**BREAKING NEWS: WBUR poll released today finds 89% of Massachusetts voters say they would support**

**an Extreme Risk Protective Order!**

**Editorial: Mass. should pass ‘extreme risk’ gun law (Boston Globe 2/17):** After the Las Vegas shooting last October that killed 58 people, Massachusetts became the first state in the nation to ban so-called bump stocks, a device that makes semiautomatic rifles mimic the firing action of fully automatic weapons. The ban went into effect earlier this month. Now Massachusetts must continue to enact common-sense gun measures by passing the extreme risk protective order that would allow a judge to order the temporary removal of guns from someone ruled a danger to themselves or others.

**Editorial: Making a difference in gun violence – How Massachusetts gun laws might affect mass shooters like Nikolas Cruz at Parkland, Florida (Worcester Telegram 2/16):** ...There never will be an end to gun violence, but there are steps that can be taken, not just across the country, but even here in Massachusetts - if there’s the political will. In fact, Massachusetts – which is one of the safest states in terms of gun violence – still has measures it can adopt. One of them is Extreme Risk Protective Orders, which enable family members or police to seek a court order temporarily removing firearms from someone who may be a danger to themselves or others, including over stress or other emotional issues. A few states, primarily on the West Coast but also Connecticut, have adopted such measures.

**Maura Healey: "This is not the America we grew up in. It is not a reality we can accept" (Boston Herald 2/16):** How do you explain a mass shooting to a 6-year-old? That’s a question I was asked yesterday. Parents across Massachusetts woke up with a pit in their stomach. How do we send our children to school if we can’t keep them safe? This is not the America we grew up in. It is not a reality we can accept.

**Jessica Tang, Boston Teachers Union President: Lawmakers should heed Parkland students’ call for reform (CommonWealth Magazine 3/14):** ...While Massachusetts has been a leader on gun safety, the Boston Teachers Union affirmed at our most recent citywide membership meeting that much more still needs to be done — and we must continue to lead while the inaction of Congress leaves our students, teachers, and schools vulnerable. The BTU voted unanimously to endorse the Massachusetts Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence and their legislative agenda, becoming the first teachers union in the state to do so.

**Alumni of Parkland, Fla., school discuss gun violence reform in Somerville (Boston Globe 3/20):** Area graduates of the Florida high school where 17 people were fatally shot last month gathered here Monday for a roundtable discussion on advocating for stricter gun laws. It was the first in a series of events that will culminate in Saturday’s March For Our Lives. More than 800 demonstrations are planned around the world. About 60 people attended the discussion at the Aeronaut Brewing Company in Somerville, many wearing burgundy and silver — the colors of Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla. Speakers touched on the political underpinnings of guns, effective lobbying, and the #NeverAgain movement, the rallying cry of many Parkland shooting survivors.

**On a Snow Day, Students Rally in Boston Against Gun Violence (Boston Magazine 3/14):** Working in partnership with groups like the Massachusetts Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence and Moms Demand Action, they say they’re urging legislators implement extreme risk protective orders via a so-called “red flag” law that would empower judges to order gun seizures if petitioned by family members or housemates. A similar, but not identical, law was signed by Florida Gov. Rick Scott last week as part of a package of gun reforms. “It’s common-sense gun legislation that we can feasibly get passed as a movement of students,” says Elias Kern, a 15-year-old sophomore at Somerville High School. “There’s actually no reason that we should allow people to get killed just because people want to win re-election. The death of Americans is not worth the NRA’s money.”

**Mass. students join nationwide walkout over gun violence (Boston Globe 3/14):** These kids have found their cause. On what would normally be a snow day spent at home, hundreds of students marched to the State House to call for stricter gun laws on Wednesday, part of a nationwide day of walkouts and demonstrations marking one month since 17 people were killed at a Florida high school. The students — from Weston and Wellesley, Malden and Somerville, Roxbury and Dorchester — held handmade signs and chanted “What do we want? Gun control now!” and “Not in our schools! Not in our streets!”

**Anti-Gun Violence Rally Held at Mass. State House (NECN 2/15):** Following the deadly shooting at a Florida high school, advocacy groups against gun violence spoke out at the Massachusetts State House on Thursday. More than 50 member organizations of a coalition took to the grand staircase to demand change, pushing for the passage of the "Extreme Risk Protective Order."...After Wednesday’s Florida massacre, Gibson said too many people are re-living the horror. “It feels more and more are people are living through it again and again. We’ve been where they are and we know what they’re going to have to go through,” said Gibson, “This is not a gun grab. It’s just an effort to provide a tool to separate someone in crisis from something they can do a lot of harm with.”

**Boston event will focus on preventing gun violence (ABC Boston 2/15):** ...Boston Police Commissioner William Evans expressed his frustration with gun violence nationwide as he spoke about the fatal school shooting in Florida that claimed the lives of more than one dozen people. “Seventeen young lives snuffed out by a young kid carrying around an AR-15,” Evans said. “If that's not a wake up call that there's way too may guns. All across this country we have too many guns, too many guns and too many young kids dying on our streets."

**Supporters Of “Extreme Risk Protection” Gun Law Rally On Beacon Hill (CBS Boston 2/15):** A rally for stricter gun laws, that was planned before the school shooting in Florida, took place at Beacon Hill Thursday. Many parents of kids who lost their lives in school shootings were in the crowd. Greg Gibson, a father who lost his 18-year-old son, Galen, after he was killed by a fellow student at Simon’s Rock College in Great Barrington in 1992, was among the supporters of “extreme risk protection” legislation.

**Massachusetts gun violence survivors reflect on Florida school shooting (Springfield Republican 2/15):** Leslie Friedman's grandfather was murdered in her uncle's store in Washington, D.C., 40 years ago. When she talked to a reporter about Wednesday's school shooting in Parkland, Florida, which killed 17 people, Friedman, of Brookline, teared up. She expressed anger and frustration that Congress "is too scared to do anything." "We now have more members of this family, that is a family that none of us wanted to join," Friedman said. "We're brought together as a family because we're survivors and we're victims." Gun violence survivors who gathered at a Statehouse Thursday for a rally on a gun-related bill also reflected on the horrific school shooting.

**Push on Beacon Hill for new gun laws (State House News Service 2/16):** A lobby day to push for stricter gun laws in Massachusetts took on an urgent tone Thursday in the wake of a shooting at a south Florida high school Wednesday that left at least 17 people dead. “It has ripple effect here and across the country,” Attorney General Maura Healey told activists who filled the area at the foot of the Grand Staircase in the State House. Mentioning parents and students worried about potential shootings while attending school or public events, Healey said, “This isn’t normal. This isn’t acceptable.”