



FIGHTING *for* PENNSYLVANIA FAMILIES

The Resources for Victims of Gun Violence Act of 2023

U.S. Senator Bob Casey and U.S. Representative Dwight Evans

Each day in the United States, more than 100 individuals are killed with guns, totaling over 43,000 deaths annually.¹ Such gun violence disproportionately affects communities of color, with Black Americans representing the majority of gun homicide victims.² Furthermore, according to a national poll, an estimated 10,000,000 individuals in the United States have been shot and injured in their lifetimes.³ As a result of this staggering and alarming rate of gun violence, America is becoming a nation of gun violence survivors who have immense physical and mental trauma. Unfortunately, their struggles often go unnoticed.

Gun violence—whether suicide, homicide, mass shootings, unintentional shootings, domestic violence, hate crimes, or youth violence—has a devastating impact not just on survivors, but on the families, friends, classmates, and coworkers of individuals who have been wounded or killed. All of these individuals are victims of gun violence who may face extraordinary challenges and have unique needs as a result of the tragedy they have experienced. Though there are many programs and benefits at the federal, state, and local levels that may help victims address medical, legal, financial, and other needs following instances of violence, these opportunities can be difficult to identify and navigate, as victims noted in a 2018 *Philadelphia Inquirer* feature titled [Shot and Forgotten](#).

The Resources for Victims of Gun Violence Act would:

- Address these challenges by establishing an Advisory Council to help all victims of gun violence—from survivors to their loved ones, coworkers, and classmates—identify and access the resources available to them to help meet a wide range of personal needs.
- Convene representatives across a variety of federal agencies, victim assistance professionals such as medical specialists and social workers, and victims of gun violence to lead the Council.
- Require the Council to assess the comprehensive needs of victims of gun violence and in turn, gather and disseminate information about the resources, programs, and benefits available to victims to help meet their needs.
- Require the Council to submit a report to Congress on its findings related to these resources and identify any gaps in policy that the government could address.

¹ Everytown Research & Policy, “Gun Violence in America,” May 19, 2023, <https://everytownresearch.org/report/gun-violence-in-america/>.

² Center for American Progress, “Gun Violence Disproportionately and Overwhelmingly Hurts Communities of Color,” June 30, 2022, <https://www.americanprogress.org/article/gun-violence-disproportionately-and-overwhelmingly-hurts-communities-of-color/>.

³ SurveyUSA, “Results of SurveyUSA Market Research Study #24554,” December 11, 2018, <https://everytownsupportfund.org/documents/2021/03/results-of-surveyusa-mkt-research-study-24554.pdf/>.