

TED CRUZ ON GUN POLICY

Highlights:

- Ted Cruz opposed gun safety reform.
 - Cruz opposed the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act.
 - Cruz opposed an assault weapons ban.
 - Cruz opposed background checks.
 - Cruz opposed closing the gun show loophole.
 - Cruz opposed the firearm brace rule.
 - Cruz opposed D.C.'s regulation of firearms.
 - Cruz opposed enforcing firearms regulations on federal land.
 - Cruz opposed banning high capacity magazines.
 - Cruz opposed making straw gun purchases illegal.
 - Cruz opposed restricting gun rights of suspected terrorists.
 - Cruz opposed the UN Small Arms Treaty
 - Cruz supported requiring a 60-vote threshold to pass gun safety legislation.
- Ted Cruz was criticized for his response to mass shootings.
 - Cruz blamed Joe Biden's border policies for shootings.
 - Cruz said the solution to gun violence in schools was more guns.
- Ted Cruz opposed funding studies on gun violence.
 - Cruz voted against funding for mental health services.
- Ted Cruz supported easier access to guns.
 - Cruz supported national concealed-carry reciprocity.
 - Cruz supported allowing gun sales across state lines.
 - Cruz supported allowing mentally ill veterans easier access to guns.
- Ted Cruz was heavily funded by the NRA.

Cruz Opposed Gun Safety Reform

CRUZ OPPOSED THE 2022 BIPARTISAN SAFER COMMUNITIES ACT

Cruz Opposed The Bipartisan Safer Communities Act. According to the BBC, “The US Congress has passed a gun control bill - the most significant firearms legislation in nearly 30 years. It imposes tougher checks on young buyers and encourages states to remove guns from people considered a threat. The measures enjoyed bipartisan support, with 14 Republicans joining Democrats in the House to approve the bill by 234 to 193 votes. The bill is now headed to President Joe Biden to be signed into law. On Thursday, the bill also passed in the Senate, with 15 Republican Senators voting alongside their Democratic colleagues in favour of the bill. It ultimately passed in a late-night 65-33 vote. [...] Texas Senator Ted Cruz, who is widely tipped to seek the Republican presidential nomination in 2024, condemned the bill as an attempt to ‘try to disarm law-abiding citizens rather than take serious measures to protect our children.’” [BBC, [6/24/22](#)]

The Law Addressed Gun Violence And Mental Health

The Bipartisan Safer Communities Act Provided Over \$4.6 Billion Through FY 2026 To Address Gun Violence And Mental Health, Expand School-Based Mental Health Services, And Enact Several Gun Restrictions. According to Congressional Quarterly, the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act would “provide over \$4.6 billion in emergency funding through fiscal 2026 to address gun violence and mental health, and tighten restrictions on firearm purchases. Within total appropriations, the bill would provide \$2.1 billion for Education Department support for school-based mental health services and student engagement activities and \$990 million for Health and Human Service Department mental health programs, including \$50 million for grants to states to implement or expand school-based health programs under Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program.” [Congressional Quarterly, [6/23/22](#)]

The Law Expanded Background Checks

The Bipartisan Safer Communities Act Allowed The National Instant Criminal Background Check System To Check Juvenile Criminal And Mental Health Records For Gun Buyers Under 21 Years Of Age And Consider Crimes Committed Or Mental Illness Adjudication At 16 Years Or Older As Disqualifications. According to Congressional Quarterly, the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, would “expand background check requirements by requiring the National Instant Criminal Background Check System to check juvenile criminal and mental health adjudication records for gun purchasers under 21 years of age and apply the existing criteria for disqualification based on crimes committed as a juvenile or adjudication of mental illness at 16 years or older.” [Congressional Quarterly, [6/23/22](#)]

The Law Closed The “Boyfriend Loophole”

The Bipartisan Safer Communities Act Closed The “Boyfriend Loophole,” Which Would Apply Gun Ownership Restrictions For Individuals Convicted Of Domestic Violence, Including Violence Against A Current Or Former Dating Partner. According to Congressional Quarterly, the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act would “close the ‘boyfriend loophole’ by applying restrictions on gun ownership for individuals convicted of domestic violence to include violence against a current or former dating partner.” [Congressional Quarterly, [6/23/22](#)]

- **The Bill Would Prevent Individuals With Domestic Violence Convictions Against Dating Partners From Buying Firearms For At Least Five Years And The Right Would Be Reinstated If The Individual Was A First-Time Offender And Did Not Commit A Crime During Those Five Years.** According to Politico, “In addition, it closes what’s known as the ‘boyfriend loophole’ by barring individuals with misdemeanor convictions of domestic violence against dating partners or former dating partners from purchasing a firearm for at least five years. Under that provision, the right to a firearm would be reinstated after that period if the individual is a first-time offender and has not committed any violent acts during that time frame.” [Politico, [6/23/22](#)]

The Law Required Firearm Dealers To Become Federally Licensed

The Bipartisan Safer Communities Act Required All Individuals Who Sell Firearms To “Predominantly Earn A Profit” To Register To Become Federally Licensed Firearm Dealers. According to Congressional Quarterly, the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act would “narrow the definition of a federally licensed firearm dealer to require registration by all individuals who sell firearms to predominately earn a profit to register.” [Congressional Quarterly, [6/23/22](#)]

The Law Supported Red Flag Laws And Intervention Programs

The Bipartisan Safer Communities Act Reserved \$1.6 Billion For Justice Department Activities To Support School Security, Community Violence Intervention, Community Policing, Improvements To Background Check Systems, And Grants To Implement State Crisis Intervention Programs And “Red Flag” Laws. According to Congressional Quarterly, the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act would, “Within total appropriations, the bill would provide \$1.6 billion for Justice Department activities to support school security, community violence intervention, community-oriented policing and background check system improvements, including \$750 million for new grants under the Byrne JAG program to implement state crisis intervention programs, including mental health, drug and veterans courts, as well as extreme risk protection order or ‘red flag’ programs, provided they include certain due process protections.” [Congressional Quarterly, [6/23/22](#)]

