

VETO MESSAGE: No

GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING: Yes

FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:

To check for circulating copies, contact New Jersey State Government Publications at the State Library (609) 278-2640 ext.103 or <mailto:refdesk@njstatelib.org>

REPORTS: No

HEARINGS: No

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES: Yes

"New laws will provide services to gun violence victims,"
Burlington County Times (Willingboro, NJ) - August 6, 2019

"NJ aims to help victims of gun violence in wake of mass shootings in Dayton and El Paso,"
northjersey.com (Published as northjersey.com (NJ)) - August 5, 2019

"New Jersey enacts 3 gun violence intervention laws,"
Associated Press State Wire: New Jersey (NJ) - August 6, 2019

"'This country has to stand up' At signing of anti-violence bills, a call for U.S. to follow the state's lead,"
The Star-Ledger, (Newark, NJ) - August 6, 2019

"A trio of gun bills now law in N.J.,"
South Jersey Times (NJ) - August 6, 2019

"New laws put gun violence in crosshairs Laws,"
The Times(Trenton, NJ) - August 6, 2019

"TRENTON - Already known for its strict restrictions on guns,"
Burlington County Times (Willingboro, NJ) - August 6, 2019

RWH/JA

P.L. 2019, CHAPTER 210, *approved August 5, 2019*
Senate, No. 3323 (*First Reprint*)

1 AN ACT concerning the victim counseling service and amending
2 P.L.1982, c.192.

3
4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

6
7 1. Section 2 of P.L.1982, c.192 (C.52:4B-25) is amended to
8 read as follows:

9 2. a. ¹**[(1)]**¹ The Victims of Crime Compensation **[Agency]**
10 Office shall establish a victim counseling service which shall
11 identify and develop sources to provide counseling to victims as
12 defined in P.L.1971, c.317. The service shall provide assistance to
13 victims without charge, **[which assistance shall include]** including
14 information and advice relative to filing a claim with the board,
15 emergency food and clothing, employment opportunities, referral to
16 ¹violence intervention programs and¹ other social service agencies,
17 and in obtaining legal advice or representation. The service shall be
18 conducted at **[such]** locations within the State as the ¹**[agency]**
19 office¹ deems advisable.

20 ¹[(2) The victim counseling service shall establish a partnership
21 with State-designated trauma centers to provide for the referral of
22 victims who are trauma patients injured in a violent manner to
23 violence intervention programs.]¹

24 b. The **[agency]** office is authorized to appoint **[such]**
25 personnel for the service as may be necessary to carry out its
26 functions. Appointments made pursuant to this subsection shall be
27 within the funds appropriated or otherwise made available to the
28 agency for this purpose.

29 c. (Deleted by amendment, P.L.2007, c.95).

30 d. The **[agency]** office may also identify and develop sources
31 to provide mental health counseling to victims, and provide victims
32 with **[such]** information as may be appropriate through its victim
33 counseling service.

34 (cf: P.L.2007, c.95, s.27)

35
36 2. This act shall take effect on the first day of the sixth month
37 after enactment, provided however, the Commissioner of Health
38 and the Executive Director of the Victims of Crime Compensation
39 Office may take, prior to the effective date, any action needed to
40 effectuate the provisions of this act.

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Assembly floor amendments adopted June 20, 2019.

S3323 [1R]

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Requires VCCO's victim counseling service to partner with trauma centers to refer certain victims to violence intervention programs.

SENATE, No. 3323

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 218th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JANUARY 15, 2019

Sponsored by:

Senator JOSEPH P. CRYAN

District 20 (Union)

Senator M. TERESA RUIZ

District 29 (Essex)

Assemblyman LOUIS D. GREENWALD

District 6 (Burlington and Camden)

Assemblyman GORDON M. JOHNSON

District 37 (Bergen)

Assemblywoman CAROL A. MURPHY

District 7 (Burlington)

Co-Sponsored by:

