

NATIONAL GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION COALITION 2017 ANNUAL MEETING

October 18th, 2017

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Democratic Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Majority Leader McConnell, Leader Schumer, Speaker Ryan, Leader Pelosi, and members of Congress,

Today, two weeks after the deadliest mass shooting in modern American history in Las Vegas, Nevada, we write to you as a coalition of over one-hundred gun violence prevention, domestic violence, and criminal justice reform organizations from across the United States who are meeting in Washington, DC, for the National Gun Violence Prevention Annual Conference. Our combined membership includes advocates, victims, survivors, elected officials, law enforcement, veterans, faith leaders, and concerned citizens of every state and every Congressional district.

Every day, 93 Americans are killed by guns and another 200 are injured in non-fatal shootings, a rate significantly higher than other developed countries. Still, effective federal legislation has not been passed in decades to stem the tide of gun violence. We are joining together to urge the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate to act to make our communities safer. Congressional action to keep guns out of dangerous hands, fund community-based violence intervention programs, support public health approaches to reducing violence, and address hate based violence will save lives and make our country safer, stronger, and more prosperous.

In addition, this coalition strongly opposes two dangerous gun lobby backed legislative proposals currently before Congress:

- 1. Concealed Carry Reciprocity (H.R. 38/S. 446).** These bills would override state permitting laws that limit who can carry a loaded hidden gun in each state and would force states to allow individuals to carry guns who are not qualified to do so under their own laws. This extreme legislation is a dangerous encroachment on individual state efforts to protect public safety, and it would effectively nullify duly enacted state laws and hamper law enforcement efforts to prevent gun violence. This legislation would create a race to the bottom, allowing states with the weakest laws the furthest reach. Mandated reciprocity would effectively override the permitting requirements

of individual states, such as requiring safety training or prohibiting permits for people with multiple convictions for violent misdemeanors or drug or alcohol abuse problems. Further, there is currently no system to verify the validity of concealed carry permits across state lines, which means that law enforcement could not confirm whether an individual is carrying a weapon legally or creating a risk to public safety.

- 2. Deregulation of silencers (HR. 367/S. 59/Title XV of H.R. 3668).** Current regulation of silencers under the National Firearms Act has worked for decades; silencers are hardly ever used in crime. The current system requires purchasers to pass a background check and register the silencer with federal law enforcement. If passed, these bills would remove this effective regulatory structure, making silencers vulnerable to other gaps in current federal law, most alarmingly the private sale loophole that would allow silencers to be sold by private sellers without a background check and with no questions asked. Because they alter the sound of a gun being fired and mask muzzle flash, the proliferation of silencers would pose a threat to law enforcement in active shooter situations and decrease the effectiveness of gunshot detection technology which is utilized in nearly 100 municipalities across the country.

Together, we urge you to make the safety of the American people a priority and stand with us on these issues.

Sincerely,

Accotink Unitarian Universalist Church
Action Group Network
Alliance for Gun Responsibility
American Federation of Teachers
American Medical Women's Organization Gun Violence Prevention Task Force
American Nurses Association
American Public Health Association
Americans for Responsible Solutions and Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence
American State Legislators for Gun Violence Prevention Steering Committee
Amnesty International USA
Avaaz
Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America ~ Bautistas por la Paz
Battle Born Progress
Bishops United Against Gun Violence
Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence
Brave New Films
Bull Run Unitarian Universalist Church, Manassas, VA
Californians For Gun Safety
Carey Gabay Foundation
CeaseFire Pennsylvania
Center for American Progress
Children's Defense Fund
Children's Firearm Safety Alliance
Coalition to Stop Gun Violence
Colorado Ceasefire

Committee Against Gun Violence in Boca Raton
Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, US Provinces
Connecticut Against Gun Violence
Delaware Coalition Against Gun Violence
Disciples Home Missions, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
Dominican Sisters of Peace
ENOUGH Campaign
Episcopal Peace Fellowship
Everytown for Gun Safety
Faiths United to Prevent Gun Violence
Fellowship of Reconciliation
Franciscan Action Network
Friends Committee on National Legislation
Gangstas Making Astronomical Community Changes Inc.
Gays Against Guns
Gays Against Guns – DC Chapter
Generation Progress
Georgia Alliance for Social Justice
Global Justice Institute
Grandmothers Against Gun Violence
Granite State Progress
Greenwich Council Against Gun Violence
Gun Violence Prevention Center of Utah
Gun Violence Prevention PAC
Hands Up for Gun Safety
Health Ministries
Heeding God's Call to End Gun Violence
Human Rights Campaign
Idaho Coalition Against Sexual & Domestic Violence
Jane Doe Inc., the Massachusetts Coalition Against Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence
Jessi's Message
Jewish Women International
Joint Action Committee
Koop Institute
Leadership Team of the Felician Sisters of North America
Louisiana Violence Reduction Coalition
Maine Gun Safety Coalition
Man Up Inc USA
Marylanders to Prevent Gun Violence
Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association
Massachusetts Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence
Massachusetts Major City Chiefs
Methodist Federation for Social Action
Metropolitan Community Churches
Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America
MomsRising
Mt. Vernon Unitarian Universalist Church
NAACP

National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd
National Black Justice Coalition
National Center on Domestic and Sexual Violence
National Coalition Against Domestic Violence
National Council of Jewish Women
National Domestic Violence Hotline
National Law Enforcement Partnership to Prevent Gun Violence
National Network to End Domestic Violence
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice
New Yorkers Against Gun Violence
North Carolinians Against Gun Violence
Ohio Coalition Against Gun Violence
Oregon Alliance for Gun Safety
Organizing for Action
OUTCRY: Interfaith Voices Against Gun Violence
Pax Christi USA
Pride Fund to End Gun Violence
Protect Minnesota
Rabbinical Assembly
Rabbis Against Gun Violence
Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association
Remembering Darien
Rhode Island Coalition Against Gun Violence
Safe Campus Colorado
Safe Tennessee Project
Sandy Hook Promise
Shiloh Baptist Church of Washington, DC
Sisters of Mercy of the Americas – Institute Justice Team
Sisters of St. Francis of the Neumann Communities
Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia
St. John's Episcopal Church Norwood Parish, Bethesda, Chevy Chase, MD
St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Bethesda, MD
Stop Handgun Violence
Stuart Center
Survivors Empowered
Texas Gun Sense
Temple Emunah, Lexington, MA
Temple Micah, Washington, D.C.
The Advocates
Union for Reform Judaism
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, VA
United Church of Christ, Justice and Witness Ministries
United Methodist Church – General Board of Church and Society
Washington National Cathedral
We the People for Sensible Gun Laws
Wisconsin Anti Violence Effort Educational Fund
YELLOW TAPE PROJECT to Stop Gun Violence
50Safe