

June 8, 2022

Open Letter to Congress: Local Elected Officials Urge Immediate Action to Prevent Gun Violence

As bipartisan leaders of the nation's cities, towns, and villages, we plead with you to enact stronger federal laws that help us protect all our kids, residents, and communities from gun violence. In the month of May, 44 mass shootings have occurred in communities across our country, killing 60 people and injuring 209, and even more deaths have resulted from gun violence other than mass shootings. These could have been prevented if we had stronger federal laws to protect our nation's residents.

In cities, towns and villages across our country, kids should not have to go to school worrying about being shot, people should be able to go to the grocery store without the fear of being killed because of the color of their skin, and worshippers should not fear going to their place of worship thinking they could be targeted because of their beliefs.

We are a nation of laws, but our laws are not sufficient when it comes to guns. The City of Uvalde, Texas joins the list of communities like Buffalo, New York; Parkland, Florida; Newtown, Connecticut; and far too many others who have faced the deaths of innocent residents at the hands of those who should never have had access to guns. The list of mass shootings keeps growing. At the same time, state lawmakers roll back gun laws, and federal lawmakers do nothing.

Consistent with the National League of Cities' [National Municipal Policy](#), which consists of consensus-driven federal policy positions crafted and approved by the bipartisan membership, we call on Congress to quickly enact stronger laws that keep guns out of the hands of individuals who intend to commit violence, as well as support stronger mental health systems by:

1. Shutting down the illegal sale and distribution of firearms and gun trafficking;
2. Requiring a waiting period of up to 30 days for the purchase or transfer of all guns so that local police agencies may check the criminal and mental health status of purchasers;
3. Banning the manufacture, sale, importation, or transfer of all automatic and semi-automatic assault-type weapons;
4. Requiring the Department of Justice to work closely with state and local law enforcement to aggressively target and hold accountable licensed and unlicensed individuals who break the law by knowingly selling or transferring firearms or ammunition to prohibited persons, gun traffickers or straw purchasers;
5. Helping state and local governments enact extreme risk protection orders, also known as red flag laws;
6. Requiring every state to include people who have been adjudicated as mentally ill or have been committed to any mental institution to be registered as a prohibited person in the national instant criminal background check system;

7. Establishing a national commission that consists of federal, state, and local officials, gun rights advocates, survivors of gun violence, law enforcement officials, and medical and mental health providers to recommend legislative solutions aimed at reducing gun violence in the United States;
8. Ensuring that all Americans have access to adequate physical and mental health care, including mental health parity and the provision of comprehensive services to address mental health needs for persons with general mental health conditions, serious mental health diagnoses, and substance use disorders; and
9. Increasing federal funding for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to support data and indicators that will inform local strategy in cities and towns across our country as they address the issue of violence in their communities.

We represent communities that are small and large, urban and rural, conservative and liberal. We understand that the status quo is not enough to keep our communities safe. We pledge to do what it takes to keep our kids, residents, and communities safe. We are calling on all Members of Congress to do the same. Congress must pass strong bipartisan legislation that protects our Second Amendment rights while ensuring public safety.

Sincerely,

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School Board Director
Norristown, PA