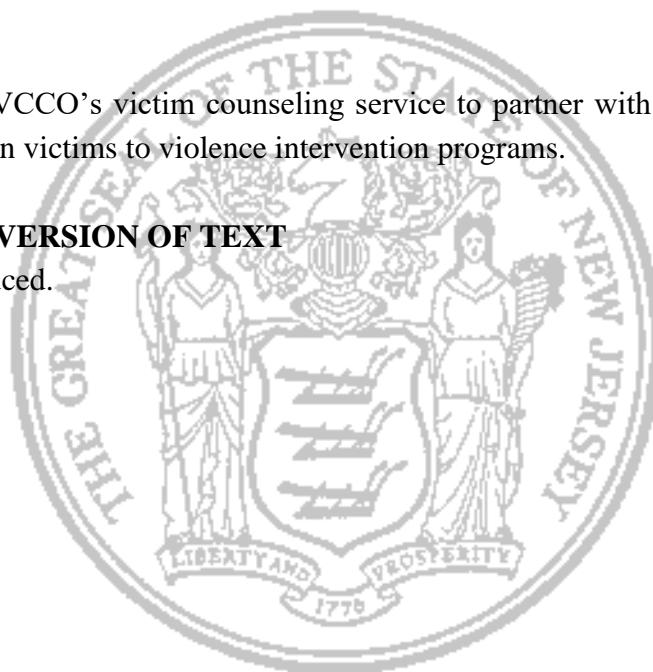
**Senator Gopal, Assemblywomen Pintor Marin, Reynolds-Jackson,
Assemblymen Benson, Spearman, Assemblywomen Jones, Speight, Lopez,
McKnight and Jasey**

SYNOPSIS

Requires VCCO's victim counseling service to partner with trauma centers to refer certain victims to violence intervention programs.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/21/2019)

1 AN ACT concerning the victim counseling service and amending
2 P.L.1982, c.192.

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10 **Office** shall establish a victim counseling service which shall
11 identify and develop sources to provide counseling to victims as
12 defined in P.L.1971, c.317. The service shall provide assistance to
13 victims without charge, **[which assistance shall include]** including
14 information and advice relative to filing a claim with the board,
15 emergency food and clothing, employment opportunities, referral to
16 other social service agencies, and in obtaining legal advice or
17 representation. The service shall be conducted at **[such]** locations
18 within the State as the agency deems advisable.

19 (2) The victim counseling service shall establish a partnership
20 with State-designated trauma centers to provide for the referral of
21 victims who are trauma patients injured in a violent manner to
22 violence intervention programs.

23 b. The **[agency]** office is authorized to appoint **[such]**
24 personnel for the service as may be necessary to carry out its
25 functions. Appointments made pursuant to this subsection shall be
26 within the funds appropriated or otherwise made available to the
27 agency for this purpose.

28 c. (Deleted by amendment, P.L.2007, c.95).

29 d. The **[agency]** office may also identify and develop sources
30 to provide mental health counseling to victims, and provide victims
31 with **[such]** information as may be appropriate through its victim
32 counseling service.

33 (cf: P.L.2007, c.95, s.27)

34

35 2. This act shall take effect on the first day of the sixth month
36 after enactment, provided however, the Commissioner of Health
37 and the Executive Director of the Victims of Crime Compensation
38 Office may take, prior to the effective date, any action needed to
39 effectuate the provisions of this act.

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STATEMENT

43

44 Under current law, the Victims of Crime Compensation Office
45 maintains a victim counseling service which identifies and develops

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is
not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 sources to provide counseling to victims. The service provides this
2 assistance to victims without charge, including information and
3 advice on filing a claim with the Victims of Crime Compensation
4 Review Board, emergency food and clothing, employment
5 opportunities, referral to other social service agencies, and
6 obtaining legal advice or representation.

7 This bill requires the victim counseling service to establish a
8 partnership with State-designated trauma centers to provide for the
9 referral of victims who are trauma patients injured in a violent
10 manner to violence intervention programs.

11 The purpose of this bill is to provide for intervention in the
12 revolving door of gunshot injuries that is witnessed by many
13 hospitals, especially trauma centers. Patients who have gunshot
14 injuries are at very high risk of being violently reinjured and
15 perpetrating retaliatory violence themselves. Many die as a result
16 of the continuing cycle of violence. Hospital-based violence
17 intervention programs attempt to break these cycles of violence by
18 providing counseling and social services to patients recovering from
19 gunshot wounds and other violent injuries.

