

Dear Senator,

We are deeply concerned about gun violence. As your constituents, we implore you to address this epidemic plaguing our nation and destroying our communities.

As a person of faith, I believe in both prayer and policy change. As Christians, we are called to be peacemakers through prayer, advocacy, and organizing for gun violence prevention at local, state, and national levels.

Some of the worst mass shootings in national history have happened in schools. Congressional inaction is not only a national shame, it is a threat to our safety, the safety of our children, and the wellbeing of our communities. Gun violence is a public health issue and it is taking an unacceptable toll on our society. Please act now. No more time must be wasted. We need you to take action to ensure that:

- Every person who buys a gun pass a background check. No longer should we allow for loopholes, such as the "gun show loophole," the "boyfriend loophole," "straw purchases," or other gaps. We need to require universal background checks on all gun purchases.
- High-capacity weapons and ammunition magazines should not be available to civilians. There is no legitimate self-defense or sporting purpose for these military-style, high-capacity weapons and magazines whose only purpose is to kill large numbers of people in a short amount of time. We need an effective assault weapons ban now.
- Gun trafficking becomes a federal offense. Gun trafficking fuels the flow of guns nationally and internationally, and is a major contributing cause to extreme gun violence like that in Chicago, New York, and elsewhere.

Whether it is a mass shooting in Buffalo, New York, or Uvalde, Texas; or the day-to-day gun violence in metropolitan areas like Kansas City, St. Louis, Chicago, Los Angeles, Philadelphia, and New York; or the suicide that daily plagues rural and urban communities alike, our hearts are filled with rage and sorrow for the loss of life and the trauma it brings. We need you to take action to quell the terrible epidemic of gun violence our society is suffering. We look forward to working with you to enact these common-sense measures to reduce gun violence. We are asking you to lead.

Sincerely,

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