



June 5, 2022

The Hon. _____
U.S. House of Representatives
The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Alex Padilla
United States Senate
The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Pass Comprehensive Gun Reform

Dear Members of Congress,

I write to you as a person of faith and as your constituent to strongly urge you to pass legislation to confront the scourge of gun violence in this country.

The school shooting in Uvalde, TX that claimed the lives of 21 people, 19 of them children was not the only mass shooting to occur in the last week of May. The threshold for mass shootings as defined by [the Gun Violence Archive](#), a nonprofit research organization, [defines](#) a mass shooting as one in which “four or more people are shot or killed, not including the shooter.” By that definition, at least fifteen mass shootings occurred between the Uvalde, TX shooting and the end of May. These occurred across the country, with one in California. Twelve of those shootings occurred over the Memorial Day weekend. This is according to an article in the Washington Post. Shootings have become so frequent that most of these received little or no national news coverage. Apparently deaths have to reach double digits in order to merit national attention.

It is long past time for the federal government to act. Congress must pass comprehensive legislation to restrict the ownership of firearms, require background checks for all gun purchases, eliminate background check loopholes, tighten laws against gun trafficking, require gun safety training, fund gun violence prevention programs, and address gun violence as a public health crisis.

My faith teaches me to respect the dignity of every human being. Every day in this country, human beings die from preventable firearms deaths. Our minds rightly concentrate on this issue when mass shootings occur, and especially when the victims of a mass shooting are children, but the sad reality is that shooting injuries and deaths are far more common than all-too-frequent mass shootings. In addition to those terrorized by mass shootings, we cannot forget the countless communities with high rates of everyday gun violence and lament the reality that this type of violence disproportionately impacts communities of color. We must never forget the victims of racist acts of violence: the souls taken at the Tops grocery store in Buffalo, the Korean Presbyterian Church in Southern California, the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, and Mother Emanuel AME Church in Charleston. We acknowledge and bewail the harm caused by intimate partner and family violence, and the lives lost to suicide and firearm accidents.

It is in their honor and memory I respectfully call upon you to support commonsense bipartisan gun violence reform. The time for thoughts and prayers has passed. The time for action is now.

Sincerely,

(Print Name) _____

Address _____
