

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

September 2, 2025

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker of the House
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Johnson,

Since you were elected as Speaker of the House on October 25, 2023, more than **74,640** people in our country have been killed and another **55,601** have been injured by gun violence. In response to the devastating school shooting in Minnesota while children were gunned down in prayer, former Republican Representative Trey Gowdy asked the question that millions of Americans are asking you: “I mean, how many school shootings does it take...” before we do something?

Gun violence is the leading cause of death for children, teenagers and law enforcement. This crisis is unsustainable and will be addressed by this generation of leaders or the next, but we are not bound to endure this pain forever.

In previous generations Republicans have joined Democrats in combatting gun violence.

In 1934, Congress passed the **National Firearms Act** to regulate machineguns, silencers, sawed off shotguns and short barreled rifles because they were the weapons of choice for gangsters. Leaders acted and saved lives.

In 1993, Congress passed the **Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act** which required background checks. Leaders acted and saved lives.

In 1994, Congress passed the **Public Safety and Recreational Firearms Use Protection Act** which temporarily restricted access to certain classes of extraordinarily dangerous firearms and large capacity magazines. Leaders acted and saved lives.

In 2022, Congress passed the **Bipartisan Safer Communities Act** which expanded background checks for 18–20-year-olds, cracked down on gun traffickers, closed a loophole exploited by domestic abusers, funded school mental health and encouraged the expansion of state red flag laws. Leaders acted and saved lives.

While each of these laws has reduced gun violence and saved lives, more action is needed now.

Scripture shows examples of leaders like Moses and David standing up to evil to protect their people. Their prayers were not passive but supported them to action.

Will this generation of Republican leaders pray not only for the victims, but also for the strength to end gun violence?

Will this generation of Republican leaders look their children and grandchildren in the eyes knowing that they worked to protect them from the leading cause of death for kids and teens?

Will this generation of Republican leadership protect kids from gun violence while praying, or at school, or in the grocery store, or at a parade...?

Will this generation of Republican leaders join Democrats in action to protect our kids?

Republicans are not bystanders in the gun violence epidemic. You control the White House, House and Senate. The President ended the White House Office of Gun Violence Prevention, made guns that fire like a fully automatic machinegun legal, and diverted law enforcement dedicated to fighting gun violence to other roles. The House and Senate are off to a terrible start spending \$1.7 billion to make silencers, sawed off shotguns and short barreled rifles less expensive and proposing devastating cuts to the law enforcement agency that fights gun violence.

In your heart, we are sure that you already know the right thing to do. Former Representative Trey Gowdy, reflected on the terrible school shooting in Minnesota saying, “The only way to stop it is to identify the shooter ahead of time or keep the weapons out of their hands.”

As members of the Gun Violence Prevention Task Force, we have been working tirelessly on policies that keep people safe including keeping firearms out of the hands of those who are a danger to themselves or others; giving law enforcement and the courts the ability to intervene before a crisis has taken place; and restricting access to firearms and devices that are unacceptably dangerous like ghost guns, bump stocks or other devices and firearms that shoot dozens of rounds in seconds.

Your actions and inactions will be judged for eternity both by all those who follow you in public office and by what Lincoln called “a just God.”. Join us in the essential cause of protecting American children from the brutal and unnecessary horrors of any more gun violence.

Sincerely,



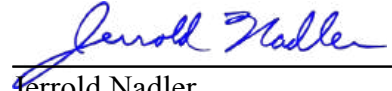
Mike Thompson
Member of Congress



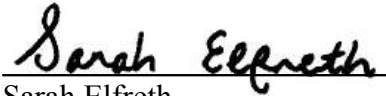
Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress



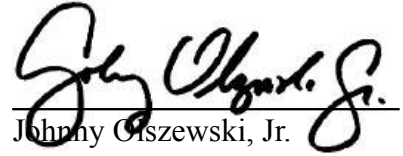
Ilhan Omar
Member of Congress



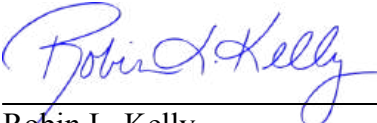
Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



Sarah Elfreth
Member of Congress



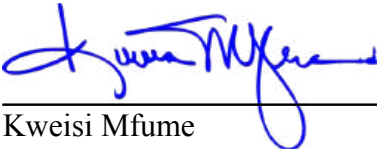
Johnny Olszewski, Jr.
Member of Congress



Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress



Dan Goldman
Member of Congress



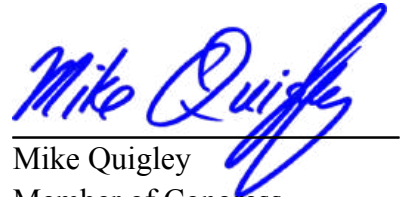
Kweisi Mfume
Member of Congress



Lori Trahan
Member of Congress



Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress



Mike Quigley
Member of Congress



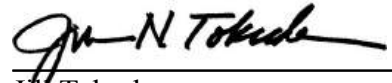
Nancy Pelosi
Member of Congress



Gwen S. Moore
Member of Congress



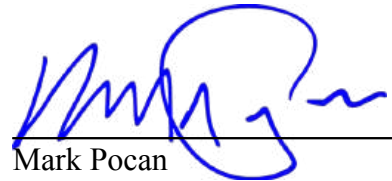
Grace Meng
Member of Congress



Jim Tokuda
Member of Congress



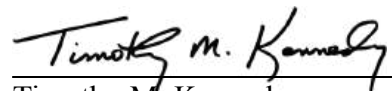
Frank J. Mrvan
Member of Congress



Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



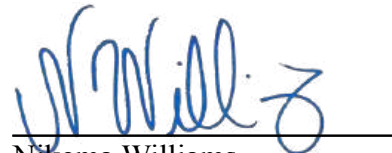
MARK TAKANO
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Timothy M. Kennedy
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Eleanor Holmes Norton
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Nikema Williams
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Kevin Mullin
Member of Congress



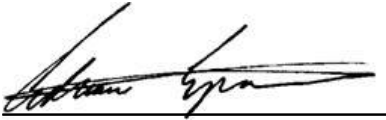
Becca Balint
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Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress



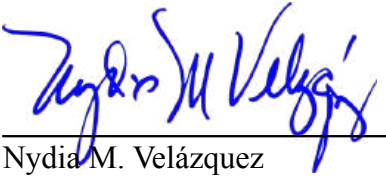
Jasmine Crockett
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Adriano Espaillat
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Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress



David Scott
Member of Congress



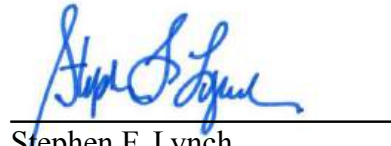
Mary Gay Scanlon
Member of Congress



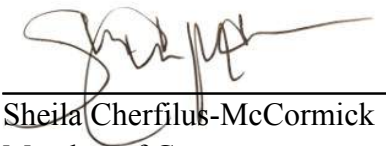
Ro Khanna
Member of Congress



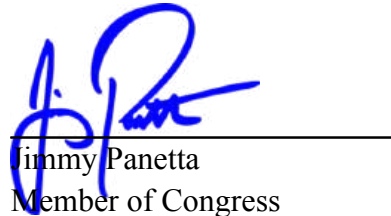
Marc A. Veasey
Member of Congress



Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress



Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick
Member of Congress



Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress



Dina Titus
Member of Congress



Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress



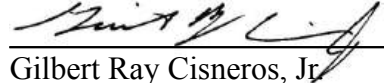
Madeleine Dean
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



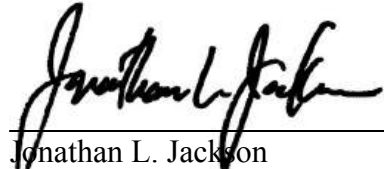
Bradley Scott Schneider
Member of Congress



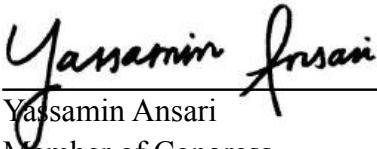
Gilbert Ray Cisneros, Jr.
Member of Congress



Diana DeGette
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Jonathan L. Jackson
Member of Congress



Yassamin Ansari
Member of Congress



Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress



Lateefah Simon
Member of Congress



Emanuel Cleaver, II
Member of Congress



Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress



Suhas Subramanyam
Member of Congress



Dave Min
Member of Congress



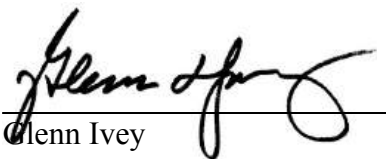
Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress



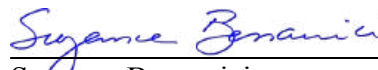
Judy Chu
Member of Congress



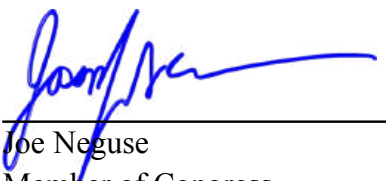
Julie Johnson
Member of Congress



Glenn Ivey
Member of Congress



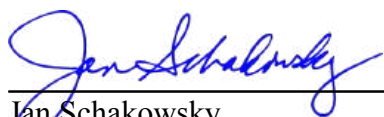
Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



Joe Neguse
Member of Congress



Shontel M. Brown
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



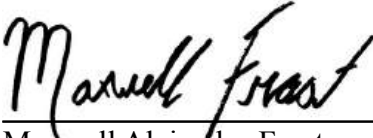
Doris Matsui
Member of Congress



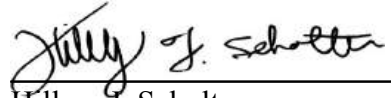
Betty McCollum
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Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress



Maxwell Alejandro Frost
Member of Congress



Hillary J. Scholten
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Derek T. Tran
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Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress



Jahana Hayes
Member of Congress



Terri A. Sewell
Member of Congress



Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.
Member of Congress



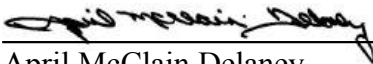
Richard E. Neal
Member of Congress



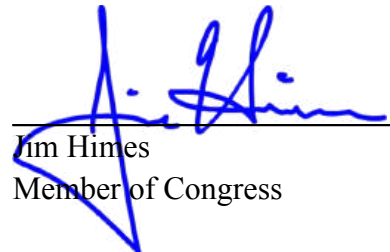
Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress



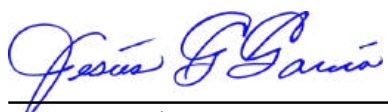
Lucy McBath
Member of Congress



April McClain Delaney
Member of Congress



Jim Himes
Member of Congress



Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress



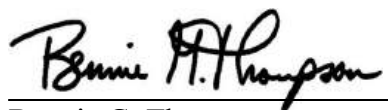
Wesley Bell
Member of Congress



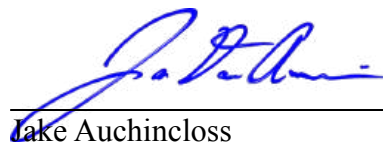
Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress



Thomas R. Suozzi
Member of Congress



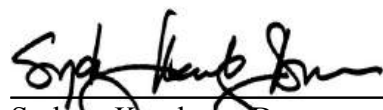
Bennie G. Thompson
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Jake Auchincloss
Member of Congress



Donald Norcross
Member of Congress



Sydney Kamlager-Dove
Member of Congress



Valerie P. Foushee
Member of Congress



Sean Casten
Member of Congress



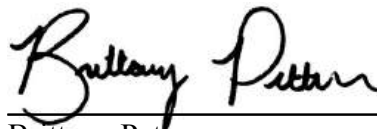
Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress



Delia C. Ramirez
Member of Congress



Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress



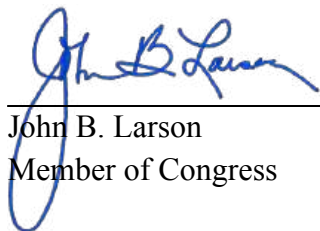
Brittany Pettersen
Member of Congress



Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress



John Garamendi
Member of Congress



John B. Larson
Member of Congress



Gregory W. Meeks
Member of Congress



Angie Craig
Member of Congress



Andre Carson
Member of Congress



Jason Crow
Member of Congress



Joyce Beatty
Member of Congress



Seth Magaziner
Member of Congress



Joseph D. Morelle
Member of Congress



Shri Thanedar
Member of Congress



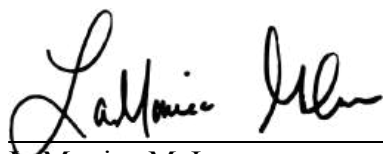
Brendan F. Boyle
Member of Congress



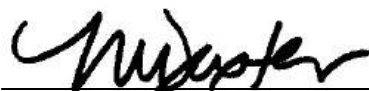
Greg Stanton
Member of Congress



Chris Deluzio
Member of Congress



LaMonica McIver
Member of Congress



Maxine Dexter
Member of Congress



Robert J. Menendez
Member of Congress



Andrea Salinas
Member of Congress



Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress



Chrissy Houlahan
Member of Congress



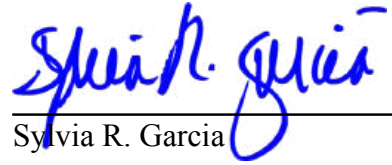
Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress



Jim Costa
Member of Congress



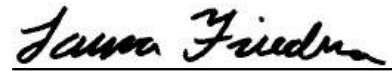
Veronica Escobar
Member of Congress



Sylvia R. Garcia
Member of Congress



Gabe Amo
Member of Congress



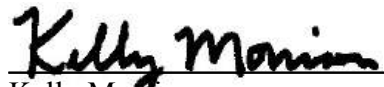
Laura Friedman
Member of Congress



Jared Moskowitz
Member of Congress



Dwight Evans
Member of Congress



Kelly Morrison
Member of Congress



Jimmy Gomez
Member of Congress



Bill Foster
Member of Congress



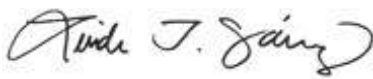
Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress



Suzan K. DelBene
Member of Congress



Norma J. Torres
Member of Congress



Linda T. Sánchez
Member of Congress



Scott H. Peters
Member of Congress



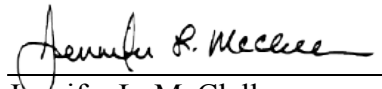
Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



Joe Courtney
Member of Congress



Al Green
Member of Congress



Jennifer L. McClellan
Member of Congress



Kathy Castor
Member of Congress



Juan Vargas
Member of Congress