

# Oppose Gun Violence!

CeaseFire NJ is the leading statewide organization opposing gun violence in NJ.

In spite of the difficulties with a pro-NRA governor in Governor Christie, the NJ Legislature did prevail in passing an anti-gun violence bill that Governor Christie signed into law during the past year. This new statute is related to domestic violence and the removal of guns from the home in situations where there is a court order. It is a good first step toward diminishing gun violence in New Jersey.

Now the challenge is to stop a bill introduced at the Federal level that would over-ride New Jersey's ability to control its borders and allow the entry of concealed hand guns from other states. If this bill passes, H.R. 38 / S.446, it would mean that concealed hand guns can be expected to invade New Jersey and make worse instances of gun violence throughout our state, and particularly in our urban areas.

## **Congressional "Conceal Carry Reciprocity for Guns," H.R. 38 / S.446**

H.R. 38 allows concealed hand guns to be brought into New Jersey freely by visitors with valid permits from other states. Setting aside its potential lack of constitutionality, it is critical that all hands be on deck to challenge this Federal bill. The sponsor, Congressman Hudson of North Carolina, continues to gather co-sponsors in the House. In the Senate bill, supporters of S.446 continue to do the same. What is particularly concerning is that the bill creates a mandatory override over state's rights and the ability for states to maintain a safe environment within its borders. It also provides for an inequality between residents and visitors in the application of the rule of law.

Thus far, only one NJ Member of Congress (McArthur - R -8) has co-sponsored the bill. We need to keep the rest of the NJ delegation off the bill. Among gubernatorial candidates on the Democratic side, there is unanimity in opposition to the bill. Please be prepared to work to defeat H.R. 38 and help us by sharing with us at Cease Fire NJ any intelligence you have or the results of meetings with key officials.

## **Gun Violence Prevention Bill for Mental Health Professionals Moves through the NJ Assembly**

A.2938 (Jones D-5th) is moving through the NJ legislature and was recently voted out of the Assembly floor. Introduced by Assemblywoman Patricia Egan Jones from Camden and Gloucester, the bill passed 45-24 - with 6 absences and 5 abstentions with limited floor discussion. Here is the link to roll call vote: <http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/bills/BillView.asp>

The bill, A.2938, requires licensed mental health providers to report patient information to the local municipal police if the professional determines that the patient poses a threat or harm to self or others. It gives the authority to the Attorney General to seize a firearm if certain conditions are met. The bill was introduced last year 2/16/16, moved through the Assembly Law & Public Safety, and on 9/22/16 voted out along party lines. We expect the bill will be assigned to the Senate Law and Public Safety Committee and that a hearing to be held. Note that some of the gun violence prevention bills that have been stagnant may start to move because everyone is up for re-election on Nov. 3. Even if Christie vetoes them, they can be pointed to as progress.

## **NJ Assembly & Senate Approve Resolution – SCR 149 - Authorizing Litigation and Expenses for Suing the Governor Over the Unilateral Adoption of an Expanded Definition of Need - Making it Easier to Get a Handgun Permit**

On 3/16/17, the NJ Assembly passed Senator Weinberg's and Assemblyman Greenwald's Concurrent Resolution, SCR 149, 46-29-0, which has now been filed with the Secretary of State (losing 17). The Senate passed the bill on 3/13/17 with a 21-16 vote. In the Assembly vote (correct vote is YES) 3 Democrats voted to not sue the Governor: both in District 1 (Cape May) and Assemblyman Danielsen in the 17th District. We are monitoring progress on the lawsuit.

The debate over this Christie proposed rule (via executive order and the AG's office) has been going on since last year, and ended, we all thought, when the Senate and Assembly utilized an arcane rule to argue that the proposed rule (to expand the justifiable need to obtain a handgun permit) was inconsistent with legislative intent ended with a public hearing, passed by both houses and filed with the Secretary of State.

However, on 3/6/17, Governor Christie issued a press release announcing that he was adopting this proposed rule, and was expanding the definition of "justifiable need" to carry a handgun permit" to add "serious threat." The bottom line is that there will be more handgun carry permits and more handguns if the rule is not stopped.

### **New Bills Introduced by Muoio / Gusciora**

- A.4736 (Muoio/Gusciora) -Introduced 3/20/17- Requires Photo ID for Handgun Ammunition Purchases - -Referred to Assembly Law & Public Safety Committee
- A.4739 (Muoio/Gusciora/Vaneri-Huttle)Introduced 3/20/17 Requires Electronic Reporting of Ammunition Sales - Referred to Assembly Law & Public Safety

### **What Can We Do?**

Get involved! Contact Ceasefire NJ! Let us know what state and congressional districts you are in and we can direct you toward local groups working on gun violence and plug you into statewide campaigns.

For further information, or to get involved, contact:



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