



We show-up, stand-up and speak-up to make the world a safer place for our grandchildren and yours!

# SPEAK-UP!

Quarterly Newsletter for Grandmothers Against Gun Violence and our supporters who show up, stand up, and speak up!

## Grandmothers Speak-up on HB 1240 ASSAULT WEAPONS BAN

BY MARGARET HELDRING

Margaret Heldring, Past Chair and Founder, Grandmothers Against Gun Violence, shares her powerful testimony before the Washington State Legislative Senate Law and Justice Committee in support of HB1240 on March 23, 2023.

*Good Morning,*

*My name is Dr. Margaret Heldring. I am the founder of grandmothers against gun violence. I am a 43rd district clinical psychologist.*

*I bring the grateful voices of 1000 grandmothers in strong support on 1240. Like many others, we have agonized over the existence of assault weapons in our state and nation and worked each year to support change.*

*Assault weapons were created for war, used originally in the United States in the Vietnam War. They migrated to civilian life where they do not belong. They kill and injure rapidly in ways that horrify even the most seasoned ER doctors and nurses. The grisly deaths and collateral damage they inflict bring endless grief and pain to families and communities. Their presence in our national life weakens public safety and frays social cohesion. They potentially take lives in all places where people gather, whether in a church or synagogue, grocery store or music concert, school or night club. They are vectors of trauma and fear.*

*Las Vegas, Orlando, Sandy Hook, Boulder, Uvalde, Highland Park, Pittsburgh, Parkland - assault weapons were used in these shootings.*

*These military-style weapons are a stain upon our American identity. As a grandmother, it truly breaks my heart to watch my grandchildren grow up with exposure to these.*

*Grandmothers urges Washington State, already a strong leader in gun violence prevention, to join 9 other states and DC in support of policy to prohibit assault weapons. We must choose public safety and find common ground around saving lives. We must be the people we aspire to be.*

*Thank you.*



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HB 1143  
HB 1230  
HB 1240  
SB 5078

## Legislative Committee Update

BY JENNIFER DOLAN-WALDMAN, GAGV VICE CHAIR

Lobby Week was held from Feb. 13 – 17 this year. Our members were able to participate virtually in 12 districts, holding 24 meetings with a total of 59 members involved. In some districts, all three legislators met with the group; in other districts, meetings were individual. We found these to be very informative both for our members and for the legislators who heard about our priorities. This session will end April 23, 2023. Below are the four bills that we have focused on in the second half of the session. More detail about each is available by going to the Bill Information site and entering the bill number.

**HB 1143** requires training and a 10-day waiting period before a firearm can be delivered to a purchaser. Washington does not currently require training for all gun purchases.

**HB 1230** says that school districts would be required to post safe storage information from the Dept. of Health on their district and building webpages as well as sending home that information.

**HB 1240** is – finally! – the assault weapons ban. This is the first time this bill has gotten this far. We are guardedly optimistic it will pass this year.

**SB 5078** will allow gun manufacturers to be held accountable for violations caused by their selling and marketing of firearms. This would allow the Attorney General to investigate and bring enforcement actions against them. If passed, this would make Washington State one of only five states with this law.

As significant movement is coming up on a bill, we send out Action Alerts to let you know what you can do to help support these bills. Our requests generally take no more than 10 minutes to complete and provide all the information you need. We send these only when there is an important step about to take place and really appreciate your supporting these requests.



# GAGV Foundation NEWS

## Foundation Awards for 2023

BY E.K. KNOWLTON, PHD, CBL., GAGV FOUNDATION

As this newsletter goes into distribution, the GAGV Foundation has finished its assessment of a wide range of possible projects to fund. Official letters detailing gifts to researchers are in the works and you can expect more news from the Foundation in the weeks ahead.

This year's request for proposals garnered more than double our previous one and those proposals focused on: school shootings and mental health, intimate partner homicide, how to sustain hospital-based programs targeting community level gun violence, and other areas. We can see that gun violence prevention research has grown in scope during the years of the Foundation's existence, and we find ourselves talking more about needing clarity of focus in the future.

