



WE NEED YOU TO ADVOCATE FOR GUN SAFETY: here's how to do it.

The murder of innocent civilians in Atlanta and Boulder was shocking and deeply tragic. Sadly, these victims are part of the more than 30,000 people who are killed every year by gunshot, (over 100,000 are shot) a preventable US public health disaster.

We need your help to stop this senseless loss of life and cause of profound disability.

This short guide includes 4 actions anyone can use to advocate for the gun safety policies in this brief. The guide shows how to approach your elected officials, the media, and how to mobilize your networks.

4 ACTIONS YOU CAN TAKE TO REDUCE GUN VIOLENCE IN THE US

1. Share Data:

This website has collected the details of all mass shootings that have occurred in the US by year:
<https://www.gunviolencearchive.org/reports/total-number-of-incidents>

2. Write to Your Elected Officials:

Below is a sample letter your can send to your congresspersons or other elected officials:

Dear Representative _____,

I am writing to seek your support for the gun safety regulations below that would save thousands of American lives every year including those of your constituents.

Over 100,000 Americans are shot annually. Amongst the survivors, most suffer lifelong disabilities. Of those who are shot, over 30,000 die. This includes a staggering 1300 children and more than 1800 women who are shot to death by their domestic partners. Their families are profoundly affected, often for the duration of their lives.

With regard to gun violence, the US stands as a global outlier. Amongst developed nations it has by far the highest death rate from gunshot. It does not have to be this way. Responsible gun ownership and gun safety regulations are used in many developed nations that have millions of gun owners and deaths from gunshot a fraction of the US'. eg. Canada, Finland, Austria, Sweden.

Common sense gun safety regulations would protect our families, save thousands of lives every year and save billions of dollars. To this end, we are writing to request your support for the following:

Gun Safety Policies

- Everyone who wants to acquire or own a gun should have a Firearms and Possession Acquisition License
 - Requirements for this license include:
 - mandatory criminal and background checks,
 - reference checks, which includes interviewing the applicant's immediate family,
 - a min. 28 day waiting period between applying for the license and receiving it
- Guns and ammunition should be stored in locked boxes to prevent unauthorized access of firearms by minors and other ineligible persons
- Support funding research on 'smart guns' that can only fire if a fingerprint or PIN has been entered
- Those who have been convicted of domestic violence must not be allowed to own a gun
- Universal background checks for anyone purchasing a firearm
- Prohibit all straw purchases unless the buyer & final recipient of the gun has a valid Firearms License
- Ban bump stocks and high-capacity magazines.
- Institute a buy back program for handguns and assault rifles

PLEASE LET ME KNOW WHICH OF THESE GUN SAFETY REGULATIONS YOU SUPPORT.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

[Enter your signature here if possible, otherwise delete]

[Student/Job title]

[School or Association if relevant]

Contact email

3. Use the gun safety asks to write letters to the editor/op-eds. Share these asks on your social media platforms REPEATEDLY & OFTEN.

Gun Safety Asks:

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4. Ask your peers to do the above. Share this brief with your networks.

Additional Tips:

- Direct: state your subject clearly in the e-mail subject line and/or letter of introduction
- Factual: personalize the issue and support your stance with facts
- Helpful: offer to provide additional information and provide your contact information
- Informative: identify yourself, your views, and the bill number(s) of relevant legislation
- Constructive: remain positive and offer recommendations without personal attacks or blame
- Appreciative: thank the policymaker for their attention
- Inquiring: ask for the policymaker's viewpoint on the legislation
- Specific: provide specific facts, data, examples, and write in the first-person
- Concise: do not exceed one page or 500 words for any briefs you may share
- Share this guide with your networks & encourage your peers to advocate for these policies

THE ONLY WAY GUN SAFETY REGULATIONS WILL BE ENACTED AND LIVES SAVED IS IF POLITICIANS ACT. FOR THOSE WHO WILL NOT SUPPORT THESE POLICIES TELL THEM THAT YOUR NETWORKS WILL WORK TO ENSURE THAT THEY WILL NOT BE RE-ELECTED UNLESS THEY CHANGE THEIR MIND. LIVES DEPEND ON IT.