20 The bill also updates references to the Victims of Crime
21 Compensation Agency to the Victims of Crime Compensation
22 Office to conform to Reorganization Plan No. 001-2008.

STATEMENT TO
SENATE, No. 3323

with Assembly Floor Amendments
(Proposed by Assemblyman GREENWALD)

ADOPTED: JUNE 20, 2019

These Assembly floor amendments: (1) require the Victims of Crime Compensation Office (VCCO) to provide referrals to violence intervention programs; (2) eliminate a provision requiring the VCCO victim counseling service to establish a partnership with State-designated trauma centers to provide for the referral of victims who are trauma patients injured in a violent manner to violence intervention programs; and (3) make a technical correction.

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE

[First Reprint]

SENATE, No. 3323 STATE OF NEW JERSEY 218th LEGISLATURE

DATED: JULY 5, 2019

SUMMARY

- Synopsis:** Requires VCCO's victim counseling service to partner with trauma centers to refer certain victims to violence intervention programs.
- Types of Impact:** Annual State expenditure increase, General Fund.
- Agencies Affected:** Department of Law and Public Safety.

Office of Legislative Services Estimate

Fiscal Impact	
Annual State Expenditure Increase	Indeterminate

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) finds that annual State expenditures may increase as the Victims of Crime Compensation Office (VCCO) will be newly required to refer certain victims of crime to violence intervention programs. The specific magnitude of any increase in annual VCCO expenditures will depend on the office's resource allocation policies and the extent to which it is already providing the required services.

BILL DESCRIPTION

This bill adds referrals to violence intervention programs to the types of services the VCCO is required to provide to eligible victims of crime. Violence intervention services seek to effect positive behavioral change, prevent injury recidivism, and reduce the likelihood that violently injured individuals will perpetrate or promote violence themselves. Violence intervention services may include peer support and counseling, mentorship, conflict mediation, crisis intervention, and social services.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

None received.

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

The OLS finds that annual State expenditures may increase as the VCCO will be newly required to refer certain victims of crime to violence intervention programs. Absent information from the VCCO, it is not clear whether the office will have to fully develop the referral services or whether it will be able to leverage existing resources to meet the requirement. Depending on VCCO resource allocation policies and its current capacity to refer individuals to violence intervention programs, the bill may augment annual VCCO expenditures.

The OLS notes that State Medicaid program expenditures and federal Medicaid matching fund revenue may decrease by indeterminate amounts if violence intervention programs reduce the incidence of violence-related deaths and injuries.

Section: Law and Public Safety
Analyst: Kristin Brunner Santos
Senior Fiscal Analyst
Approved: Frank W. Haines III
Legislative Budget and Finance Officer

This legislative fiscal estimate has been produced by the Office of Legislative Services due to the failure of the Executive Branch to respond to our request for a fiscal note.

This fiscal estimate has been prepared pursuant to P.L.1980, c.67 (C.52:13B-6 et seq.).

ASSEMBLY, No. 4805

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 218th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED DECEMBER 10, 2018

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman LOUIS D. GREENWALD

District 6 (Burlington and Camden)

Assemblyman GORDON M. JOHNSON

District 37 (Bergen)

Assemblywoman CAROL A. MURPHY

District 7 (Burlington)

Co-Sponsored by:

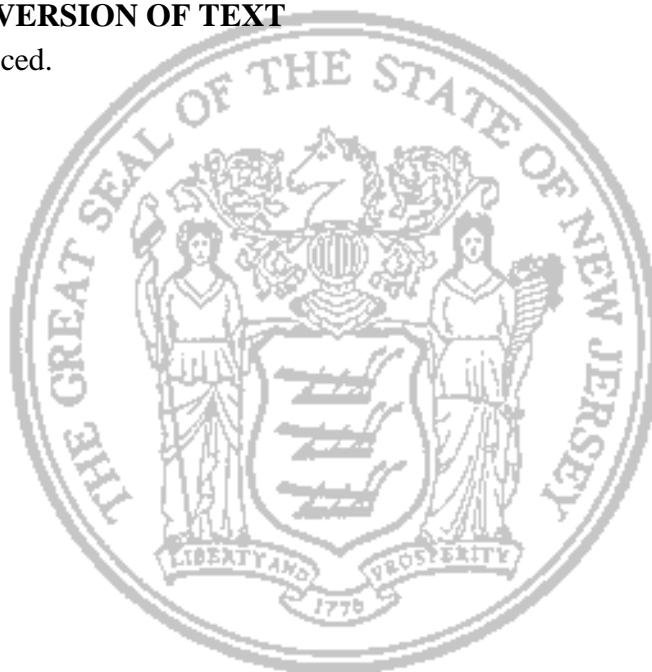
**Assemblywomen Pintor Marin, Reynolds-Jackson, Assemblymen Benson,
Spearman, Assemblywomen Jones and Speight**

