



#DisarmHate

#OrlandoUnited

#Enough #LGBTQ

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A Message to My Member of Congress About Gun Violence

Welcome home. As a member of MomsRising and your constituent, I'm visiting your office to urge you to vote for gun safety reform when you return to Washington, D.C.

Consider these facts:

- More than 33,000 Americans every year are killed with firearms. [1]
- Between 2001 and 2013, guns killed more people in the United States than AIDS, drug overdoses, wars and terrorism *combined*. [2]
- Gun deaths now outpace traffic deaths in 21 states. [3]
- One in five Americans have personally experienced or know someone who has experienced gun violence. [4]
- Every year, more than 20,000 children are injured or killed with guns. [5]
- Every other day, a child younger than 12 dies by gun violence. [6]
- Toddlers shoot someone on a weekly basis. [7]
- There is on average a mass shooting every single day in America, with occurrences rising in frequency and scale. [8]

The current situation is simply not okay. More than 20,000 children are injured or killed by guns each year, more than 33,000 people are killed by guns each year, and just recently 49 people in [#Orlando](#) were gunned down in a LGBTQ+ safe space on Latino night by a mass shooter using a military-style assault weapon with a high capacity magazine that has no legitimate civilian use.

And please listen to the following voices of MomsRising members across the country:

"When my uncle was a young adult, he & a friend were driving in town. My uncle was the front passenger. When his friend was stopped at a light, a man approached his friend & shot him to death while my uncle watched in horror. The shooter was mentally ill." -- Sheri, Redford, MI

"My cousins girls where killed by their father in 1975 because he and my cousin where divorcing and he felt that if he couldn't see the girls that my cousin couldn't either." -- Debbie, Fernley, NV

"My mother was shot to death in 1972. A friend of mine was robbed of his vehicle at gunpoint. Recently, the CVS two blocks from us was robbed. Leaving the scene the robbers discharged their weapon on our street." -- Karlana, Columbus, OH

"My 18 year old nephew was shot and has a spinal chord injury that has left him permanently paralyzed. He was aspiring to play in the NBA. He was an awesome basketball player, a fun-loving, sweet kid who was shot, presumably to erase any witnesses to an intended homicide." -- Sonya, Tulsa, OK

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"My brother was a teacher at a middle school. One morning a student came on campus with a gun. A fellow teacher stepped forward to stop the child and he was shot and killed. My brother was also shot at as he went to tell others to get out of there and be safe. I am a first grade teacher and I feel like it is not if but when something like this happens in my town. Too many have died needlessly. It is time to make a difference." -- Mary, Big Bear Lake, CA

"My only son and two other young adults were murdered in an apartment located in the Lexington Court Complex in Maryland, February 22, 2014. Still to this day no one has been brought to justice for this horrific crime. It left me without a son to see achieve all his dreams and aspirations, to raise his only child. The two other young adults left children as well. Does this seem like the way God has plan life to be and to happen?" -- Porcia, Washington, DC

"One night, a reckless, ruthless, thoughtless, heartless guy, walked the streets, looking for someone, anyone to shoot. Unfortunately, me, my sisters, our friend and our soon-to-be brother-in-law were the ones who ran into him that night. It all happened so fast, while we were all in the store, the shooter shot my soon-to-be brother-in-law, while he waited in the car, five times and fled, before we returned to the car. He died in the ambulance. It took my family years to learn that the only way we could/would carry on is to forgive his murderer. During the trial, he admitted that he just wanted to shoot someone just to shoot them. Not a day goes by that we don't think about our B-I-I, but his love and his light shine through us, in all the good deeds we do. I Pray who ever is reading this, if you have gone through something similar just know, it is in God's hands. And God is Good . . . Always. There is Power in Prayer! God Bless!" -- Rachel, Seattle, WA

"A teenage boy in this area, who went to school with my nephew, shot and killed most of his family. It pushes some people to want to learn how to use a gun to protect themselves and others to hate guns. We have a lot of hunting in this area, which is also the cause of some gun accidents and deaths. So it is very important for people around here to know gun safety." -- Diana, New Milton, WV

America is looking to our national leaders to take action. As your constituent, I am looking to you. When you return to Washington, DC, next week to take your place in Congress, please do everything possible to support and pass meaningful, commonsense gun policy reform that will finally begin to reduce gun violence in our country.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

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ENDNOTES

- [1] [National Center for Health Statistics: All Injuries](#), CDC.
- [2] [“Guns killed more Americans in 12 years than AIDS, war, and illegal drug overdoses combined,”](#) Vox, Jan. 12, 2016.
- [3] [“Gun Deaths Are Now Outpacing Traffic Deaths In 21 States, And Counting,”](#) The Huffington Post, January 15, 2016.
- [4] [Kaiser Health Tracking Poll](#), February 2013.
- [5] [“More Kids Suffer Firearm Injuries Than Researchers Previously Believed, Study Finds,”](#) ABCNews, Oct. 17, 2011.
- [6] [“Since Sandy Hook, an American Kid Has Died by a Gun Every Other Day,”](#) NBCNews, Dec. 14, 2015.
- [7] [“People are getting shot by toddlers on a weekly basis this year,”](#) The Washington Post, Oct. 14, 2015.
- [8] [“US mass shootings becoming more frequent – and more deadly,”](#) The Guardian, Dec. 2, 2015.