



**Statement of Esta Soler,
President and Founder, Futures Without Violence**

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Contact: [Lisa Lederer](mailto:lisa@futureswithoutviolence.org), 202/371-1997

Domestic Violence Expert Lauds Inclusion of ‘Boyfriend Loophole’ Fix in Bipartisan Senate Gun Safety Framework, But Says Nation Needs More Progress

“We welcome the framework a bipartisan group of Senators released yesterday. At this time when our world has been shattered and our hearts broken time after time by gun violence, often perpetrated by abusers and/or people with a history of misogyny and hate, we need this progress and are hopeful that the final language will help make families and communities safer.

We are especially pleased that the package will close the ‘boyfriend loophole,’ which for too long has allowed perpetrators of domestic violence to purchase guns if they were not married to or did not live or have a child with their victims. For years we have been asking lawmakers to close this loophole, which has resulted in countless avoidable, tragic domestic homicides. The [share of homicides committed by dating partners has been increasing for three decades and now women are as likely to be killed by dating partners as by spouses](#).

We hope enactment of this legislation will begin to stem the shootings that occur week after week in our country. But this must be the beginning, not the end, of the gun safety reforms Congress passes. Our country needs to restore the ban on the sale of semi-automatic weapons or, if that does not happen, prohibit sales of these military-style assault weapons to purchasers who are 21 or older. We need to expand background checks to guns bought online and at gun shows and ensure they are thorough. We will continue pressing for gun laws that will stop this madness and help make our families, schools, streets and communities safe.”

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ABOUT FUTURES WITHOUT VIOLENCE:

For more than 35 years, FUTURES has been providing groundbreaking programs, policies and campaigns that empower individuals and organizations working to end violence against women and children around the world. Striving to reach new audiences and transform social norms, FUTURES trains professionals such as doctors, nurses, judges and athletic coaches on improving responses to violence and abuse. FUTURES also works with advocates, policymakers and others to build sustainable community leadership and educate people everywhere about the importance of respect and healthy relationships. More information is available at www.futureswithoutviolence.org.