



Initiative 1639: Safe Schools, Safe Communities

In response to the tragic instances of gun violence taking place all across the United States, the Washington Alliance for Gun Responsibility proposed **Initiative 1639: The Reduce Assault Weapon Violence: Safe Schools, Safe Communities Initiative**. Building off their recent successes in 2014 and 2016, in which the Alliance passed ballot initiatives which established universal background checks and extreme risk protection orders in Washington, Initiative 1639 seeks to¹:

- **Raise the minimum age to purchase a semi-automatic weapon to 21 years old**
- **Create an enhanced background check at the time of purchase:**
 - Before buying an assault weapon, the purchaser must prove that they have completed a safety training course within the last five years, and local law enforcement will need to verify that the individual is eligible to purchase a gun.
- **Establish a 10-day waiting period for assault weapon purchases.**
- **Hold gun owners responsible if a child or other prohibited person accesses and uses an unsafely stored firearm to harm themselves or another person.**
- **Ensure continued eligibility to possess or purchase an assault weapon.**
- **Require informed consent at the point of purchase about the inherent risks associated with the presence of a firearm in the home.**

Gun violence kills over 30,000 Americans every single year. The rate of gun violence in the United States is up to 25 times higher than other developed countries. Enough is enough.

As Reform Jews, we are called to speak out against gun violence and advocate for common-sense solutions to stop it. We are taught in Leviticus 19:16, "Do not stand idly by while your neighbor's blood is shed." Instead of issuing empty calls for thoughts and prayers as substitutes for action, we are compelled to heed the lessons from our scripture and demand reform.

Accepting this charge, we seek to leverage the full power of the Washington Reform Jewish community to pass Initiative 1639 and enact policies that are proven to reduce gun violence. This November, we have the opportunity to make our schools and communities safer from the ever-present threat of gun violence. Let's make it happen.

¹ <https://gunresponsibility.org/news/ballot-initiative-assault-weapon/>