

## S.3 Criminal Domestic Violence Offenses and Penalties

### Overview of the bills:

Senate Bill 3 strengthens criminal domestic violence laws to increase penalties for perpetrators of violence. In addition, it makes state law consistent with federal law in denying legal ownership of firearms for individuals found guilty of domestic violence.

### The Problem:

#### Domestic Violence Is a Critical Public Health Issue In South Carolina.

- SC ranks #2 in the US for the number of women murdered by men.
- During 2007-2011, women in SC were twice as likely to be shot to death by their intimate partner as the average American woman.
- 78 percent of victims of domestic violence homicides identified in the Attorney General's 2014 Silent Witness program were killed by a gun.
- More than one-third of those charged with murder had at least one arrest for criminal domestic violence.
- When there is a firearm in the home, a domestic violence assault is 500 percent more likely to result in death than an assault using another weapon or bodily assault.
- A recent Winthrop University poll found that 79 percent of the people in SC support getting guns out of the hands of domestic violence offenders.

### The Solution:

**S.3 is a necessary legal step for reducing deaths associated with domestic violence in South Carolina.**

### Similar Legislation Around the United States

By passing Senate Bill 3, South Carolina will join the movement to keep women safe. In 2014, six states (WI, MN, NH, VT, LA, WA) passed bills that will keep guns out of abusers' hands. These measures passed with bipartisan support and were

#### What You Can Do

- Visit [www.tellthemsc.org](http://www.tellthemsc.org) and sign up for updates on this and other pieces of legislation that threatens your healthcare
- Send an email to your legislators telling them that you support this (or any) bill that would protect survivors of Criminal Domestic Violence
- Get others involved. Share this Information with your friends and get your community to make their voices heard.
- Keep up-to-date with all the legislative issues that deal with reproductive health by following *Tell Them* on Facebook, and Twitter.