



Veena Lothe for Virginia's 12th Senate District

# COMBATING GUN VIOLENCE IN OUR COMMONWEALTH

GUN SENSE POLICIES TO MAKE OUR COMMONWEALTH A SAFER PLACE



## DEAR COMMUNITY MEMBER,

Gun violence is an epidemic that affects every corner of our country: shootings at schools, places of worships, and in our communities daily. Over the past year in Virginia, **1 out of 3 victims** of gun violence is **a child** under the age of 18. The normalization of gun violence is heartbreaking and unacceptable. That is why I am putting out my gun sense policies today to make our Commonwealth a safer place for children, police officers, and our communities.

Over the past few years, I have been an active member of my local Moms Demand Action group. Each year, we go in and lobby for gun violence prevention legislation, and every year, our gun sense legislation dies in committee on a party line vote. That is why as a candidate I signed the No NRA Money Pledge and am working closely with community leaders to tackle this problem head on. When I'm in office, I will fight for red flag laws, universal background checks, and closing the gun show loophole.

Together we can end unnecessary gun violence in our community, and I look forward to combating this epidemic with you.

Best,

*Veena Lothe*

Veena Lothe

Candidate for Virginia's 12th Senate District

# WHY VIRGINIA NEEDS COMPREHENSIVE GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION LEGISLATION

Virginia is facing a gun violence epidemic, especially in our region. In fact, 22% of all gun violence incidents and 40% of all mass shootings in Virginia have occurred within the greater Richmond region between May 2018-2019. Our laws fail to protect our children, our police officers, and our community members from harm.

*"Virginia needs to pass sensible gun safety legislation if we're going to keep our children safe. Our community deserves progressive leadership, not representatives who only answer to the gun lobby."-Beth K., Lakeside*

*"Virginia needs a progressive, thoughtful leader who will address gun violence in all its forms, propose, and pass evidence-based gun violence prevention legislation."-Sarah H., Wellesley*

Our gun laws fail us here in the Commonwealth of Virginia. You currently do not need to have a permit to open carry a handgun or have to pass a background check in private sales to own any type of gun. There is also no way for law enforcement across the Commonwealth to uniformly take away guns from domestic abusers or people in a mental health crisis. These policy failures are why we have a public health crisis and are why we need gun sense reform to protect our community.

AS OF MAY 8, 2019

# 34%

OF GUN VIOLENCE VICTIMS IN VIRGINIA OVER THE PAST YEAR HAVE BEEN CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 18.

AS OF MAY 8, 2019

# 500

INCIDENTS OF GUN VIOLENCE HAVE OCCURRED IN VIRGINIA OVER THE PAST YEAR

AS OF MAY 8, 2019

# 22%

OF GUN VIOLENCE INCIDENTS IN VIRGINIA HAVE OCCURRED WITHIN THE RICHMOND REGION

# STEPS TO PROTECT OUR COMMONWEALTH

## RED FLAG LAWS

Red Flag Laws, also known as Emergency Protective Order Laws, allow for law enforcement or family members to ask the state court to order the temporary removal of guns and other weapons from a person who poses a danger to themselves or others. Red Flag Laws save lives, and that's why the families of Virginia Tech victims and several other mass shootings have been tirelessly fighting for them. It's time that Virginia adopt this life-saving measure.

## UNIVERSAL BACKGROUND CHECKS

There are currently several loopholes around background checks to purchase a firearm in Virginia. The best example is Virginia's infamous gun show loophole. Closing these loopholes would mean keeping guns out of the hands of people who should not have access to weapons, like criminals and domestic abusers. Passing universal background checks through the General Assembly is the best way to uniformly close these loopholes and keep our community safe.

## BANNING BUMP STOCKS

Bump stocks are banned at the federal level by presidential executive order; however, this executive order can get overturned at any moment. That is why Virginia needs to act on the state level and pass a ban on bump stocks.

# STEPS TO PROTECT OUR COMMONWEALTH

## GETTING GUN LOBBY MONEY OUT OF POLITICS

The oversized influence of the gun lobby is one of the main reasons that gun sense laws die in committee. Politicians are bought and sold by the gun lobby. That is why we need to get their money out of politics by passing campaign finance reform.

## REPORTING LOST OR STOLEN FIREARMS TO THE POLICE

Richmond Police are seeing that in most crimes with gun violence, the firearms were previously stolen. Delegate Jeff Bourne introduced HB 43 last session, which would have introduced a civil penalty for not reporting stolen or lost firearms. Requiring this reporting helps find out when, where, and which firearms are used, making it easier for police to track. This would keep our law enforcement officers & community safer.



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FOR VIRGINIA STATE SENATE

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