Our mission to help fill gaps in the research remains important and helpful. Another aspect of that mission, the search for emerging researchers we can encourage with our gifts, grows easier as the field matures: resumes of principal investigators reveal more people entering the field from the start of their careers. While this comes from the growth of interest in gun violence prevention, we also know we are growing our reputation as a source of help.

Even our process for assessing proposals has its own growth curve! The methods proposed for our support this time around span everything from sophisticated mining of national datasets to community-grounded qualitative methods.

We expect that our own process will become more sophisticated with every round of project review.

Our deepest thanks to all who have donated to help us make our awards – you are the sine qua non. You can rest assured we are developing alongside the field of work we exist to encourage.

Our latest awardees and their projects are:

- **Camerin Rencken**, a doctoral candidate at UW in Epidemiology. She is looking into the mental health impacts of school shootings and what can be done to help.
- **Julie Kafka, PhD**, currently a post-doc at the Harborview Injury Prevention and Research Center. She is investigating intimate partner homicide to get a clearer picture of what raises the risk of this.
- **Lars Almquist**, a doctoral candidate at UW in Population Health. He is examining hospital-based violence intervention programs and what makes them sustainably useful.

We hope to introduce you to all these people in person (well, over zoom) soon. Watch for an announcement!



GiveBIG is a statewide fundraising campaign where individuals and organizations come together across Washington to invest in our community. The annual 48-hour giving event is May 2-3, with early giving kicking off on April 18, 2023. Please support our Foundation's research programs by donating to us through GiveBIG or go directly to our website. Thank you!

**[GiveBIG CLICK HERE](#)**





# WHY I JOINED Grandmothers Against Gun Violence

BY MAUREEN FRISCH, COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE CHAIR

I am a longtime Seattle resident who retired 12 years ago after working in various industries, including our state's forest products industry for many years. When I retired, I decided to work as a volunteer on issues of concern to me. Gun Violence Protection rose to the top of my concerns. When I grew up, that was never an issue. Oh my goodness, how our world has changed! I come from a family of police officers in San Francisco. They went to work everyday to protect the San Francisco community. I will always respect and love them.

I am not a grandmother, but I am a great aunt to four beautiful girls. It breaks my heart to think about how they must be counseled in our schools to survive a gun violence situation. So sad. So inexcusable. So avoidable. We must do more to make a positive difference in our schools and communities. I applaud Grandmothers and many partner organizations on the work we have done and will continue to do to make our world safer for our children and our communities. We will never give up!

*Maureen Frisch*



Maureen Frisch,  
Chair Communications  
Committee

## Show up! Stand Up! Speak Up!

*Don't Forget to Show Up*  
**WE SHOW UP, STAND UP, SPEAK UP!**  
 Let's make the world a safer place for children everywhere.


April 14, 2023 | 3-4 pm  
 Waiting for the Interurban Landmark  
 Fremont Ave N & N 34th St

May 13, 2023 | 3-4 pm  
 MLK & Rainier Ave  
 Seattle, WA



**GRANDMOTHERS  
 Against Gun  
 Violence  
 FOUNDATION**

*Celebrate*  
**GRANDMOTHERS'**  
*10 Years of*  
**LEADERSHIP,  
 LEGISLATION,  
 AND  
 ACTIVISM**




**GRANDMOTHERS  
 Against Gun  
 Violence  
 FOUNDATION**

*Congratulations!*

*Diversity and Partnerships  
 presents*  
**Collective Community Voices**

Join in for  
**Real Talk with Real People of  
 Impact and Information on  
 Strategies for Gun Safety, Survival, and Action**

June 13, 2023 | 10 am-11 am  
**ZOOM WEBINAR  
 SAVE THE DATE**



**GRANDMOTHERS  
 Against Gun  
 Violence  
 FOUNDATION**