

January 31, 2023

Dear President Biden,

During your first two years in office, you signed into law historic bipartisan gun violence reduction legislation, secured the confirmation of a permanent director to head the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), directed funding for evidence-based community violence prevention and intervention programs, put forward a plan for tackling rising firearm homicides, and issued multiple executive actions aimed at addressing this public health epidemic. We applaud you for prioritizing the national crisis of gun violence.

Unfortunately, gun deaths and injuries continue to ravage our country, impacting Asian American, Black and Brown communities, and neighborhoods all across the country. In the first few weeks of 2023, at least 69 people have been killed in mass shootings, including multiple tragedies in California, Florida, and Louisiana, and thousands of lives have been lost to interpersonal gun violence and firearm suicide. While Congress must continue to prioritize gun violence prevention, you have the opportunity to act boldly by announcing a comprehensive plan of action to reduce gun deaths at the State of the Union on February 7, 2023.

Such a plan should include:

- Declaring a national emergency around the epidemic of gun violence and establishing a federal office of gun violence prevention and appoint a full-time director to streamline the federal, state, and local government's efforts to save lives.
- Calling on Congress to commit \$5 billion in funding for community violence intervention programs that help disrupt cycles of interpersonal gun violence, encourage states to apply for and increase available funding for community violence prevention, and incentivize states and cities to establish offices of gun violence prevention.
- Announcing a series of executive actions to reduce gun deaths, including fully enforcing the ban on importation of foreign-made assault weapons that do not have a "sporting purpose" and instructing the Federal Trade Commission to promulgate regulations that prohibit unfair or deceptive acts or practices related to the advertising or marketing of firearms to minors.
- Using the office and power of the President to communicate the scope of this crisis with the American people and develop honest, educational, and culturally relevant public campaigns that focus on the inherent risks of keeping firearms in the home, especially around child access and suicide.
- Outlining a detailed plan to fully implement the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, including ensuring funding for violence intervention is directed to communities most impacted by violence and youth-focused violence prevention programs in schools, training NICS investigators to properly conduct background checks on gun buyers under age 21, addressing the background check loophole

by clarifying who is considered “engaged in the business” of selling firearms, and using the new firearms trafficking statute to target the largest sources of crime guns.

The growing gun violence crisis and the stated intention of the new leadership in the House of Representatives to block life-saving legislation demands a higher level of leadership from your White House. We urge you to lay out a concrete plan of action for saving lives at the State of the Union.

Sincerely,

THE TIME IS NOW COALITION MEMBERS