-concealed-carry-reciprocity-measure-would-gut-public-safety-laws>

but after the Homeland Security Committee Chairman withdrew that bill from the agenda rather than allow Rep. Demings' amendment, she introduced it as a stand-alone bill. She again introduced the legislation in 2019.³²

- Rep. Demings is a Vice Chair of the House Gun Violence Prevention Task Force.³³
- In 2018, she received an “F” grade from the NRA.³⁴
- **Tammy Duckworth**, U.S. Senator and veteran from Illinois
 - Senator Tammy Duckworth [joined the “Demanding Women” series](#) to discuss a veteran’s perspective on tackling gun violence and COVID-19. She said that, “Some of this stuff that’s being easily sold to people who claim they need it to hunt—we didn’t even use in Fallujah, for crying out loud.” She added that, “I have a five-year-old who’s about to start kindergarten... I seriously thought about buying bulletproof blackboards and backpacks for her and for her classroom. Is that where we are as a nation?”
 - In the 116th Congress, Sen. Duckworth has cosponsored numerous pieces of Everytown-endorsed legislation, including legislation requiring background checks on all gun sales,³⁵ regulating 3D-printed guns,³⁶ regulating high capacity magazines,³⁷ regulating assault weapons,³⁸ the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act (including closing the boyfriend and stalker loopholes),³⁹ prohibiting gun possession by people convicted of violent hate crimes,⁴⁰ and extreme risk legislation.⁴¹
 - In 2016, she received an “F” grade from the NRA.⁴²
- **Kamala Harris**, former 2020 presidential candidate and U.S. Senator from California
 - Senator Kamala Harris [joined the “Demanding Women” series](#) to discuss fighting community gun violence during the COVID-19 pandemic, saying, “I will be here always standing and fighting for what is right because the goal for all of us is that not another mother has to shed a tear, not another father has to shed a tear or a sibling, or a child, because the person they loved, that they relied on, that they respected was tore down by gun violence.”
 - Sen. Harris’s 2020 presidential candidacy included a robust and comprehensive gun violence prevention platform. Sen. Harris vowed to take executive action if Congress failed to pass comprehensive gun safety legislation including background checks and repealing gun industry immunity within her first 100 days as president—including by

³² HR 5257 (115th Congress), HR 2383 (116th Congress);

<https://demings.house.gov/media/press-releases/rep-demings-new-bill-would-block-arming-teachers-anti-t-error-funding>

³³

<https://mikethompson.house.gov/newsroom/press-releases/chairman-thompson-announces-gun-violence-prevention-task-force-leadership>

³⁴ 2018 NRA grade

³⁵ S. 42 (116th Congress)

³⁶ S. 1831 (116th Congress)

³⁷ S. 447 (116th Congress)

³⁸ S. 66 (116th Congress)

³⁹ S. 2843 (116th Congress)

⁴⁰ S. 1462 (116th Congress)

⁴¹ S. 506 (116th Congress)

⁴² 2016 NRA Grade

strengthening background checks, closing the boyfriend loophole, holding accountable dealers and manufacturers that break the law, and reversing a Trump-era change that has allowed many fugitives to buy guns.⁴³

- As a U.S. Senator, Sen. Harris has cosponsored Everytown-endorsed gun violence prevention legislation, including requiring background checks on all gun sales,⁴⁴ prohibiting dating partners and stalkers from having guns via the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act,⁴⁵ regulating assault weapons,⁴⁶ regulating high capacity magazines,⁴⁷ regulating 3D-printed guns,⁴⁸ prohibiting gun possession by people convicted of violent hate crimes,⁴⁹ and extreme risk legislation.⁵⁰
- Sen. Harris has been a vocal critic of the NRA, including its recent efforts to block the Violence Against Women Act from being reauthorized.⁵¹
- Sen. Harris signed a letter with a group of 16 Senators to the FBI and ATF listing five key steps the two bureaus should take to protect public safety as gun sales spike and Americans self-quarantine at home during the COVID-19 pandemic.⁵²
- As California Attorney General, she sent a letter to congressional leaders urging them to direct funding to the CDC to study the causes and prevention of gun violence.⁵³
- In 2016, she received an “F” grade from the NRA.⁵⁴
- **Amy Klobuchar**, former 2020 presidential candidate and U.S. Senator from Minnesota
 - Senator Amy Klobuchar [joined the “Demanding Women” series](#) to discuss the devastating impact of gun violence and COVID-19 on women. She noted that, “As you look at where this country is on [gun safety], state by state by state, compared to where they were a decade or two ago, we’re seeing real change... We have to put the candidates in place that have the courage to do what [survivors of gun violence] are doing.”
 - As part of her 2020 presidential platform, Sen. Klobuchar vowed to introduce gun violence legislation, take executive action to close the boyfriend loophole, direct the Centers for Disease Control to study gun violence as a public health issue, and crack down on gun manufacturers and dealers breaking the law—all in her first 100 days as president.⁵⁵