The Bipartisan Safer Communities Act Reserved \$750 Million For Grants To Implement State Crisis Intervention Programs And “Red Flag” Laws. According to Congressional Quarterly, the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act would, “Within total appropriations, the bill would provide \$1.6 billion for Justice Department activities to support school security, community violence intervention, community-oriented policing and background check system improvements, including \$750 million for new grants under the Byrne JAG program to implement state crisis intervention programs, including mental health, drug and veterans courts, as well as extreme risk protection order or ‘red flag’ programs, provided they include certain due process protections.” [Congressional Quarterly, [6/23/22](#)]

The Law Prohibited Straw Purchases And Firearm Trafficking

The Bipartisan Safer Communities Act Prohibited Firearm Trafficking And “Straw Purchases” Or The Acquisition Of Firearms For Individuals Prohibited From Owning A Firearm Or Who Intend To Commit A Crime. According to

Congressional Quarterly, the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act would “prohibit firearm trafficking and ‘straw purchases,’ or the knowing acquisition of firearms on behalf of another individual who is prohibited from owning a firearm or intends to use the firearm to commit a felony.” [Congressional Quarterly, [6/23/22](#)]

CRUZ OPPOSED AN ASSAULT WEAPONS BAN

2013: Cruz Voted Against Banning Assault Weapons And Magazines Holding More Than 10 Rounds Of Ammunition, With Exemptions For Some Firearms Used For Hunting And Recreation. In April 2013, Cruz voted against an amendment that, according to Congressional Quarterly, “would [have] prohibit[ed] the future production, import, sale, transfer or possession of certain firearms considered to be assault weapons and ammunition magazines holding more than 10 rounds, with exemptions for law enforcement officials. It would [have] exempt[ed] certain firearms used for hunting and sporting purposes from the ban. It also would [have] allow[ed] law enforcement grant funds [to] be used to buy back semiautomatic assault weapons and large capacity ammunition clips.” The Senate rejected the proposed amendment to a gun policy bill by a vote of 40 to 60. [Senate Vote 101, [4/17/13](#); Congressional Quarterly, [4/17/13](#); Congressional Actions, [S. Amdt. 711](#); Congressional Actions, [S. 649](#)]

CRUZ OPPOSED UNIVERSAL BACKGROUND CHECKS FOR GUN BUYERS

Cruz Opposed Universal Background Checks For Gun Buyers. According to CBS News, “Cruz didn’t back down from his stance against universal background checks for gun buyers, a measure that was debated but ultimately voted down by the Senate earlier in 2013. ‘Do you target violent criminals, or do you try to take away the constitutional rights of law-abiding citizens?’ Cruz asked, touting an alternative bill he offered that would increase the resources devoted to prosecuting gun-law violations.” [CBS News, [11/9/13](#)]

Cruz Said Universal Background Checks Legislation “Raises Serious Constitutional Concerns.” According to Politico, “‘Senate Democrats are blatantly misconstruing Sen. Cruz’s record to distract to distract from how extreme they are on gun control and how out of touch they are with the American people,’ Cruz spokeswoman Catherine Frazier said in an e-mail to POLITICO. ‘Sen. Cruz’s comments were related to improving the existing background check system, as discussed in Judiciary hearings just a few weeks ago. Under current law, states are supposed to report the names of individuals with mental illnesses to the federal gun background check database, but that doesn’t always happen. ‘This is completely different from liberals’ effort to expand background checks to any individual that would seek to own a firearm,’ Frazier said. ‘Democrats’ proposed legislation would require universal background checks for private sales between law-abiding citizens, which according to DOJ would be effective only if accompanied by a national gun registry – a measure that raises serious constitutional concerns.’” [Politico, [3/26/13](#)]

Cruz Repeatedly Voted Against Background Checks

2018: Cruz Effectively Voted Against Efforts To Improve The National Instant Criminal Background Check System

2018: Cruz Effectively Voted Against The \$1.3 Trillion FY 2018 Omnibus Spending Deal, Which Raised Spending By \$138 Billion Over FY 2017 Levels; Legislation Included The Fix NICS Act, Which Would Attempt To Better The National Instant Criminal Background Check System. In March 2018, Cruz effectively voted against the FY 2018 Omnibus spending bill. According to Congressional Quarterly, “Combined, the spending measures would provide about \$1.3 trillion in discretionary spending, with \$1.2 trillion subject to discretionary spending caps, and \$78.1 billion designated as Overseas Contingency Operations funds. The measure's spending levels are consistent with the increased defense and non-defense budget caps set by the two-year budget deal agreed to last month. That agreement increased the FY 2018 defense cap by \$80 billion and the non-defense cap by \$63 billion. Given that the previous caps were set to reduce overall discretionary spending by \$5 billion, the net increase provided by the omnibus is \$138 billion over the FY 2017 level.” The vote was a motion to invoke cloture. The Senate agreed to the motion by a vote of 67 to 30. The Senate later agreed to the legislation, sending it to the president, who signed it into law. [Senate Vote 62, [3/23/18](#); Congressional Quarterly, [3/22/18](#); Congressional Actions, [H.R. 1625](#)]

Cruz Voted In Opposition To Adding People Who Could Not Manage Their Own Finances To The National Criminal Background Check System

2017: Cruz Voted To Disapprove A Rule Adding Individuals Who Cannot Manage Their Own Finances, Often Due To Mental Impairment, To The National Criminal Background Check System. In February 2017, Cruz voted for

disapproving a rule preventing certain people deemed mentally ill from obtaining weapons via the Congressional Review Act. According to Congressional Quarterly, “This resolution disapproves the rule submitted by the Social Security Administration relating to Implementation of the NICS Improvement Amendments Act of 2007, which was published in the Federal Register on Dec. 19, 2016. It provides that the rule would have no force or effect.” The vote was on the legislation. The Senate agreed to the legislation by a vote of 57 to 43. President Trump later signed the legislation into law. [Senate Vote 66, [2/15/17](#); Congressional Quarterly, [1/27/17](#); Congressional Actions, [H.J. Res. 40](#)]

Cruz Repeatedly Effectively Voted Against Expanding The Federal Background Check System