SYNOPSIS

Requires VCCO's victim counseling service to partner with trauma centers to refer certain victims to violence intervention programs.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/8/2019)

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STATEMENT

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Matter underlined thus is new matter.

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4 Review Board, emergency food and clothing, employment
5 opportunities, referral to other social service agencies, and
6 obtaining legal advice or representation.

7 This bill requires the victim counseling service to establish a
8 partnership with State-designated trauma centers to provide for the
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11 The purpose of this bill is to provide for intervention in the
12 revolving door of gunshot injuries that is witnessed by many
13 hospitals, especially trauma centers. Patients who have gunshot
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16 of the continuing cycle of violence. Hospital-based violence
17 intervention programs attempt to break these cycles of violence by
18 providing counseling and social services to patients recovering from
19 gunshot wounds and other violent injuries.

20 The bill also updates references to the Victims of Crime
21 Compensation Agency to the Victims of Crime Compensation
22 Office to conform to Reorganization Plan No. 001-2008.

ASSEMBLY HEALTH AND SENIOR SERVICES COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 4805

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MARCH 7, 2019

The Assembly Health and Senior Services Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 4805.

Under current law, the Victims of Crime Compensation Office maintains a victim counseling service which identifies and develops sources to provide counseling to victims. The service provides this assistance to victims without charge, including information and advice on filing a claim with the Victims of Crime Compensation Review Board, emergency food and clothing, employment opportunities, referral to other social service agencies, and obtaining legal advice or representation.

This bill requires the victim counseling service to establish a partnership with State-designated trauma centers to provide for the referral of victims who are trauma patients injured in a violent manner to violence intervention programs.

The bill also updates references to the Victims of Crime Compensation Agency to the Victims of Crime Compensation Office to conform to Reorganization Plan No. 001-2008.

ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 4805

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 13, 2019

The Assembly Appropriations Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 4805, with committee amendments.

As amended, under current law, the Victims of Crime Compensation Office (VCCO) maintains a victim counseling service which identifies and develops sources to provide counseling to victims. The service provides this assistance to victims without charge, including information and advice on filing a claim with the Victims of Crime Compensation Review Board, emergency food and clothing, employment opportunities, other social service agencies, and obtaining legal advice or representation. The amended bill requires the VCCO to provide referrals to violence intervention programs.

The bill also updates references to the “Victims of Crime Compensation Agency” to the “Victims of Crime Compensation Office” to conform to Reorganization Plan No. 001-2008.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amended the bill to: (1) require the VCCO to provide referrals to violence intervention programs; (2) eliminate a provision requiring the VCCO victim counseling service to establish a partnership with State-designated trauma centers to provide for the referral of victims who are trauma patients injured in a violent manner to violence intervention programs; and (3) make a technical correction.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Office of Legislative Services finds the annual expenditure increases associated with this proposed legislation to be indeterminate. There is no data with which to evaluate the fiscal impact on the VCCO resulting from additional administrative expenses and potential increases in claims.

The VCCO may experience a workload increase as a result of the requirement that the victim counseling service establish a partnership with State-designated trauma centers and possibly increased claims from claimants who may have not been familiar with the VCCO. Depending on the resource allocation policies of the VCCO, the added responsibilities may or may not augment State and local government administrative expenditures.