⁴³ <https://kamalaharris.org/policies/gun-violence/>

⁴⁴ S.42 (116th Congress)

⁴⁵ S. 1539 (115th Congress)

⁴⁶ S. 66 (116th Congress)

⁴⁷ S. 447 (116th Congress)

⁴⁸ S.1831 (116th Congress)

⁴⁹ S. 1462 (116th Congress)

⁵⁰ S. 506 (116th Congress)

⁵¹ <https://twitter.com/KamalaHarris/status/1110936272758026240>

⁵²

https://www.markey.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/FINAL%20Letter%20to%20FBI_ATF%20On%20Surging%20Gun%20Sales.pdf

⁵³<https://oag.ca.gov/news/press-releases/attorney-general-kamala-d-harris-13-attorneys-general-urge-congress-fund-gun>

⁵⁴ 2016 NRA grade

⁵⁵ https://medium.com/@Amy_Klobuchar/amys-first-100-days-b7adf9f91262

- As a U.S. Senator, Sen. Klobuchar has cosponsored Everytown-endorsed gun violence prevention legislation, including requiring background checks on all gun sales,⁵⁶ prohibiting dating partners and stalkers from having guns via the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act,⁵⁷ regulating assault weapons,⁵⁸ regulating high capacity magazines,⁵⁹ regulating 3D-printed guns,⁶⁰ prohibiting gun possession by people convicted of violent hate crimes,⁶¹ and extreme risk legislation.⁶²
- Sen. Klobuchar has been a leader in the fight to protect victims of domestic violence, introducing the signature legislation to prohibit abusive dating partners and convicted stalkers from having guns in several Congresses.
- Sen. Klobuchar signed a letter with a group of 16 Senators to the FBI and ATF listing five key steps the two bureaus should take to protect public safety as gun sales spike and Americans self-quarantine at home during the COVID-19 pandemic.⁶³
- In 2018, she received an “F” grade from the NRA.⁶⁴
- **Michelle Lujan Grisham**, Governor of New Mexico
 - Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham [participated in the fifth episode](#) of “Demanding Women,” discussing putting public safety first to stop the gun violence epidemic and the coronavirus pandemic. She said that, “Gun violence is in fact a public health emergency and is an epidemic in [New Mexico], and if you want to look at ways to solve that, then you have to look at the science and the behavior aspects about gun violence.”
 - In 2019 and 2020, Gov. Lujan Grisham signed the most important gun violence prevention bills in recent state history, after years of campaigning by Everytown. These include extreme risk legislation,⁶⁵ background checks on all gun sales⁶⁶ and legislation to help keep guns out of the hands of domestic abusers.⁶⁷
 - Gov. Lujan Grisham’s gubernatorial platform included support for background checks on all gun sales, prohibitions on assault weapons and high capacity magazines, child access prevention (CAP) laws, reporting of lost and stolen guns, prohibiting domestic abusers and stalkers from buying guns, and extreme risk legislation.⁶⁸
 - As a U.S. Representative, she voted against concealed carry reciprocity in 2017⁶⁹ and was a member of the House Gun Violence Prevention Task Force.

⁵⁶ S.42 (116th Congress)

⁵⁷ S. 1539 (115th Congress)

⁵⁸ S. 66 (116th Congress)

⁵⁹ S. 447 (116th Congress)

⁶⁰ S.1831 (116th Congress)

⁶¹ S. 1462 (116th Congress)

⁶² S. 506 (116th Congress)

⁶³

https://www.markey.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/FINAL%20Letter%20to%20FBI_ATF%20On%20Surging%20Gun%20Sales.pdf

⁶⁴ <https://everytown.org/nra-grades-archive/>

⁶⁵ Senate Bill 5, signed February 2020

⁶⁶ Senate Bill 8, signed March 2019

⁶⁷ Senate Bill 328, signed April 2019.

⁶⁸ www.newmexicansformichelle.com/policy/action-plan-to-combat-new-mexico-gun-violence

