



# SENATOR WEBB AND SENATOR WARNER:

## THE VIRGINIA TECH FAMILIES CALL ON YOU TO PROTECT OUR COMMONWEALTH'S LAWS FROM CONGRESS.

Dear Senator Webb and Senator Warner:

Virginia has seen the worst consequences of guns falling into the wrong hands. We are survivors and family members of those who were wounded or killed at Virginia Tech, the worst mass shooting in American history. In the wake of that tragic day, we've been fighting for tough state laws to ensure that we keep guns out of the hands of dangerous people, such as criminals or people with serious mental health problems. There is a great deal of work left to do – and you can be assured that we will keep fighting for as long as it takes to save others the pain of gun violence that we know only too well.

But now, instead of helping us in this fight, we've learned that Washington is trying to pass the Thune Concealed Carry Amendment, legislation that would interfere with our Commonwealth's concealed carry laws. **That's wrong.**

While many of us believe that Virginia's standards for issuing concealed carry permits don't go far enough, we're glad that our Commonwealth has decided to have some standards that go beyond many other states.

For example, Virginia requires that in order to obtain a concealed carry permit, a person must NOT:

- Have received within the previous five years any residential mental health or substance abuse treatment.
- Have been convicted within the previous five years of two or more serious misdemeanors, such as the violation of a protective order, assault, peeping or stalking.
- Be a "habitual drunkard," and not have been convicted within the last three years of drunk driving or of public drunkenness.

Furthermore, Virginia law enforcement officers have the discretion to deny a permit to anyone they believe poses a danger to themselves or others. That is a good and reasonable step.

But Congress is now moving a bill that would make Virginia's requirements meaningless by forcing our law enforcement to honor permits from states with weaker rules.

That means that non-Virginians with concealed carry permits issued by any other state would be able to carry concealed handguns into our cities and towns, from Richmond to Norfolk and from Arlington to Blacksburg.

**Senator Webb and Senator Warner, tell your colleagues that Virginians value the laws we pass, and they should help us make them stronger – not gut them. Please help us save lives.  
Please vote against the Thune Concealed Carry Amendment.**

**Sincerely, VT FAMILIES**

The Panchal Family  
Girish Suratkal  
Sean McQuade  
Jody McQuade  
Kristina Heegar Anderson  
Beth Hilscher  
Jeff Twigg

Dennis & Bev Bluhm  
Bryan Cloyd  
Renee Cloyd  
Mike & Jeri Bishop  
Emily Haas  
Lori & Channing Haas

Lily Habtu  
Bill O'Neil  
Jeanne Dube  
Mike & Teresa Pohle  
Lynnette Alameddine  
Yvonne Alameddine

Cathy & Peter Read  
Marian & Chris Hammaren  
John Hammaren  
Joe & Mona Samaha  
Omar Samaha  
Randa Samaha

Colin Goddard  
Anne & Andy Goddard  
Susan & Jim Carney  
Katelyn Carney  
Suzanne & John Grimes  
Tracey Lane

Call Senator Webb and Senator Warner and ask them to please vote against the **Thune Concealed Carry Amendment.**

**Senator Webb**  
**202-224-4024**

**Senator Warner**  
**202-224-2023**