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 4805

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 218th LEGISLATURE

DATED: JUNE 21, 2019

SUMMARY

Synopsis: Requires VCCO's victim counseling service to partner with trauma centers to refer certain victims to violence intervention programs.

Types of Impact: Annual State expenditure increase, General Fund.

Agencies Affected: Department of Law and Public Safety.

Office of Legislative Services Estimate

Fiscal Impact	
Annual State Expenditure Increase	Indeterminate

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) finds that annual State expenditures may increase as the Victims of Crime Compensation Office (VCCO) will be newly required to refer certain victims of crime to violence intervention programs. The specific magnitude of any increase in annual VCCO expenditures will depend on the office's resource allocation policies and the extent to which it is already providing the required services.

BILL DESCRIPTION

This bill adds referrals to violence intervention programs to the types of services the VCCO is required to provide to eligible victims of crime. Violence intervention services seek to effect positive behavioral change, prevent injury recidivism, and reduce the likelihood that violently injured individuals will perpetrate or promote violence themselves. Violence intervention services may include peer support and counseling, mentorship, conflict mediation, crisis intervention, and social services.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

None received.

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

The OLS finds that annual State expenditures may increase as the VCCO will be newly required to refer certain victims of crime to violence intervention programs. Absent information from the VCCO, it is not clear whether the office will have to fully develop the referral services or whether it will be able to leverage existing resources to meet the requirement. Depending on VCCO resource allocation policies and its current capacity to refer individuals to violence intervention programs, the bill may augment annual VCCO expenditures.

The OLS notes that State Medicaid program expenditures and federal Medicaid matching fund revenue may decrease by indeterminate amounts if violence intervention programs reduce the incidence of violence-related deaths and injuries.

Section: Law and Public Safety
Analyst: Kristin Brunner Santos
Senior Fiscal Analyst
Approved: Frank W. Haines III
Legislative Budget and Finance Officer

This fiscal estimate has been prepared pursuant to P.L.1980, c.67 (C.52:13B-6 et seq.).

Acting Governor Oliver Signs Gun Violence Intervention Bills

08/05/2019

TRENTON – Acting Governor Sheila Oliver today signed a package of gun violence intervention bills that underscore New Jersey’s commitment to combating gun violence. The bills, which are part of Gun Safety Package 2.0, follow a series of comprehensive gun safety laws signed by Governor Phil Murphy in July 2019. The three bills signed today establish community-based non-violence and gun violence prevention programs. Recent domestic terrorist attacks in El Paso, Texas, and Dayton, Ohio underscore the need for comprehensive, holistic approaches to gun safety in our communities.

“Every day gun violence is tearing our communities apart, especially in underserved communities of color. Governor Murphy and I are determined to stop the violence through intervention programming,” **said Acting Governor Sheila Oliver, who serves as Commissioner of the Department of Community Affairs.** “The bills I am signing today will help cut gun violence off at the source through comprehensive hospital-based violence intervention programs (HBIV) that will educate, care for, and protect New Jersey residents to help save lives.”

“We must bring all of our resources to bear on this critical public health issue,” said **New Jersey Department of Health Acting Commissioner Judith M. Persichilli.** “Hospital-based violence intervention programs have been proven to reduce violence, lower societal costs, and protect and assist victims. The Department of Health welcomes these new tools in the fight to reduce gun violence in our state.”

“As public leaders, we have a moral obligation to do something about the gun violence sweeping this country,” **said Attorney General Grewal.** “And in New Jersey, we actually are. So I urge our nation’s leaders to take a page from the New Jersey playbook, which treats the epidemic of gun violence like the public health crisis it is and that focuses on prevention, treatment, and enforcement. The time to do so is now.”

Acting Governor Oliver signed the following three bills into law:

S3301 (Cryan, Ruiz/Greenwald, Reynolds-Jackson, Benson) – Establishes “Hospital-Based Violence Intervention Program Initiative” in the Department of Health.

S3312 (Vitale, Codey/Greenwald, Reynolds-Jackson, Benson) – Requires Level One and Level Two trauma centers to provide hospital-based or hospital-linked violence intervention programs upon available funding.

S3323 (Cryan, Ruiz/Greenwald, Johnson, Murphy) – Requires the Victims of Crime Compensation Office victim counseling service to partner with trauma centers to refer certain victims to violence and intervention programs.