2016: Cruz Effectively Voted Against Expanding The Federal Background Check Requirement To Cover All Firearm Sales. In June 2016, Cruz effectively voted against an amendment that would have, according to Congressional Quarterly, “require[d] that a background check be conducted for every firearm sale and would [have] require[d] federal agencies to certify that they have submitted pertinent information for the purpose of background checks.” The underlying legislation was a bill that would have funded Commerce, Justice and Science in FY 2017. The vote was on a motion to table a motion to commit the bill to the Judiciary committee with instructions. The Senate agreed to the motion by a vote of 56 to 42. [Senate Vote 107, [6/20/16](#); Congressional Quarterly, [6/20/16](#); Congressional Actions, [S. Amdt. 4750](#); Congressional Actions, [H.R. 2578](#)]

2015: Cruz Effectively Voted Against Expanding Federal Background Check Requirement To Cover Firearms Purchases At Gun Shows, Over The Internet Or Through An Ad, While Excluding Sales Between Family Members And Friends. In December 2015, Cruz effectively voted against expanding federal background check requirement to cover firearms purchases at gun shows, over the internet or through an ad, while excluding sales between family members and friends. According to Congressional Quarterly, the amendment would have “expand[d] the use of the National Instant Criminal Background Check System to include firearms purchased on the Internet or at a gun show, and would make it unlawful to sell or transfer a firearm under such circumstances without first completing a background check.” The underlying legislation was a substitute amendment repealing key provisions of the Affordable Care Act while also defunding Planned Parenthood. The vote was on a motion to waive all applicable budgetary discipline, which required a 3/5ths majority. The Senate rejected the motion by a vote of 48 to 50. [Senate Vote 321, [12/3/15](#); Congressional Quarterly, [12/3/15](#); Congressional Quarterly, [12/3/15](#); Congressional Actions, [S. Amdt. 2908](#); Congressional Actions, [S. Amdt. 2874](#); Congressional Actions, [H.R. 3762](#)]

2013: Cruz Effectively Voted To Block Legislation Expanding Background Check Requirements For Gun Transactions And Increasing Penalties For Illegal Gun Sales. In April 2013, Cruz effectively voted against a bill to expand background checks and increase penalties for illegal gun sales. According to the New York Times, “The strong majority in favor of considering legislation that would expand background checks and increase the penalties for illegal gun sales reflected the power of a lobbying campaign by parents of students killed in Newtown, Conn., and by others who persuaded reluctant lawmakers to back them in an initial fight that looked lost just last week. The vote was 68 to 31.” The vote was on a cloture motion on the motion to proceed. Senate agreed to the motion by a vote of 68 to 31, and then agreed to the underlying motion to proceed by voice vote. The bill was subsequently considered by the Senate but no further action had been taken as of September, 2013. [Senate Vote 95, [4/11/13](#); New York Times, [4/11/13](#); Congressional Actions, [S. 649](#)]

CRUZ OPPOSED CLOSING THE GUN SHOW LOOPHOLE

Cruz Repeatedly Voted Against Closing The Gun Show Loophole

2018: Cruz Effectively Voted Against The \$1.3 Trillion FY 2018 Omnibus Spending Deal, Which Raised Spending By \$138 Billion Over FY 2017 Levels; Legislation Included The Fix NICS Act, Which Would Attempt To Better The National Instant Criminal Background Check System. In March 2018, Cruz effectively voted against the FY 2018 Omnibus spending bill. According to Congressional Quarterly, “Combined, the spending measures would provide about \$1.3 trillion in discretionary spending, with \$1.2 trillion subject to discretionary spending caps, and \$78.1 billion designated as Overseas Contingency Operations funds. The measure's spending levels are consistent with the increased defense and non-defense budget caps set by the two-year budget deal agreed to last month. That agreement increased the FY 2018 defense cap by \$80 billion and the non-defense cap by \$63 billion. Given that the previous caps were set to reduce overall discretionary spending by \$5 billion, the net increase provided by the omnibus is \$138 billion over the FY 2017 level.” The vote was a motion to invoke cloture. The Senate agreed to the motion by a vote of 67 to 30. The Senate later agreed to the legislation, sending it to the president, who signed it into law. [Senate Vote 62, [3/23/18](#); Congressional Quarterly, [3/22/18](#); Congressional Actions, [H.R. 1625](#)]

2013: Cruz Voted Against Expanding Federal Background Check Requirement To Cover Firearms Purchases At Gun Shows, Over The Internet Or Through An Ad, While Excluding Sales Between Family Members And Friends. In April 2013, Cruz voted against an amendment that, according to the Albuquerque Journal, “aimed to block criminals and the seriously mentally ill from obtaining firearms. Currently, mandatory background checks apply only to purchases from licensed firearms dealers. The so-called Manchin-Toomey amendment would have expanded the checks to include firearms purchased online or from advertisements, but not to guns acquired from friends and relatives. The compromise was widely seen as the best chance for some kind of gun law change in the Senate - at least in the early days of the 113th Congress.” The Senate rejected the proposed amendment to proposed gun law legislation by a vote of 54 to 46; the Senate had previously decided that 60 votes would be required for the amendment to be agreed to. [Senate Vote 97, [4/17/13](#); Albuquerque Journal, 4/18/13; Congressional Actions, [S. Amdt. 715](#); Congressional Actions, [S. 649](#)]

Cruz Voted For Maintaining The Gun Show Loophole

2016: Cruz Effectively Voted For A GOP Gun Bill That Maintained The Gun Show Exemption From Background Checks While Also Reauthorizing The Background Check System And Encouraged States To Submit Mental Health Records To The Background Check System. In June 2016, Cruz effectively voted for legislation that, according to Congressional Quarterly would have “reauthorize[d] the National Instant Criminal Background Check System at \$125 million annually through fiscal 2020.” In addition, according to Vox, the amendment would not have “expand[ed] the use of the background check system — instead, it would [have] expand[ed] what’s currently included in it. [...] [T]he amendment would encourage states to submit some mental health records to be included in the system. [...] [T]he amendment would [have] ma[d]e it harder for the VA to prevent veterans from buying guns on mental health grounds — something that Grassley and other Republicans have complained about the Obama administration doing unilaterally.” The underlying legislation was a bill that would have funded Commerce, Justice and Science in FY 2017. The vote was on a motion to invoke cloture, requiring 60 affirmative votes. The Senate rejected the motion by a vote of 53 to 47. [Senate Vote 103, [6/20/16](#); Congressional Quarterly, [6/20/16](#); Vox, [6/20/16](#); Congressional Actions, [S. Amdt. 4751](#); Congressional Actions, [S. Amdt. 4750](#); Congressional Actions, [H.R. 2578](#)]

