



FIREARM RELINQUISHMENT: A DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PREVENTION BILL THAT WORKS

WHY DO WE NEED A RELINQUISHMENT LAW?

- The presence of a gun in a domestic violence situation makes it five times more likely the woman will die.
- Between 2001 and 2012, more than 6,000 women were murdered in the United States by an intimate partner using a gun.
- The federal law does not provide a procedure for the surrender or removal of guns from abusers who lose their eligibility to possess guns

WHAT WILL A RELINQUISHMENT LAW DO?

- Enable our state court judges to protect victims of domestic violence who are not being protected by the federal law
- Bring New Mexico into line with 27 other states that have similar laws
- Require relinquishment of all firearms owned by domestic violence offenders while they are under an order of protection
- Make possession of a firearm by a person who has been convicted of certain domestic violence misdemeanors a fourth-degree felony

- Make possession of a firearm by a restrained person a fourth-degree felony
- Create simple procedures for relinquishment, storage and return of firearms
- Authorize law enforcement agencies to develop their own policies for accepting and returning firearms within the guidelines of the statute
- Enable probation and parole to seize firearms from supervisees who are prohibited from possessing firearms

HOW ARE GUN OWNER RIGHTS PROTECTED?

- Relinquishment is only permitted after a judge has weighed the evidence of domestic violence at an evidentiary hearing
- Relinquishment is discretionary for individuals who need a firearm as part of their employment
- Evidence regarding relinquishment may not be introduced in an unrelated criminal case



DISARM
DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE