

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 26, 2021

Honorable Joseph R. Biden
President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden,

We write today to request that you appoint a National Director of Gun Violence Prevention and empower this newly appointed official to create and chair an Interagency Task Force on Gun Violence Prevention. In the face of persistent and growing gun violence across our nation, appointing a National Director of Gun Violence Prevention to communicate and coordinate across federal agencies, and empowering them to create an Interagency Task Force to implement a comprehensive government approach to address this violence, will help bring our nation out from under the depths of the gun violence crisis.

Every year, nearly 40,000 people are killed with guns in our nation and another 76,000 are injured, with disproportionate shares of this violence falling on communities of color. In 2020 alone, as the COVID-19 pandemic raged, at least 43,561 people needlessly lost their lives due to gun violence, a 10% increase from 2019.¹ As gun ownership soars to record levels², we fear that this violence will only continue to grow.

Currently, federal efforts to combat gun violence, including research on the impacts and causes of gun violence and law enforcement efforts to combat it, are siloed across agencies. Appointing a National Director of Gun Violence to promote coordination of federal agencies will ensure these agencies are working collaboratively, including via the dissemination of critical data and coordination of shared goals, including the Bureau of Alcohol, Firearms, and Tobacco, Department of Justice, Health and Human Services, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. We ask that this Director work with — and directly report — to you and set forth the goal of reducing firearms deaths and injuries by at least 50% over the next ten years.

We also respectfully request that your National Director of Gun Violence Prevention be empowered to create and chair an Interagency Task Force on Gun Violence Prevention. This Task Force should formally bring together stakeholders in gun violence research and prevention — for instance the U.S. Attorney General and the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services — to educate Americans on gun violence prevention tactics, and engage with community organizations, healthcare providers, Members of Congress and others who work to address the intersectional dimensions of gun violence. The creation of this Task Force will signal

¹ [Gun Violence Archive](#).

² [“First-Time Gun Buyers Grow to Nearly 5 Million in 2020.”](#) National Shooting Sports Foundation. Aug. 2020.

the importance of this issue to our nation and further a comprehensive government approach to addressing it.

We applaud each of the commitments you have made to combatting gun violence and ask that you give strong and immediate consideration to appointing a National Director of Gun Violence Prevention who could create and chair an Interagency Task Force on Gun Violence Prevention. We look forward to partnering with you in this work, and greatly appreciate your consideration of these requests.

Sincerely,



Joe Neguse
Member of Congress



Lucy McBath
Member of Congress

/s/
Mike Doyle
Member of Congress

/s/
Terri A. Sewell
Member of Congress

/s/
Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress

/s/
Juan Vargas
Member of Congress

/s/
Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress

/s/
Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress

/s/
Grace Meng
Member of Congress

/s/
Dwight Evans
Member of Congress

/s/
Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress

/s/
James P. McGovern
Member of Congress

/s/
Susan Wild
Member of Congress

/s/
Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress

/s/
Kathy Manning
Member of Congress

/s/
Mary Gay Scanlon
Member of Congress

/s/
Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress

/s/
Val Demings
Member of Congress

/s/
Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress

/s/
Thomas R. Suozzi
Member of Congress

/s/
Chrissy Houlahan
Member of Congress

/s/
Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress

/s/
Theodore E. Deutch
Member of Congress

/s/
Daniel T. Kildee
Member of Congress

/s/
Jahana Hayes
Member of Congress

/s/
Madeleine Dean
Member of Congress

/s/
Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress

/s/
André Carson
Member of Congress

/s/
Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress

/s/
Lisa Blunt Rochester
Member of Congress

/s/
Tony Cárdenas
Member of Congress

/s/
Jason Crow
Member of Congress

/s/
Albio Sires
Member of Congress

/s/
Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress

/s/
Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress

/s/
Diana DeGette
Member of Congress