2013: Cruz Voted For GOP Gun Bill Maintaining Gun Show Exemption From Background Checks, Increasing School Security Funding And Prohibiting Buying A Gun To Give To A Person Banned From Buying One Themselves. In April 2013, Cruz voted for legislation that, according to Congressional Quarterly, “would [have] reauthorize[d] grants to help states use the national background check database. It would [have] require[d] federal courts to submit records to the database and restrict[ed] federal grant funds to states that do not meet reporting requirements. It also would [have] expand[ed] definitions of mental illness that prohibit individuals from owning guns, ma[d]e it a federal crime to purchase firearms on behalf of people legally barred from owning them and call[ed] for a task force to investigate and prosecute attempted firearm purchases by felons and fugitives. It would [have] prohibit[ed] the Justice Department from inducing licensed gun dealers to sell firearms to a straw purchaser unless department officials certify that certain safeguards are in place. It would [have] call[ed] for a study on the causes of mass shootings, including the impact of violent video games, and reauthorize[d] grant programs on school security, mental health and crime prevention.” The legislation was considered as a substitute amendment to Senate Democrats’ gun legislation, and under an earlier Senate agreement, the amendment required 60 votes to be adopted. The Senate rejected the amendment by a vote of 52 to 48. [Senate Vote 98, [4/17/13](#); Congressional Quarterly, [4/17/13](#); Congressional Actions, [S. Amdt. 725](#); Congressional Actions, [S. 649](#)]

CRUZ VOTED TO DISAPPROVE THE ATF’S FIREARM BRACE RULE

2023: Cruz Voted To Disapprove A Rule From The Bureau Of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, And Explosives That Expanded The Definition Of “Short-Barreled Rifle” To Include A Pistol With A Stabilizing Brace. In June 2023, according to Congressional Quarterly, Cruz voted for a joint resolution that would “provide for congressional disapproval of the January 2023 Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives rule that expands the definition of a ‘short-barreled rifle’ to include a pistol equipped with a stabilizing brace attachment. The rule also subjects such firearms to heightened regulations under the National Firearms Act, including taxation, identification and registration requirements, and as of May 31, 2023 required owners to register, modify or destroy such firearms. Under the provisions of the joint resolution, the ATF rule would have no force or effect.” The vote was on passage. The Senate rejected the joint resolution by a vote of 49 to 50. [Senate Vote 171, [6/22/23](#); Congressional Quarterly, [6/22/23](#); Congressional Actions, [H.J. Res. 44](#)]

CRUZ VOTED TO OVERTURN D.C.’S GUN LAWS

Cruz Voted To Prohibit D.C. From Regulating Firearms

2015: Cruz Voted To Prohibit Washington, D.C. From Regulating Firearms. In December 2015, Cruz voted to prohibit Washington, D.C.'s from regulating firearms. According to Congressional Quarterly, the amendment would have "prohibit[ed] the District of Columbia from regulating firearms." The amendment also would have "repeal[ed] restrictions on the transportation and ownership of firearms and would establish an application process for obtaining a firearm license. The amendment further prohibits the District of Columbia from regulating firearms [...] [and] repeal[ed] [D.C.'s] registration requirements and semiautomatic weapon ban." The underlying legislation was a substitute amendment repealing key provisions of the Affordable Care Act while also defunding Planned Parenthood. The vote was on the amendment and required a 3/5ths majority. The Senate rejected the amendment by a vote of 54 to 45. [Senate Vote 325, [12/3/15](#); Congressional Quarterly, [12/3/15](#); Congressional Quarterly, [12/3/15](#); Congressional Actions, [S. Amdt. 2915](#); Congressional Actions, [S. Amdt. 2874](#); Congressional Actions, [H.R. 3762](#)]

Cruz Voted To Repeal D.C.'s Gun Registration Requirement And Semiautomatic Weapon Ban

2015: Cruz Voted To Repeal Washington, D.C.'s Registration Requirement And Its Semiautomatic Weapon Ban. In December 2015, Cruz voted to repeal Washington, D.C.'s registration requirement and its semiautomatic weapon ban. According to Congressional Quarterly, the amendment would have "repeal[ed] [D.C.'s] registration requirements and semiautomatic weapon ban." In addition, the amendment would have "repeal[ed] restrictions on the transportation and ownership of firearms and would establish an application process for obtaining a firearm license. The amendment further prohibits the District of Columbia from regulating firearms." The underlying legislation was a substitute amendment repealing key provisions of the Affordable Care Act while also defunding Planned Parenthood. The vote was on the amendment and required a 3/5ths majority. The Senate rejected the amendment by a vote of 54 to 45. [Senate Vote 325, [12/3/15](#); Congressional Quarterly, [12/3/15](#); Congressional Quarterly, [12/3/15](#); Congressional Actions, [S. Amdt. 2915](#); Congressional Actions, [S. Amdt. 2874](#); Congressional Actions, [H.R. 3762](#)]