⁶⁹ <http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2017/roll663.xml>

- In 2018, she received an “F” grade from the NRA.⁷⁰
- **Susan Rice**, former national security advisor to President Obama
 - Former national security advisor Susan Rice [joined the “Demanding Women” series](#) to discuss addressing gun violence and systemic inequities during the COVID-19 pandemic. On race in America, she said, “The reality is — speaking as an African American woman, as painful as it is — there are too many ways that every day, people who look like me and my children and my nieces and nephews are not viewed as equal in this country. We face barriers and threats that other people don’t face, and so we have to begin by recognizing the systemic nature of it ... These disparities persist, and they too require systemic solutions — solutions that finally and fully address these disparities for African Americans and other people of color in this country, so we can fulfill our national promise of being a truly equal society.”
 - In 2018, Rice signed a letter led by National Security Action saying that gun violence is a national security issue—and calling for U.S. leaders to “ban assault weapons, mandate background checks and waiting periods, and raise the minimum age to purchase guns.”
- **Elizabeth Warren**, former 2020 presidential candidate and U.S. Senator from Massachusetts
 - [Senator Elizabeth Warren joined the “Demanding Women” series](#) to discuss the importance of secure gun storage and keeping our families safe during the COVID-19 pandemic. She also talked about taking on the gun lobby, saying, “The NRA is not there to promote the safety of our children, the NRA is not there to promote the safety of Americans generally, the NRA is not even there to promote the safety of gun owners—the NRA is there to advance the interests of exactly one group, and that’s gun manufacturers to help boost their profits. We have to remember that’s who the NRA represents. Our job is to get out there and represent people who care about the lives of others, who understand the public health crisis that we are in.”
 - Sen. Warren’s 2020 presidential candidacy had a robust and comprehensive gun violence prevention platform, which included support for background checks, extreme risk laws, repealing the gun industry immunity law, keeping guns out of K-12 schools and colleges, and keeping guns out of the hands of domestic abusers.⁷¹
 - As a U.S. Senator, Sen. Warren has cosponsored Everytown-endorsed gun violence prevention legislation, including requiring background checks on all gun sales,⁷² prohibiting dating partners and stalkers from having guns via the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act,⁷³ regulating high capacity magazines,⁷⁴ regulating assault weapons,⁷⁵ and extreme risk legislation.⁷⁶

⁷⁰ 2018 NRA grade

⁷¹ <https://medium.com/@teamwarren/protecting-our-communities-from-gun-violence-a2ebf7abd9be>

⁷² S.42 (116th Congress)

⁷³ S. 2843 (115th Congress)

⁷⁴ S. 447 (116th Congress)

⁷⁵ S. 66 (116th Congress)

⁷⁶ S. 506 (116th Congress)

- In January 2020, Sen. Warren introduced the “Gun Violence Prevention and Community Safety Act,” sweeping and comprehensive legislation to address the nation’s gun violence epidemic.
- Sen. Warren signed a letter with a group of 16 Senators to the FBI and ATF listing five key steps the two bureaus should take to protect public safety as gun sales spike and Americans self-quarantine at home during the COVID-19 pandemic.⁷⁷
- In 2018, she received an “F” grade from the NRA.⁷⁸
- **Gretchen Whitmer**, Governor of Michigan
 - Governor Gretchen Whitmer [joined the “Demanding Women” series](#) to discuss COVID-19, gun violence, and armed extremists trying to intimidate protestors. On armed extremists, she said, “They were [at the Michigan statehouse] to intimidate people under the guise of patriotism. ... We are in the middle of a global pandemic. Want to show your patriotism? Wear a mask. Want to show your patriotism? Help people who are in crisis right now.” On passing gun safety laws and standing up to the NRA, she added, “The American people overwhelmingly support common sense gun laws that keep our families safe and our businesses safe, and in times of crisis, I think it’s so critical that we have leaders that are going to be guided by their principles and not dissuaded by some campaign tactics, or lobbying tactics, or bullying tactics.”
 - As State Senator, Gov. Whitmer voted against stand your ground legislation in 2006⁷⁹ and in 2011 announced her opposition to “guns everywhere” legislation in Michigan.⁸⁰
 - Following the Sandy Hook shooting in 2012, she wrote an open letter to NRA CEO Wayne LaPierre criticizing the NRA for blocking meaningful gun safety proposals⁸¹ and publicly criticized the U.S. Senate’s rejection of the Manchin-Toomey background check proposal in 2013.
 - Gov. Whitmer was a featured speaker at the Lansing “March for our Lives” rally in March 2018.
 - As a gubernatorial candidate in 2018, Gov. Whitmer supported background checks, waiting periods, and prohibiting bump stocks and assault weapons.⁸² She also said in a speech to the Michigan Education Association that she opposes guns in schools and supports extreme risk laws.⁸³
 - In 2018, she received an “F” grade from the NRA.⁸⁴

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https://www.markey.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/FINAL%20Letter%20to%20FBI_ATF%20On%20Surging%20Gun%20Sales.pdf

⁷⁸ 2018 NRA grade

⁷⁹ 2005 MI H 5143. The bill passed and was signed into law that year.

⁸⁰ <https://www.michigansthumb.com/news/article/Green-Repeal-gun-free-zones-7291898.php>

⁸¹ https://www.huffpost.com/entry/nra-wayne-lapierre-guns_b_2349771

⁸² https://www.mlive.com/news/2018/06/democratic_governor_candidates.html

⁸³

<https://www.lansingstatejournal.com/story/news/2018/04/20/union-members-march-capitol-oppose-guns-schoools/535611002/>

⁸⁴ 2018 NRA grade