

Dear President Biden and Vice-President Harris,

Shortly after the November 2020 election, the undersigned groups and others sent your Administration a letter with a list of Executive Actions your administration should take to address the public health crisis of gun violence in the United States. Every day, more than 100 people are killed with guns in this country as a result of homicides, suicides, unintentional shootings, and interpersonal conflicts that become fatal due to easy access to guns. The impact of this violence disproportionately affects communities of color, with Black people in particular suffering ten times the gun homicides and eighteen times the gun assault injuries. Through 2021, the situation grew even more dire as our nation saw spikes in suicides, murders, and mass shootings with numbers not seen in decades.

Your administration responded admirably through 2021 in a number of areas to try to address this crisis. The nomination of David Chipman to serve as Director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), despite the failure of his confirmation in the Senate, was a bold move that demonstrated your commitment to treating gun violence as a serious problem that requires law enforcement buy-in to address and get illegal guns off our streets. The partnerships the Justice Department announced to work with law enforcement across the country are another great example of your dedication to ensuring the gun laws we have on the books are enforced and guns stay out of the hands of people who should not have them. The crackdowns on gun trafficking and gun dealers engaging in illegal acts are important and necessary steps toward a brighter and safer future.

Additionally, we are grateful for the number of Executive Actions your Administration took following the Rose Garden ceremony last April. These actions included presenting model legislation on Extreme Risk Protection Orders (ERPOs), providing HIPAA guidance through the Department of Health and Human Services to protect the privacy of those subject to these orders, and launching a public campaign on Safe Storage regulations. The Justice Department rulemaking on ghost guns and stabilizing braces have been additional welcome moves towards minimizing the carnage guns can cause. We are also thankful that the Administration is taking military and veteran firearm suicide seriously by releasing a comprehensive strategy that includes lethal means safety and more data and information sharing across agencies and to the public. We applaud the Administration's efforts to help survivors of gun violence, support community-oriented policing, to keep guns out of the hands of domestic abusers, and to address the root causes of gun violence with summer jobs programs, substance abuse and mental health programs, and new funding for reentry programs for returning citizens.

Perhaps most impressively, we are proud of the Administration's work to address Community Violence. The American Rescue Plan and changes in Medicaid have so far been responsible for the flow of hundreds of millions of dollars to local and state governments to fund proven methods that reduce gun violence and save lives. Five federal agencies have made changes to 26 different programs in order to support Community Violence Intervention programs.

Finally, we were extremely excited to hear of another round of Executive Actions announced in New York on February 3 of this year. We appreciate the President's dedication to a comprehensive approach to ending gun violence, bringing together law enforcement with

community partners to take dangerous guns off our streets while also providing resources to address the root causes of gun violence.

However, the Administration can, and must, do more in 2022 or potentially face an even more dramatic increase in gun violence than we saw these past years. We cannot afford to wait for a stagnated Congress to take action; instead, we implore your Administration to use the authority of the office to reverse this deadly trend. This Administration must promptly build upon the work of 2021 to ensure that we can turn these numbers around in 2022. The lives of our children, our neighbors, our friends and family, are all at stake.

As we made clear in our 2020 letter, gun violence is not acceptable and it is not inevitable. More than 110 people are killed by gun violence *every single day*. Gun violence is now the leading cause of death for Black men and boys under 55. The urgency of addressing this issue cannot be overstated.

The Biden-Harris Administration has a substantial opportunity to take meaningful action to address gun violence without waiting for Congress, and we are asking that you capitalize on this opportunity immediately. Below is a non-exhaustive list of recommendations for executive actions this administration can take expeditiously to address gun violence and implement a comprehensive approach to confronting this public health epidemic.