CRUZ VOTED TO PROHIBIT THE ARMY SECRETARY FROM ENFORCING FIREARM REGULATIONS ON FEDERALLY MANAGED WATER INFRASTRUCTURE

2013: Cruz Voted For An Amendment Prohibiting The Army Secretary From Establishing Or Enforcing Firearm Regulations On Federally Managed Water Infrastructure Property. In May 2013, Cruz voted for an amendment prohibiting the Army secretary from creating or enforcing firearm regulations on federally managed water infrastructure projects. According to Congressional Quarterly, the amendment would have "bar[red] the Army secretary from establishing or enforcing regulations that prohibit the possession of firearms on water infrastructure property managed by the Army Corps of Engineers if the individual is not prohibited from possessing it and is in compliance with state gun laws." The underlying bill was the Water Resources Development Reauthorization Act. The vote was on the amendment. The Senate rejected the amendment by a vote of 56 to 43; 60 Senators voting yes would have been required for the adoption of the amendment. [Senate Vote 115, [5/8/13](#); Congressional Quarterly, [5/8/13](#); Congressional Actions, [S. Amdt. 805](#); Congressional Actions, [S. Amdt. 799](#); Congressional Actions, [S. 601](#)]

CRUZ VOTED AGAINST BANNING MAGAZINES HOLDING MORE THAN 10 ROUNDS

2013: Cruz Voted Against Banning Firearm Magazines Capable Of Holding More Than 10 Rounds Of Ammunition. In April 2013, Cruz voted against an amendment that, according to Congressional Quarterly, "would [have] prohibit[ed] the future production, import, sale, transfer or possession of ammunition magazines holding more than 10 rounds, with exemptions for law enforcement officials. It would also [have] allow[ed] law enforcement grant funds be used to buy back semiautomatic assault weapons and large capacity ammunition clips." The Senate rejected the proposed amendment to Senate-considered gun control legislation by a vote of 46 to 54. [Senate Vote 103, [4/17/13](#); Congressional Quarterly, [4/17/13](#); Congressional Actions, [S. Amdt. 714](#); Congressional Actions, [S. 649](#)]

CRUZ VOTED AGAINST MAKING PURCHASING GUNS FOR THOSE WHO WERE LEGALLY BARRED FROM OWNING ONE A FEDERAL CRIME

2013: Cruz Voted Against An Amendment Making Straw Purchases Of Firearms For Those Legally Barred From Owning One A Federal Crime. In April 2013, Cruz voted against an amendment making it a federal crime to purchase firearms for those who are legally barred from having one. According to Congressional Quarterly, the amendment would have “revise[d] provisions in the bill that would make it a federal crime to purchase firearms on behalf of those legally barred from owning them to include exceptions for firearms purchased as a raffle, contest or auction award, as a gratuity for a hunting guide, as an employee bonus or as a commemorative award or honorarium.” According to the Washington Post, the amendment also “makes gun trafficking a federal crime and strengthens the penalties against,” and according to Mother Jones, “Convicted gun traffickers would face prison sentences of up to 25 years.” The vote was on the amendment. The Senate rejected the amendment 58 to 42; 60 Senators voting yes would have been required for the adoption of the amendment. The underlying bill, a bill on gun control, died in the Senate. [Senate Vote 99, [4/17/13](#); Congressional Quarterly, [4/17/13](#); Washington Post, [4/17/13](#); Mother Jones, [4/17/13](#); Congressional Actions, [S. Amdt. 713](#); Congressional Actions, [S. 649](#)]

CRUZ VOTED AGAINST THE UN SMALL ARMS TRADE TREATY

2013: Cruz Voted To Support Allowing Legislation Upholding Second Amendment Rights, In Particular, Legislation Preventing The United States From Entering Into The U.N. Small Arms Trade Treaty. In March 2013, Cruz voted for an amendment that, according to The Hill, “would prevent the United States from entering into the United Nations Arms Trade Treaty in order to uphold the Second Amendment.” The amendment was to the Senate’s fiscal year 2014 budget resolution, and was non-binding. The Senate agreed to the amendment by a vote of 53 to 46; the underlying budget resolution was later adopted by the Senate. Some provisions of the Senate-passed budget resolution were later included in the December 2013 Ryan-Murray budget agreement. [Senate Vote 91, [3/23/13](#); The Hill, [3/23/13](#); Congressional Record, [3/20/13](#); Congressional Actions, [S. Amdt. 139](#); Congressional Actions, [S. Con. Res. 8](#)]

2015: Cruz Voted To Block Funding For Any International Organization Charged With Implementing The United Nations Small Arms Trade Treaty, Until Congress Approves The Treaty. In March 2015, Cruz voted for an amendment that, according to Congressional Quarterly, “would establish a spending-neutral reserve fund that would allow for legislation to prohibit funding for the UN Arms Treaty secretariat or any international organizations created to support the implementation of the UN Arms Trade Treaty prior to Senate ratification and adoption of implementing legislation.” The Senate adopted the proposed amendment to the Senate’s FY 2016 budget resolution by a vote of 59 to 41, and subsequently passed the amendment resolution. The final budget resolution included the policy. [Senate Vote 108, [3/26/15](#); Congressional Quarterly, [3/26/15](#); S. Con. Res. 11, [4/7/15](#); Congress.gov, [H. Rept. 114-96](#); Congressional Actions, [S. Amdt. 649](#); Congressional Actions, [S. Con. Res. 11](#)]

CRUZ VOTED TO CREATE A 60-VOTE POINT OF ORDER AGAINST FURTHER GUN CONTROL LEGISLATION

2013: Cruz Voted For Creating A 60 Vote Point Of Order Against Further Gun Control Legislation. In March 2013, Cruz voted for an amendment creating a 60 vote point of order for any further gun control legislation. According to Congressional Quarterly, the amendment would have, “create[d] a 60-vote point of order against certain legislation related to gun policy, including prohibiting the possession of certain types of guns, limiting the size of ammunition clips or requiring background checks for private firearm transfers.” The underlying legislation was on the FY 2014 budget resolution. The vote was on the amendment. The Senate rejected the amendment by a vote of 50 to 49; 60 Senators yes would have been required for the adoption of the amendment. [Senate Vote 87, [3/23/13](#); Congressional Quarterly, [3/23/13](#); Congressional Actions, [S. Amdt. 673](#); Congressional Actions, [S.Con.Res. 8](#)]