“When victims of gunshots arrive to the Emergency Room, the first thing to do is stop the bleeding and dress the wounds,” **said Senator Joseph Vitale.** “But a band-aid does not address the root causes or the mental trauma resulting from such a violent act. This legislation ensures that hospitals that regularly deal with these kinds of emergencies are also equipped with the tools for secondary treatment – counseling and social services – so as to treat the cycle of violence that these violent acts often produce.”

“There are actions we can take to respond to gun violence and other violent acts to prevent the cycle of violence from continuing,” **said Senator Joseph Cryan.** “The hospital intervention programs have proven to be successful in reducing the likelihood of retaliation by victims and preventing them from being victimized again. Getting the Crime Victims Compensation office engaged with the hospital trauma centers that treat crime victims will help prevent them from being victimized again and from engaging in retaliation. The intervention programs that get to victims while they are hospitalized can reach them at a key time with social services, counseling and case management. We want to be resourceful in helping to reduce violence by intervening before it continues.”

“Gun violence is a public health crisis plaguing many communities around the country,” **said Senator M. Teresa Ruiz.** “The trauma associated with it has a lasting impacted on those directly and indirectly touched by it. Through this legislation we can connect individuals with resources before they are discharged, ensuring that not only their physical health is addressed, but also their mental and emotional well-being.”

“We must continue our due diligence of addressing gun violence in New Jersey, and to do so, we must approach it from every angle,” **said Senator Richard Codey.** “By providing the injured access to resources such as counseling, we will be able to curb the staggeringly high injury recidivism rates here in the state.”

"In recent months, we've seen more acts of mass gun violence in major U.S. cities, Virginia Beach, and our own state capitol that claim too many lives and leave numerous injured," **said Assembly Majority Leader Lou Greenwald**. "How do we help prevent these acts from recurring again and again by individuals who believe gun violence or any violence is the answer to a problem? Many who are on the frontlines believe a coordinated effort is the best way to tackle public health problems of mental health and violence. Community and hospital-based prevention services are the key to improving safety in our communities."

"In Trenton, we understand the impact that gun violence has on a community every day. We see permanent effects of retaliatory behavior and the need to help hospitals close the revolving door of gunshot victims as a result," **said Assemblywoman Verlina Reynolds-Jackson**. "Getting to survivors before they leave our hospitals is paramount to decreasing violence happening on our streets. Tying hospital-based prevention programs with community programs is the key."

"Many are unaware they can receive help and where to go to obtain it," **said Assemblyman Dan Benson**. "We need to be there for them at the moment it happens in order to have a long-term effect on their lives. Connecting hospital-based intervention programs and community-based programs will help put an end to the cycle of violence."

"Even police officers are debriefed after engaging in fire. This goes a long way in making sure they are mentally able to return to the field," **said Assemblyman Gordon Johnson**. "Gun violence survivors should have access to this type of mental health care in counseling. Helping one person this way can save many others."

"Silencing gun violence will require a multi-faceted legislative approach," said **Assemblywoman Carol Murphy**. "A part of this is bridging the efforts of hospital-based programs and community programs. With these steps, we continue the fight to make our communities safer."

"I applaud the Giffords Law Center for developing these measures with the Legislature and am extremely pleased that evidence-based strategies will be expanded in New Jersey," **said Bill Castner, Senior Advisor to the Governor on Gun Safety**. "Governor Murphy and Lt. Governor Oliver are working very hard on an issue Washington is completely neglecting – reducing our plague of gun violence."

"Gun violence continues to leave families and communities feeling less safe across the country. It's no different in New Jersey," **said Nico Bocour, State Legislative Director at Giffords**. "With these bill signings, Governor Phil Murphy and Lt. Governor Sheila Oliver are taking bold, innovative action in response to the gun violence communities face on a daily basis. We thank Assembly Majority Leader Lou Greenwald and Senior Advisor Bill Castner for leading this lifesaving package of bills forward. New Jersey continues to be a leader on gun safety and these substantial reforms to support evidence-based strategies in the Garden State's most impacted cities will save lives."