Identify Gun Violence Prevention as a Priority Issue

- Create an Interagency Task Force or Hub on Gun Violence Prevention responsible for developing and implementing a coordinated, comprehensive plan to address all aspects of gun violence across all federal agencies
- Establish a Federal Office of Gun Violence Prevention and appoint a senior-level White House official to coordinate federal efforts to address gun violence
- Nominate and ensure confirmation of a new Director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives who will promote gun violence prevention values

Address Gun Violence as a Public Health Crisis

- Declare Gun Violence to be a Public Health Emergency
- Increase funding to enhance access to trauma-informed healthcare, behavioral health services, housing, and other social determinants of health.
- Improve public health information on gun deaths and injuries through funding and improved data collection, data infrastructure, and timeliness of results in order to know the true burden of gun violence in real-time
- Standardize the definition of “Mass Shooting” across the Federal Government to include events where 4 or more people are shot, not including the shooter.
- Install a domestic violence specialist at each ATF field office
- Limit gun carrying on federal public lands
- Preclude the use of “stand your ground” as a defense on federal property
- Create a national voluntary gun buyback pilot program
- Create a national gun safe distribution pilot program
- Fund a broad and sustained Safe Storage public awareness program

- Rescind Trump Executive Order and restore previous definition of “fugitive from justice” to include people who have fled law enforcement within their own state.

Strengthen the Background Check System

- Further clarify which gun sellers must obtain a federal firearms license from ATF
- Close the “fire sale loophole” that allows dealers who lose their license to sell guns in their inventory as private sellers
- Alert state and local law enforcement each time a prohibited person fails a background check—before they find another way to arm themselves
- Alert state and local law enforcement of default proceed sales to prohibited persons
- Direct the FBI to retain records as long as it is able by statute so that it can complete every background check
- Track and provide additional information on NICS in the NICS Operations Report to better illustrate trends in denials and clarity on delayed checks (e.g., the Charleston loophole), including whether delayed checks are completed or purged, the number and type of delayed denials, and what retrieval action was taken

Enhance Oversight of the Gun Industry

- Modernize the application process to become a gun dealer or renew an existing license and strengthen record-keeping requirements for dealers
- Implement federal procurement requirements that direct federal agencies to procure firearms solely from manufacturers, distributors, and dealers that have adopted safe business practices
- Issue an annual report providing detailed information about legal violations by gun dealers, distributors, and manufacturers, including making public all inspection reports by all dealers that have infractions or have been given remedial actions and breakdowns by state.
- Direct ATF to require that gun dealers perform annual background checks on all employees who may transfer firearms
- Fully enforce the ban on importation of foreign-made assault weapons that do not have a “sporting purpose”
- Expand Loss and Stolen Gun Report to include types of firearm and provide data by state
- Direct more ATF funding to hire additional Industry Operations Investigators to conduct gun dealer compliance inspections
- Stop funding, partnering, or co-branding programs with the National Sports Shooting Foundation via the Department of Justice and other Federal Agencies.
- No longer should the ATF hold private briefing and training sessions at NSSF’s annual SHOT SHOW without making their remarks available to the public online.

Implement Measures to End Police Violence

- Issue guidance establishing a necessary use of force standard that prioritizes de-escalation, including training on methods and utilizing violence interrupters, and allows

police use of force only as a last resort after exhausting reasonable options when there is an imminent threat of death or serious bodily injury

- Prohibit profiling by federal law enforcement based on actual or perceived personal characteristics, including race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, disability, proficiency with the English language, immigration status, and housing status
- Use executive authority to end the transfer of military weapons and equipment to local law enforcement agencies under the 1033 and similar programs
- Improve data collection on use-of-force incidents, increase transparency of this data, and incentivize state and local law enforcement agencies to collect and publish data through federal grant programs
- Use discretionary grantmaking power to pressure local and state leaders to make new policies that hold police accountable, reduce police violence, and establish civilian violence interruption/alternative emergency responder programs
- Establish a national public database comprising the names of officers who had licenses revoked or were criminally convicted and mandate participation of state and local agencies to be eligible for federal grant programs