Cruz Was Called Out For His Lackluster Responses To School Shootings

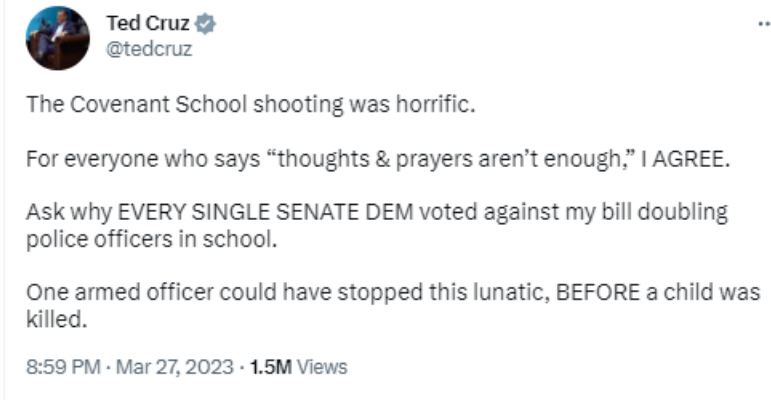
SENATOR CHRIS MURPHY ATTACKED CRUZ’S GUN POLICIES

2023: Senator Chris Murphy Attacked Cruz For Being Unwilling To Address The Gun Crisis In America. According to Fox News, “While promoting stricter laws on firearms during an appearance on ‘Salon Talks’ Tuesday, Murphy, D-Conn., took aim at Republicans seeking to protect Second Amendment rights. ‘It is beyond me why Republicans who claim to care about the health of our kids don’t seem to give a crap about our children who are being exposed to these epidemic, cataclysmic rates of gun violence,’ Murphy said in the interview. When Murphy was asked if he could reach any GOP lawmakers, specifically Cruz, on the issue, he did not refrain from slamming the Republican senator. ‘I don’t know that I have battles with Ted Cruz. I just tend to ignore him. I mean, he comes to the floor and makes these ridiculous requests. I object to

them and then leave the floor. And he yells at me for a while once I'm back in my office, but I'm not sure that they're actual battles. Ted Cruz is looking for confrontations and opportunities to yell at people, and I would rather not give him those opportunities,' he said, adding that Cruz is 'not in the Senate to compromise. He's in the Senate to get clicks.'" [Fox News, [3/15/23](#)]

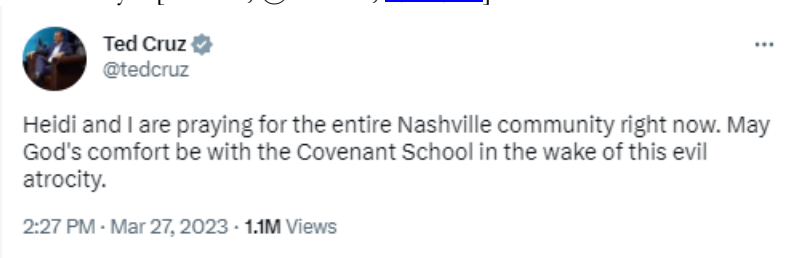
Cruz Tried To Defend Himself After Being Attacked For Tweeting His "Thoughts And Prayers" For The School Shooting In Nashville, Claiming He Has Done A Lot To Combat Gun Violence

Cruz Tweeted: "For Everyone Who Says 'Thoughts & Prayers Aren't Enough,' I Agree. Ask Why Every Single Senate Dem Voted Against My Bill Doubling Police Officers In School." Cruz tweeted, "The Covenant School shooting was horrific. For everyone who says 'thoughts & prayers aren't enough,' I AGREE. Ask why EVERY SINGLE SENATE DEM voted against my bill doubling police officers in school. One armed officer could have stopped this lunatic, BEFORE a child was killed." [Twitter, @tedcruz, [3/27/23](#)]



[Twitter, @tedcruz, [3/27/23](#)]

Cruz Tweeted His Thoughts And Prayers After The School Shooting In Nashville. Cruz tweeted, "Heidi and I are praying for the entire Nashville community right now. May God's comfort be with the Covenant School in the wake of this evil atrocity." [Twitter, @tedcruz, [3/27/23](#)]



[Twitter, @tedcruz, [3/27/23](#)]

CRUZ ADVOCATED FOR INCREASED GUNS IN SCHOOLS IN AN EFFORT TO DECREASE GUN VIOLENCE

Cruz Used The Tennessee School Shooting To Attack Democrats For Not Passing His "School Safety" Bill Which Would Arm Security Guards In Schools

Press Release From Senator Ted Cruz: "Sen. Cruz Fights To Pass Two School Safety Bills On Senate Floor"

According to press release from Senator Ted Cruz, "Today on the Senate floor, U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Texas) reintroduced and fought for the immediate passage of his Securing Our Schools Act and the Protect Our Children's Schools Act. The bills would improve school security and access to student mental health resources and allow schools to use unspent, previously appropriated federal COVID-19 education-related funding to improve school security. Sen. Chris Murphy (D-Conn.) objected to Sen. Cruz's effort and blocked both bills from passing the Senate, without explaining which policies within the bills he opposed. Sen. Murphy previously objected to both bills last Congress." [Press release -- Senator Ted Cruz, [3/30/23](#)]

Cruz: "Why On Earth Do We Protect A Stupid Deposit More Than Our Children? It's A Shame Senate Democrats Refuse To Pass My School Safety Legislation." Cruz tweeted, "There are armed police officers in banks. Why? Because we

want to protect the money we save. Why on earth do we protect a stupid deposit more than our children? It's a shame Senate Democrats refuse to pass my school safety legislation." [Twitter, @SenTedCruz, [3/30/23](#)]



Senator Ted Cruz
@SenTedCruz

...

There are armed police officers in banks. Why? Because we want to protect the money we save.

Why on earth do we protect a stupid deposit more than our children?

It's a shame Senate Democrats refuse to pass my school safety legislation.



9:38 AM · Mar 31, 2023 · 41.1K Views

[Twitter, @SenTedCruz, [3/30/23](#)]

Following The Tennessee School Shooting, Cruz Claimed Banks Were Some Of The Most Protected Spaces Because It Had Armed Guards, Ten Days Later A Mass Shooting Took Place At A Bank In Louisville

Cruz Asserted That Banks Were Exempt From Gun Violence In The Aftermath Of The Tennessee School Shooting.

