

STATEMENT re: IL Senate Must Act Following News of Workplace Shooting in Milwaukee, WI

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

“As news breaks in our neighboring state that a shooter at Molson Coors Brewing Co. in Milwaukee, WI has killed multiple people – we are reminded that the time for action is now. Our hearts are heavy, but we know that action – not just thoughts and prayers – will keep residents and families safe.

We are calling on the Illinois Senate to pass SB1966 the BIO (Block Illegal Ownership) Bill to fix the FOID card system in Illinois and keep our state safe from workplace shootings like one. This tragic incident is too close to home. Last year the House took action. Now it’s the Senate’s turn to pass meaningful legislation that will protect our state.”

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.

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