

MEDIA ALERT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: John Block
(757) 739-0359

FEBRUARY 17, 2021
john@pocketacesconsulting.com

**Giffords Law Center To Prevent Gun Violence Recognizes Gun Safety Progress in Virginia
Led By Chairman Patrick Hope**

Arlington, Virginia --- Delegate Patrick Hope of Virginia House District 47 (D-Arlington), Chairman of the House Public Safety Committee, reacted to the Giffords Law Center's Annual Gun Law Scorecard saying, "**Virginia's improved rating reflects the commitment of the General Assembly in working to end gun violence in our communities. However, I am far from satisfied and recognize there is still much more we can do to protect Virginia's families. I am firmly committed to continuing to build on our progress and make Virginia a model for the rest of the nation in gun violence prevention.**"

The House Public Safety Committee passed numerous bills during the 2020 legislative session aimed at addressing gun violence. Some of the issues the committee passed and signed into law include:

- Universal Background Checks
- Extreme Risk Protective Order, allowing authorities to temporarily take guns away from people deemed to be dangerous to themselves or others
- One-handgun-a-month law
- Requiring gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms
- Toughening penalties for leaving a loaded, unsecured firearm that endangers a child
- Penalizing the person the subject to a protective order to possess a firearm
- Providing local authority to ban guns in public spaces, like public buildings, parks, recreation centers, and during permitted events

When asked about what areas of gun safety require further legislative efforts Chairman Hope pointed to a June 2020 report that estimated:

- An average of 992 gun deaths occur in Virginia each year
- Virginia's death rate from gun violence is higher than the national average
- Black Virginians are eight times more likely than white Virginians to be killed by gun homicide
- Black children and teens in America are 14 times more likely to be killed by a gun than white children

Delegate Hope concluded, "I want to thank former Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords for being an inspirational leader and for her relentless commitment to ridding our country of gun violence."

###