According to Independent, "Texas Senator Ted Cruz used armed officers at banks as an example of implementing more firearms to increase safety on school campuses, 10 days before the Louisville bank shooting. On 31 March, just days after The Covenant School shooting in Nashville, Tennessee, Mr Cruz (R-TX) posted an image on Twitter where he compared firearms present at banks to the need for firearms at schools to prevent school shootings. 'When you go to the bank and you deposit money in the bank, there are armed police officers at the bank. Why? Because we want to protect the money we save. Why on earth do we protect a stupid deposit more than our children?' The image read." [Independent, [4/11/23](#)]

Ten Days After Cruz Claimed Banks Were Safe, Six People Were Killed And Eight Others Were Injured In A Shooting At A Bank.

According to Independent, "However, Mr Cruz's example of banks being physically secure did not age well. Six people were shot dead and eight others were injured in a shooting at Old National Bank on Monday. Mr Cruz's Twitter post was mocked with replies after the tragic shooting." [Independent, [4/11/23](#)]

Cruz Tweeted, "Let Me Be Clear: Yes, I Want To Double The Number Of Police Officers Protecting Our Kids In Schools."

Cruz tweeted, "Let me be clear: Yes, I want to double the number of police officers protecting our kids in schools. More on #Verdict: The FBI's targeting Catholics, NBA coaches are attacking the Second Amendment & Bud Light is going woke. @benfergusonshow" [Twitter, @tedcruz, [4/12/23](#)]



Let me be clear: Yes, I want to double the number of police officers protecting our kids in schools.

More on [#Verdict](#): The FBI's targeting Catholics, NBA coaches are attacking the Second Amendment & Bud Light is going woke. [@benfergusonshow](#)



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10:49 AM · Apr 13, 2023 · 9,455 Views

[Twitter, [@tedcruz](#), [4/12/23](#)]

CRUZ SHIFTED BLAME ON MASS SHOOTINGS FROM GUNS TO ANYTHING BUT GUNS

Cruz Blamed Mass Shootings On declining Church Attendance, Violent Video Games, Prescription Drugs, Social Media Bullying And Other Societal Factors, But Not Guns

2022: Cruz Blamed Mass Shootings On Several Issues, None Of Which Were Guns. According to The Hill, “Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Texas) blamed declining church attendance, violent video games, prescription drugs, social media bullying and other societal factors — but not guns — for the wave of mass shootings in the U.S. during an address to National Rifle Association (NRA) members on Friday. ‘We know that many of these who seek to commit the most heinous crimes, they’re isolated from human contact,’ Cruz said. ‘They’re living a virtual life in the absence of community of community and faith and love.’ During the event, located a short drive away from the Uvalde, Texas, massacre that claimed the lives of 19 children and two adults, Cruz called on Congress to enhance security at schools, but reiterated his opposition to any efforts to tighten gun laws. ‘What stops armed bad guys is armed good guys,’ he said, arguing that lawmakers’ proposal to expand background checks on gun sales wouldn’t prevent most mass murders.” [The Hill, [5/27/22](#)]

Cruz Shifted Blame On Mass Shootings From Guns To Biden’s Border Policies

Cruz Blamed A Mass Shooting In Texas On Biden’s Border Policy. According to Newsweek, “On Friday night, a man identified by ICE as a 38-year-old Mexican national named Francisco Oropeza, went on a shooting rampage in the small rural town of Cleveland, Texas, after a neighbor asked him to stop firing his gun in his yard because a baby next door was trying to sleep. The confrontation turned deadly when the suspect re-emerged from his house with an assault rifle and killed five people, including a 9-year-old boy, in a neighboring house.[...] ‘Joe Biden & Kamala Harris made the deliberate political decision to open our borders & allow SIX MILLION illegal immigrants to cross,’ Senator Ted Cruz of Texas tweeted on Sunday. ‘This death & carnage is the predictable and tragic result.’” [Newsweek, [5/1/23](#)]

Cruz Opposed Federally Funded Gun Violence Research

CRUZ VOTED AGAINST FUNDING FOR GUN VIOLENCE RESEARCH

2019: Cruz Voted Against The FY 2020 Minibus Appropriations Bill, Which Provided \$25 Million for Gun Violence Research. In December 2019, Cruz voted against the FY 2020 minibus spending bill According to The Hill, “federal agencies will receive \$25 million from Congress to study gun violence [...] The deal includes \$12.5 million each for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and National Institutes of Health to study gun violence and ways to prevent it.” The vote was a motion to concur. The Senate agreed to the motion by a vote of 71-23, thereby sending the bill to the president, who signed it into law. [Senate Vote 415, [12/19/19](#); The Hill, [12/16/19](#); Congressional Actions, [H.R.1865](#)]

Cruz Supported Laws That Made Guns More Widely Available

CRUZ RECIPROCITY VOTED TO ALLOW CONCEALED CARRY RECIPROCITY

2013: Cruz Voted To Make Concealed Carry Permits Issued In Any One State Valid In Any Other State That Permits Concealed Carry. In April 2013, Cruz voted for an amendment that, according to Congressional Quarterly, “would allow concealed-carry permits issued in one state to be valid in all others that issue such permits. It would require that a person carrying a concealed weapon outside of the permitting-issuing state, follow the concealed-carry regulations of the state in which the individual is located.” The Senate, having agreed to require 60 votes to adopt the amendment, rejected it by a vote of 57 to 43. [Senate Vote 100, [4/17/13](#)]

CRUZ VOTED TO ALLOW GUN SALES ACROSS STATE LINES

2015: Cruz Voted To Permit The Sale Of Handguns Across State Lines. In December 2015, Cruz voted for allowing the sale of handguns across state lines. According to Senator Rand Paul, the amendment would have “allow[ed] for the purchase of handguns across state lines in the same manner as long rifles and shotguns.” The amendment also would have “repeal[ed] restrictions on the transportation and ownership of firearms and would establish an application process for obtaining a firearm license. The amendment further prohibits the District of Columbia from regulating firearms and repeals its registration requirements and semiautomatic weapon ban.” The underlying legislation was a substitute amendment repealing key provisions of the Affordable Care Act while also defunding Planned Parenthood. The vote was on the amendment and required a 3/5ths majority. The Senate rejected the amendment by a vote of 54 to 45. [Senate Vote 325, [12/3/15](#); Office Of Senator Rand Paul, [Accessed 12/9/15](#); Congressional Quarterly, [12/3/15](#); Congressional Quarterly, [12/3/15](#); Congressional Actions, [S. Amdt. 2915](#); Congressional Actions, [S. Amdt. 2874](#); Congressional Actions, [H.R. 3762](#)]

