

STATEMENT re: New Digital Ad Launches Statewide Campaign to Call Out Senators for Failing to Act After Aurora Shooting

Attributable to Kathleen Sances, president and CEO of G-PAC

“This week, the Gun Violence Prevention Action Committee launched a \$420,000 statewide campaign to pass SB 1966, the BIO (Block Illegal Ownership) Bill, which will fix the state’s Firearm Owners Identification (FOID) system. This effort includes an aggressive digital and social media campaign, which kicked off with an online [video](#) ad calling on the Illinois Senate to realign their priorities and focus on protecting Illinois families. Last year the House took action. Now it’s the Senate’s turn to take action and pass meaningful legislation that will protect our state from preventable tragedies.

One-year ago, a shooting at Henry Pratt manufacturing company in Aurora, IL brought to light dangerous gaps in the Illinois Firearm Owner’s Identification (FOID) Card process that allowed the shooter to legally obtain a firearm despite a previous felony conviction. Since then, Springfield has passed a lot of legislation -- but none that protects Illinois from tragedies like this.”

BACKGROUND: THE BIO (BLOCK ILLEGAL GUN OWNERSHIP) BILL

The BIO Bill, SB 1966, strengthens the FOID system to ensure that people with violent criminal histories, who are prohibited from gun possession, are not able to evade the law and arm themselves. The BIO Bill would make the following key provisions to the current FOID system:

- **Reduce the FOID Card duration from 10 years to 5 years. Illinois is 1 of only 2 states where a license to purchase firearms is valid for 10 years.** Shortening the length of time that a person can hold a firearm license has been associated with lower levels of gun violence, when coupled with other measures like fingerprinting.
- **Require a point-of-sale background check for all gun sales, including those by an unlicensed seller.** Under current law, an unlicensed seller must only verify that a person looking to buy a gun has a valid FOID card. There is no requirement that a background check be conducted at the time of the sale. This bill would require that unlicensed sales be facilitated by a licensed gun dealer and include a background check.
- **Require applicants for FOID Cards to submit fingerprints as part of their application.** This requirement will help ensure access to the applicant’s accurate criminal history.

ILLINOIS GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION PAC (G-PAC)

The Illinois Gun Violence Prevention PAC (G-PAC) is a non-partisan political action committee that was founded to counter the political influence of the gun industry and their lobby in Springfield, Illinois. G-PAC raises the resources necessary to protect and elect public officials who step up to fight the gun violence epidemic, and work against those who don’t support keeping our communities safe.

###