

RELEASE: Senate Passes House Bill to Establish Mandatory Waiting Periods on Gun Sales

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PRESS RELEASE

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SENATE PASSES HOUSE BILL TO ESTABLISH MANDATORY WAITING PERIOD ON GUN SALES

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE – The Senate voted 13-10 today to pass [HB 514](#), which establishes a mandatory waiting period on gun sales in NH with few exceptions. **Majority Leader Doug Ley (D-Jaffrey)** released the following statement:

“HB 514 is crucial to preventing impulsive acts of gun violence and suicide. Waiting periods for gun sales save lives which is why the New Hampshire Medical Society has adopted waiting periods as a key policy position.”

“Suicide is the second leading cause of death of Granite Staters between the ages of 15 and 34 and nearly half of all suicides involve a firearm. It is past time that New Hampshire institute a waiting period to ensure the safety and public health of our citizens. I hope that Governor Sununu recognizes this legislation as a fundamental way to address the suicide prevention which he spoke so passionately about in his Inaugural speech.”

“This legislation also importantly closes the “Charleston loophole,” preventing someone from obtaining a firearm if their background check is not completed within the waiting period. It is estimated that 11% of background checks need further investigation and in 2017, 6,000 individuals whose background checks were delayed obtained a firearm when they shouldn’t have.”

Simply put, people that pose a danger to themselves or the community should not possess a firearm. This bill will assure that law-abiding citizens have access to purchasing firearms and those with a criminal record do not.”

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