A COMMON AGENDA TO STOP GUN VIOLENCE IN PENNSYLVANIA

Dear Pennsylvania State Senators, State Representatives, and Governor Wolf,

We, the undersigned, support a common-sense policy agenda designed to stop gun violence, an epidemic that claims approximately 1,600 Pennsylvanians every year.

Because gun violence takes so many forms--many of which are claiming more lives in the wake of this pandemic--we need different solutions to address them. We believe the following common-sense policies will best address important strains of this public health crisis:

Extreme Risk Protection Orders (ERPOs) will reduce firearms suicides, mass shootings, domestic violence, and even community violence/homicides. With an ERPO, family members can petition a judge to temporarily remove firearms from a loved one in crisis without stigmatizing them with an involuntary mental-health commitment.

Closing the Private Sale Gap in Our Background Checks System would prevent violent felons and other dangerous individuals from purchasing military-style rifles, the weapon of choice for mass shootings, from a private/non-licensed seller. A background check at the point of sale is the only surefire way to tell a “good guy with a gun” from a “bad guy with a gun.”

Lost or Stolen Gun Reporting would, by increasing responsible gun-owning behavior, keep illegal firearms out of the hands of people with violent intent. By requiring gun owners to report the loss or theft of a firearm within three days of discovering the firearm is gone, this policy would reduce community violence in our most beleaguered communities by giving police a much-needed tracking tool to identify repeat offenders as probable neighborhood traffickers.

Each of these would be a significant step towards reducing gun violence--via suicide, mass shootings, homicides, domestic violence, or unintentional shootings--in our communities. Without these reforms, Pennsylvanians will continue to die. We urge you to prioritize and pass these laws in 2021-2022.

Very truly yours,

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS
Millennials In Action
TLD Building Bridges
North Side Partnership Project
Anti-Violence Partnership of Philadelphia
Coalition for Fathering Families
Community Responders Network
Edgewood Neighbors for Gun Safety
G.R.O.W.N- Elevate Your Thinking.
International Day of Peace Committee
MOTHERS IN CHARGE, INC
NOMO
Operation Better Block
Philadelphia Anti Drug Anti Violence Network
Recovery Christian Center Urban CDC.
South Pittsburgh Coalition for Peace/South Pittsburgh Peacemakers
The Greater Pittsburgh Coalition Against Violence (CAV)
Voices Against Violence
Homewood Homes
IDAAY
Jamar Place of Peace
The Community Responders Network
Unity and Community
Women of Strength, United for Change

LOCAL OFFICIALS
Allegheny County Councilwoman Olivia Bennett
Allegheny County Councilwoman-at-Large Bethany Hallam
Harrisburg Mayor Eric Papenfuse
Pittsburgh Mayor Bill Peduto
Pittsburgh City Councilman Bruce Kraus
Pittsburgh City Councilwoman Erika Strassburger
Pittsburgh City Council Corey O'Connor

FAITH
Congregation Dor Hadash
Beth Am Israel, Rabbi David Ackerman
Rodeph Shalom, Rabbi Eli Freedman
First Reformed Church UCC, Pastor Devin Jeffers
Gospel Fellowship Church/GHTU
Harrisburg BiC Church, Senior Pastor Henry Johnson
Lancaster Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Associate Pastor Carla Wilson
Main Line Reform Temple
National Council of Jewish Women Greater Philadelphia
Pennsylvania Council of Churches
Pittsburgh Area Pax Christi,
Pleas Muslims of Central Pa
Tabernacle Baptist Church
The Episcopal Diocese of Central PA, Bishop Audrey Scanlan
Union Lutheran Church, Lead Pastor Joel Folkemer
Unitarian Universalist Church of the South Hills (Sunnyhill),
United Lutheran Seminary
UU Justice PA
York First Church of the Brethren, Pastor Joel Gibbel
Beth David Reform Congregation
Beth El Temple Harrisburg, Rabbi Ariana Capptauber
FREE Together
FREE Together - Harrisburg & Messiah University
Moravian Center of Lancaster
Moving Circles-Carlisle Beloved Community

GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION
Amnesty International Group 39
Delaware County United for Sensible Gun Policy
Gettysburg for Gun Sense
GunSenseUs
Harrisburg Chapter of Heeding God’s Call to End Gun Violence
Heeding God’s Call to End Gun Violence
Lehigh Valley Friends of CeaseFirePA
Orange Wave For Gun Safety
Radnor Residents for Gun Safety
Squirrel Hill Stands Against Gun Violence

SOCIAL JUSTICE
Bend the Arc Jewish Action: Pittsburgh
Harrisburg Peace Garden Assn
Indivisible Pittsburgh
Lawrence County Action
Women’s Advocacy Coalition
Progress PA
Tuesdays with Toomey

PUBLIC HEALTH
American Academy of Pediatrics
Dr. Ruth McDermott-Levy, Villanova Center for Global Health
Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia
Hamilton Health Center
Christine Ludwick, Physician Assistant
Health Promotion Council
National Nurse-Led Care Consortium
Dr. Vivek Ashok, Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh Pediatric Resident
American Academy of Pediatrics, PA Chapter
Dr. Uma Raman, St. Christopher’s Hospital for Children Pediatric Resident
PA Physicians for Social Responsibility
Pennsylvania Public Health Association
Philadelphia Department of Public Health
Public Health Management Corporation

Survivors
Survivors Empowered
Team 26/Sandy Hook Riders

Veterans
Action Tank
Veterans Leadership Program
RISE: Rank & File

Youth
Enough Greater Philadelphia
March for Our Lives
Mighty Writers
Peace collective
Turning Points for Children

Racial Justice
Black Women for Positive Change
Bucks County NAACP
The Black Political Empowerment Project (B-PEP)