CRUZ VOTED AGAINST PROHIBITING SUSPECTED TERRORISTS FROM BUYING GUNS

2016: Cruz Effectively Voted Against Allowing The U.S Attorney General To Deny Individuals Who Are On The ‘No Fly List’ Or The ‘Selective List’ From Purchasing Firearms; The Measure Would Allow The Potential Buyer To Challenge The Denial In Court. In June 2016, Cruz effectively voted against an amendment that would have, according to Congressional Quarterly, “allow[ed] for the attorney general to block a gun transfer to an individual that is on the ‘no fly’ or ‘selectee list,’ if there is a reasonable basis to believe, based on specific information and evidence, that the individual is in some way related to terrorism, would [have] notif[ied] law enforcement officials if an individual that has appeared on the Terrorist Screening Database within the last five years has requested a firearm transfer, and would [have] allow[ed] for an expedited review for a petition on the denial of the transfer that would [have] require[d] a reasonable basis based on specific and articulate information and credible evidence that the transferee is or has been engaged with terrorism in order to uphold the block on the transfer.” The underlying legislation was a bill that would have funded Commerce, Justice and Science in FY 2017. The vote was on a motion to table a motion to commit the bill to the Judiciary committee with instructions. The Senate agreed to the motion by a vote of 67 to 31. [Senate Vote 110, [6/23/16](#); Congressional Quarterly, [6/23/16](#); Congressional Actions, [S. Amdt. 4859](#); Congressional Actions, [S. Amdt. 4858](#); Congressional Actions, [H.R. 2578](#)]

2016: Cruz Effectively Voted Against Preventing Suspected Terrorists From Purchasing Firearms. In June 2016, Cruz effectively voted against an amendment that would have, according to Congressional Quarterly, “authorize[d] the attorney general to deny the transfer of a firearm to an individual that represents a threat to public safety based on reasonable suspicion

that the individual has ties to terrorism.” According to Vox, the amendment also would have allowed “the federal government [...] [to] give greater scrutiny to any gun purchase from someone on the ‘terrorist watch list’ or anyone who’s been investigated in connection with terrorism over the past five years.” The underlying legislation was a bill that would have funded Commerce, Justice and Science in FY 2017. The vote was on a motion to invoke cloture, requiring 60 affirmative votes. The Senate rejected the motion by a vote of 47 to 53. [Senate Vote 106, [6/20/16](#); Congressional Quarterly, [6/20/16](#); Vox, [6/20/16](#); Congressional Actions, [S. Amdt. 4720](#); Congressional Actions, [S. Amdt. 4685](#); Congressional Actions, [H.R. 2578](#)]

2015: Cruz Effectively Voted Against Allowing The U.S. Attorney General To Deny Suspected Or Known Terrorists From Buying Firearms. In December 2015, Cruz effectively voted against allowing the U.S. Attorney General to prevent suspected or known terrorists from purchasing a firearm. According to Congressional Quarterly, the amendment would have “allow[ed] the attorney general to deny the sale or transfer of a firearm, as well as the issuance of a firearms or explosives license or permit, to an individual known or suspected to have been engaged in conduct constituting, related to or supporting terrorism.” The underlying legislation was a substitute amendment repealing key provisions of the Affordable Care Act while also defunding Planned Parenthood. The vote was on a motion to waive all applicable budgetary discipline, which required a 3/5ths majority. The Senate rejected the motion by a vote of 45 to 54. [Senate Vote 319, [12/3/15](#); Congressional Quarterly, [12/3/15](#); Congressional Quarterly, [12/3/15](#); Congressional Actions, [S. Amdt. 2910](#); Congressional Actions, [S. Amdt. 2874](#); Congressional Actions, [H.R. 3762](#)]

CRUZ VOTED TO MAKE IT EASIER FOR MENTALLY ILL VETERANS TO ACCESS GUNS

2013: Cruz Voted For An Amendment Making It Easier For Mentally Ill Veterans To Obtain Firearms. In April 2013, Cruz voted to make it easier for mentally ill veterans to obtain firearms. According to Congressional Quarterly, the amendment would have “prevent[ed] veterans who are mentally incapacitated, deemed mentally incompetent or experiencing an extended loss of consciousness from being deemed ‘a mental defective’ and blocked from owning guns unless a court finds that the individual poses a danger to himself or others.” According to the Washington Post, “Opponents argue that it would make it easier for mentally ill veterans to obtain firearms.” The vote was on the amendment. The Senate rejected the amendment 56 to 44; 60 Senators voting yes would have been required for the adoption of the amendment. The underlying bill, a bill on gun control, died in the Senate. [Senate Vote 102, [4/17/13](#); Congressional Quarterly, [4/17/13](#); Washington Post, [4/17/13](#); Congressional Actions, [S. Amdt. 720](#); Congressional Actions, [S. 649](#)]

Cruz Was Heavily Funded By The NRA

CRUZ WAS LISTED AS A POLITICIAN HEAVILY FUNDED BY THE NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION

Cruz Was Listed As A Politician Heavily Funded By The National Rifle Association. According to KCRA News, “Open Secrets has also compiled a database of current members in the 118th Congress who have received the most funding from the NRA. The report reveals the NRA has funded tens of millions of dollars to support gun rights politicians – including Ted Cruz, Mitt Romney, Lindsey Graham and Mitch McConnell. The report also shows the NRA spent millions of dollars against gun control politicians, including Elizabeth Warren, Chuck Schumer, Jon Ossoff and Raphael Warnock.” [KCRA News, [5/16/23](#)]