

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

June 14, 2022

PTAs Across the Country Urge Congress to Protect Our Children from Gun Violence

Dear Leader Schumer, Speaker Pelosi, Leader McConnell, and Leader McCarthy:

In less than three weeks we've had a mass shooting in a grocery store, a shooting at a church, shootings at three separate high school graduations, and now another horrific shooting at a school. Recently, 19 children and two adults were killed in an elementary school—fourth graders. Our precious children, grandchildren, godchildren, nieces and nephews. And there have been around 30 shootings at a K-12 school this year alone.

On behalf of the 42 state PTAs listed below, National PTA, and our millions of members nationwide, we urge you to work across the aisle to pass sensible gun safety and violence prevention policies that ensure our children are protected from harm. There are no real words that can accurately convey the horror, anger, sadness and disgust we continue to feel, as gun violence continues to take innocent lives in our country, and the lack of progress we've made on this issue.

We have prayed for change. It's past time to make change to save lives.

Our priority as a nation must be our children. We call upon you as our leaders in the House and Senate, and we call upon all Members of Congress, to immediately advance common sense gun law reform including legislation that:

- **Invests in evidence-based community violence intervention strategies**, such as the Break the Cycle of Violence Act (S. 2275, H.R. 4118)
- **Requires a waiting period and comprehensive background check for all individuals prior to purchasing a firearm**, such as the Bipartisan Background Checks Act (H.R. 8)
- **Funds research on gun violence prevention and encourages reporting on school crime and safety**, such as the Gun Violence Prevention Research Act (S. 281, H.R. 825)

- **Restricts internet gun sales, including kits that can be used to make and modify guns, and access to military-style semi-automatic assault weapons**, such as the School Shooting Safety and Preparedness Act (H.R. 5428)
- **Encourages gun safety education and the safe storage of firearms**, such as the Safe Gun Storage Act of 2021 (S.1825, H.R. 3509)

In America, we teach our children that they've inherited life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, but for far too long children have been taken from us because of unexplainable and senseless violence. Every time, we witness in horror as firearms are again used to cause catastrophic devastation, loss and trauma to our families and our communities. Instead of confidently going to school and learning in a safe and peaceful classroom, these incidents have made us focus on safety measures and drills for active shooter situations. These incidents also have our children living in fear, wondering if a shooting like this could happen at their school. And parents are afraid to send their children to school, what should be a safe place and the best place for them to learn and thrive.

If we can't protect our children from gun violence and keep them safe at school, how can we help them reach their full potential? And who will carry our nation into a brighter future? There could not be a more urgent time for our elected officials to take action and for everyone to come together to be there for our nation's students. We immediately need real solutions that will save lives and make our schools and communities safer for everyone.

The time is long overdue for Congress to adopt measures that ensure our children are protected from harm and support schools in their efforts to create safe and welcoming spaces for every child. No parent should lose a child to gun violence and no parent should fear for the safety of their child once they leave home. School must be a safe and welcoming place for every child, and it's time we come together and immediately enact real solutions to save lives and make our schools and communities safer.

We implore you to prioritize the bills we've referenced above and any legislation that enacts common sense gun law reform to support our children to learn, grow and succeed. School must be a safe and welcoming place for every child, and the long-term success of our nation depends on legislation and policies that protect our children.

Thank you for your consideration, and please feel free to contact National PTA's Director of Government Affairs, Kate Clabaugh, at kclabaugh@pta.org if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

National PTA
Alabama PTA
Arizona PTA
Arkansas PTA
California State PTA
Colorado PTA
Connecticut PTA

Delaware PTA
European PTA
Florida PTA
Free State PTA
Georgia Congress of Parents and Teachers
Hawaii State PTSA
Illinois PTA
Indiana PTA
Iowa PTA
Louisiana PTA
Massachusetts PTA
Maine PTA
Michigan PTA
Minnesota PTA
Mississippi PTA
Missouri PTA
Montana PTA
Nebraska PTA
Nevada PTA
New Jersey PTA
New Mexico PTA
New York PTA
North Carolina PTA
North Dakota PTA
Ohio PTA
Oklahoma PTA
Oregon PTA
Pennsylvania PTA
Rhode Island PTA
State of South Dakota PTA
U.S. Virgin Islands PTA
Vermont PTA
Virginia PTA
Washington State PTA
West Virginia PTA
Wisconsin PTA