Implement Measures to Address Domestic and International Gun Trafficking

- Reverse the Trump Administration rule shifting oversight of gun exports — including technical data for 3D-printed guns — to the Commerce Department and return firearm exports to the U.S. Munitions List
- Expand the requirement that gun dealers report multiple sales of long guns to all states - only CA, NM, AZ, TX are required right now.
- Clarify that the federal budget riders restricting access to certain crime gun trace data (the so called “Tiahrt Amendments”) do not restrict ATF’s ability to publish or release aggregate data about the source of guns that is critical to stemming trafficking
- Assess the terms of all eTrace MOUs with state, local, and partner nation law enforcement agencies regarding the use of eTrace data and ensure that no provisions place any unnecessary restrictions on use of trace data
- Re-sign the United Nations Arms Trade Treaty

Focus on Firearm Suicide

- Track national suicide mortality, by method, on a quarterly and monthly basis using the Vital Statistics Rapid Release program
- Provide funding to support lethal means counseling training for all suicide prevention lifeline staff and volunteers, health care professionals, and health care students
- Instruct ATF to develop and provide guidance, education, and suggested procedures to gun range owners and their employees to prevent incidents of gun violence onsite, as well as theft or burglary.

Ensure the Safety of all Students

- Clarify that Student Support and Academic Enrichment grant funds may not be used to purchase guns or pay for firearm training for schools
- Include more funding in the President's budget request to support evidence-based student violence prevention and suicide prevention programming via the STOP School Violence grant program at the Bureau of Justice Assistance
- Include more funding in the President's budget request for mental health professionals in schools
- Address student access to guns through awareness programs and technical assistance
- Standardize the definition of "school shooting" across the federal government to align with H.R. 5428 (117th Congress) to state that a school or mass shooting is one in which three or more people are injured or killed in one location or multiple locations in close proximity, not including the shooter.

Disarm Armed White Supremacists and Protect Peaceful Protests and Voting

- Address the rise in armed white supremacists and extremists by improving data on hate crimes and domestic terrorism
- Use existing counterterrorism resources and civil rights laws to prosecute white supremacists and armed extremists, such as those responsible for the January 6th, 2021 insurrection.
- Encourage federal law enforcement and other eligible individuals to utilize policies that disrupt firearm access by hate-driven people, such as extreme risk protection orders

Gun violence is a uniquely American problem – no other high income nation loses people to gunfire at even close to the rate that we do. It is long past time for action to address this crisis, and the undersigned organizations stand ready to support the Biden-Harris Administration in its efforts to implement these and other measures.

Sincerely,

Alliance for Gun Responsibility
Amnesty International USA
AMWA Gun Violence Prevention Health Collaborative
Battle Born Progress
Brady
Broward for Progress
Campaign to Keep Guns Off Campus
Center for American Progress
Coalition to Stop Gun Violence
Delaware Coalition Against Gun Violence
Giffords
Grandmothers Against Gun Violence Washington
Gun Violence Prevention Center Utah
Gun Violence Prevention PAC

Guns Down America
Honor with Action Coalition
Indivisible Northern Nevada
Jewish Women International
Joint Action Committee
Jr. Newtown Action Alliance
Massachusetts Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence
Maine Gun Safety Coalition
Mt. Sinai New York Congregational Church, UCC Missions
National Coalition Against Gun Violence
National Council of Jewish Women
National Education Association
Newtown Action Alliance
North Carolinians Against Gun Violence
Not My Generation
One Aim Illinois
Oregonizers
Peace for DC
Protect Minnesota
Sandy Hook Promise
Seattle Community Police Commission
Sisters of Mercy of the Americas Justice Team
Stop Handgun Violence
Teachers Unify to End Gun Violence
Temple Sinai (DC) Gun Violence Prevention Group
Texas Gun Sense
Union for Reform Judaism
Violent Crime Survivors
WAVE Educational Fund