

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

APRIL 15, 2021

Contact: Jessica Cosme,
jessica@bellevuestrategies.com;
(724) 991-2636



**PENNSYLVANIA SAFETY ALLIANCE CONDEMNS USE OF NRA BACKED
VIOLENCE PREVENTION PROGRAMS, URGES USE OF EVIDENCE-BASED
SOLUTIONS**

Philadelphia, PA – As the gun violence epidemic continues across the commonwealth, we applaud the City of Philadelphia for increased funding to aid violence prevention efforts, and the Philadelphia Police Department for responding to the gun violence prevention community as we spoke out against the usage of the NRA’s Eddie Eagle program, which does little to address the issues driving the violence.

The Pennsylvania Safety Alliance believes in a data driven approach and evidence based policies and programs to address these very real issues, which means we can not stand behind a flawed, largely ineffective program that does nothing to reduce the amount of illegal and dangerous firearms flooding our communities.

Implementing evidence based policies, like permit to purchase, is shown to reduce violent crime in meaningful ways. The support of law enforcement in advocating for these policies in Harrisburg would make a substantial difference in the long term future of gun violence prevention, much more so than the implementation of a program that places the responsibility of gun safety on children, rather than adults.

We also ask that officials engage with experienced, violence prevention organizations first, before buying into programs pushed by an organization that stands behind the unfettered gun-first, people second approach.

Our coalition stands ready to provide ample research and recommendations to assist in any way we can. We know that we are all focused on saving lives, and the best way to do that is to focus on proven violence prevention programs.

About the Pennsylvania Safety Alliance:

The Pennsylvania Safety Alliance is a broad-based coalition of individuals and groups from all parts of the Commonwealth that share a goal of keeping our families and ourselves safe. We acknowledge that Pennsylvania is home to a rich and diverse array of communities, with firearm ownership at the core of many of these communities in the form of recreation and personal protection. We also know that the majority of Pennsylvanians favor sensible regulation of firearms and research shows that regulations, like requiring a permit to purchase a firearm, have been effective in reducing firearm violence.

###