Marissa Dell
School Board Director
Norristown, PA

Matthew Rivera
School Board Director
Norristown, PA

Monica D'Antonio
Vice President of School Board
Directors
Norristown, PA

Phil Daniels
School Board President
Norristown, PA

Rebecca Smith
Councilwoman
Norristown, PA

Sharon Mauch
School Board Director
Norristown, PA

Tiffani Hendley
Councilwoman
Norristown, PA

James F. Kenney
Mayor
Philadelphia, PA

Erika Strassburger
Councilmember
Pittsburgh, PA

Michael A. Lombardo
Mayor
Pittston, PA

Lourdes Acevedo
Director Finanzas
Arecibo, PR

Wanda Soler
Alcaldesa
Barceloneta, PR

Jesús Gerardo Márquez
Mayor
Luquillo, PR

Jorge A. Perez Heredia
Alcalde
Utua, PR

Marcos Cruz Molina
Alcalde
Vega Baja, PR

Jim Strickland
Mayor
Memphis, TN

Adam Bazaldua
Councilmember
Dallas, TX

Maria Rivera
Mayor
Central Falls, RI

Jim Shulman
Vice Mayor
Nashville, TN

Tennell Atkins
Councilmember
Dallas, TX

Jorge O. Elorza
Mayor
Providence, RI

Burkley M. Allen
Metro Councilmember At-Large
Nashville, TN

Kay Brown-Patrick
Councilwoman
DeSoto, TX

Stephen D. Cain
Councilman
Batesburg-Leesville, SC

Dave Rosenberg
Metro Councilman
Nashville, TN

Racquel Buffin Belle
Councilwoman
Forest Hill, TX

Alfred Mae Drakeford
Mayor
Camden, SC

Gloria J. Hausser
Councilmember
Nashville, TN

Sonja Coleman
Councilmember
Forest Hill, TX

Tabatha M. Strother
Councilmember
Chester, SC

Sharon W. Hurt
Councilmember At-Large
Nashville, TN

Sylvester Turner
Mayor
Houston, TX

Aditi Bussells
Councilwoman
Columbia, SC

Warren L. Gooch
Mayor
Oak Ridge, TN

Martha Castex-Tatum
Vice Mayor Pro Tem
Houston, TX

Rhonda J. Jerome
Councilmember
North Charleston, SC

Ellen D. Smith
Councilmember
Oak Ridge, TN

Abbie Kamin
Councilmember
Houston, TX

Janie C. Salley
Councilmember
Spartanburg, SC

Kelly Scott Callison
Councilmember
Oak Ridge, TN

Dr. Carolyn Evans-Shabazz
Councilmember
Houston, TX

Ritchie Nordstrom
Alderman
Rapid City, SD

Ruby Faye Woolridge
Councilmember
Arlington, TX

Chris B. Brown
Controller
Houston, TX

Tim Kelly
Mayor
Chattanooga, TN

Leslie Pool
Councilmember
Austin, TX

Sallie Alcorn
Councilmember
Houston, TX

Demetrus Coonrod
Councilwoman
Chattanooga, TN

Vanessa Fuentes
Councilwoman
Austin, TX

Tarsha Jackson
Councilmember
Houston, TX

Brandon T. Jones
Mayor Pro Tem
Lewisville, TX

Sena Magill
City Councilor
Charlottesville, VA

Ryan Walters
Councilmember
Anacortes, WA

Ron Nirenberg
Mayor
San Antonio, TX

Kathryn Haines
School Board Member
Chesterfield County, VA

Carolyn Y. Moulton
Councilmember
Anacortes, WA

Adriana R. Garcia
Councilwoman
San Antonio, TX

Elizabeth G. Luck
Vice Mayor
Colonial Heights, VA

Bruce McDougall
Councilmember
Anacortes, WA

Leticia Miranda
Aldersperson
San Elizario, TX

Monae Nickerson
Vice Mayor
Dumfries, VA

Amanda Hubik
Councilmember
Anacortes, WA

Erin Mendenhall
Mayor
Salt Lake City, UT

Laura Dent
Councilmember
Harrisonburg, VA

Christine Cleland-McGrath
Councilmember
Anacortes, WA

Chris Wharton
Councilmember
Salt Lake City, UT

Sherri Neil
Intergovernmental Affairs
Manager
Portsmouth, VA

Marilyn Oertle
Councilwoman
Arlington, WA

Victoria Petro-Eschler
Councilmember
Salt Lake City, UT

Kwasi Fraser
Mayor
Purcellville, VA

James Jeyaraj
Deputy Mayor
Auburn, WA

Alison Stroud
Councilmember
Sandy, UT

Stephanie Moon Reynolds
Councilmember
Roanoke, VA

Chris Stearns
Councilmember
Auburn, WA

Cyndi Sharkey
Councilmember
Sandy, UT

Guy K. Tower
Councilmember
Virginia Beach, VA

Yolanda Trout-Manuel
Councilwoman
Auburn, WA

Alyia Gaskins
Councilmember
Alexandria, VA

Miro Weinberger
Mayor
Burlington, VT

Janice Zahn
Councilmember
Bellevue, WA

Kathleen Abbott
Town Councilmember
Ashland, VA

Anne Watson
Mayor
Montpelier, VT

Amy Ockerlander
Mayor
Duvall, WA

Brian Pinkston
Councilmember
Charlottesville, VA

Kristine Lott
Mayor
Winooski, VT

Richard Shaffer
Councilmember
Duvall, WA

Mike Nelson
Mayor
Edmonds, WA

Penny Sweet
Mayor
Kirkland, WA

Victoria R. Woodards
Mayor
Tacoma, WA

Julie Andres
Youth Commissioner
Edmonds, WA

Jay Arnold
Deputy Mayor
Kirkland, WA

Catherine Ushka
Deputy Mayor
Tacoma, WA

Laura Johnson
Councilmember
Edmonds, WA

Neal Black
Councilmember
Kirkland, WA

Kristina Walker
Councilmember
Tacoma, WA

Susan Paine
Councilmember
Edmonds, WA

Amy E. Falcone
Councilmember
Kirkland, WA

Sarah Rumbaugh
Councilmember, District 2
Tacoma, WA

Diane Buckshnis
Councilmember
Edmonds, WA

Kelli Curtis
Councilmember
Kirkland, WA

Anne McEnerney-Ogle
Mayor
Vancouver, WA

Cassie Franklin
Mayor
Everett, WA

Andy Ryder
Mayor
Lacey, WA

Ty Stober
Mayor Pro Tem
Vancouver, WA

Paula Rhyne
Councilmember, District 2
Everett, WA

Dontae Payne
Councilmember
Olympia, WA

Diana H. Perez
Councilmember
Vancouver, WA

Lydia Assefa-Dawson
Councilmember
Everett, WA

James Alberson
Councilmember
Renton, WA

Kim D. Harless
Councilmember
Vancouver, WA

Mary Lou Pauly
Mayor
Issaquah, WA

Keith Scully
Mayor
Shoreline, WA

Satya Rhodes-Conway
Mayor
Madison, WI

Nigel Herbig
Mayor
Kenmore, WA

Betsy Robertson
Deputy Mayor
Shoreline, WA

Brian Benford
Aldersperson
Madison, WI

David Baker
Councilmember
Kenmore, WA

Doris Fujioka McConnell
Councilmember
Shoreline, WA

Charles Myadze
Aldersperson
Madison, WI

Corina Pfeil
Councilmember
Kenmore, WA

Chris Roberts
Councilmember
Shoreline, WA

Juliana Bennett
Aldersperson, District 8
Madison, WI

Michael Verveer
Alderman
Madison, WI

Keith Furman
Council President and
Alderman, District 19
Madison, WI

Patrick Heck
Alderman, District 2
Madison, WI

Regina Vidaver
Alderman, District 5
Madison, WI

Tag Evers
Alderman, District 13
Madison, WI

Yannette Figueroa Cole
Alderman, District 10
Madison, WI

Cavalier Johnson
Mayor
Milwaukee, WI

Kevin Carden
Recorder
Harpers Ferry, WV

Kevin Knowles
Mayor
Martinsburg, WV

Hailey Morton Levinson
Mayor
Jackson, WY