



June 18, 2025

Dear General Assembly,

Gun homicides have plummeted 38% in the last two years across Pennsylvania. York had the lowest levels of gun homicides since 2015, Philadelphia since 2014, and Allentown since 1989. Pittsburgh saw a 41% decrease.

This significant reduction in shootings was driven by the more than \$200 million invested by the General Assembly over four years in the Violence Intervention Program (VIP) under the PA Commission on Crime & Delinquency (PCCD). It supported local data-driven, community-centered programs that provide resources to local governments and nonprofits for law enforcement and community group violence intervention programs, hospital-based and street outreach efforts, and other programs that work with those most at risk for being involved in violence. These programs prevent shootings before they occur. Research shows that each dollar invested returns at least 5 times the value to the state in health care, criminal justice, community safety, and economic value.

Still, there is more work to do. Thanks to the last few years of investment, we've built infrastructure, trained violence interrupters and counselors, expanded victim services, built stronger relationships between law enforcement and community leaders, and developed efforts in every corner of Pennsylvania to prevent gun violence. Now is the time to accelerate these proven efforts to prevent shootings.

We must continue providing resources to these proven efforts for preventing violence. If we don't, programs will close, outreach will slow, and ultimately shootings will climb leading to more lives lost. **We, the undersigned, urge the General Assembly to include \$80 million for FY 2025-26 for the Violence Intervention Program. We also urge the General Assembly to separately fund Governor Shapiro's request for \$21.5 million for the Building Opportunity through Out of School Time (BOOST) program, for a total of \$101.5 million in violence intervention and prevention resources.**

Now is the time to double down on a proven strategy that has already saved hundreds of lives and enhanced community safety.

Sincerely,



### **Community Violence Intervention Organizations**

Bench Mark Program	Lancaster
Center for Victims	Pittsburgh
Community Empowerment Association	Pittsburgh
Divine Intervention Ministries (DIM)	Pittsburgh
Greater Valley Community Services	Braddock
HOOP	Braddock
Making a Change Group	Chester
South Pittsburgh Coalition for Peace	Pittsburgh
Women's Center & Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh
Qcares Foundation	McKeesport

### **Community Violence Intervention Workers**

Anne Ard	Bellefonte
Mallory Beatty	Pittsburgh
Jalal Black	Braddock
May Booth	Philadelphia
Michael Branch	West Mifflin
Latoya Brownfield	McKeesport
Christine Brunson	Collingdale
Chardae Davis	Philadelphia
Darnell Drewery	Pittsburgh
Richard Garland	Bridgeville
Donna Griffin	Philadelphia

Janet Hellner-Burris	Pittsburgh
Shayla S. Holmes	Pittsburgh
Vivien Kane	Blue Bell
Janet Katz	Lansdale
Muriel Kudera	Philadelphia
Sara Nevels	Pittsburgh
Nickole Nesby	Duquesne
Ebonie Stringer	Reading
Maria Taylor	Davenport
Jawan Turner	South Park
Jullian Turner	Pittsburgh
Cathy Welsh	Turtle Creek

### **Community Partners**

Amnesty International Group 39	Pittsburgh
Chester County Marching Forward Social Justice Committee	West Chester
Deena Stoudt	Temple
Delaware County Victim Assistance Center	
Langhorne Borough	
Men Who Care of Germantown	Philadelphia
Project Destiny Inc.	Pittsburgh
Purple House Project	Darby
Rankin Christian Center	Rankin
Safer Schools Stronger Neighborhoods / CASA	Chester
YouthPlaces Incorporated	Pittsburgh

Warrington Township

Warrington

**Schools and Educators**

AFT Pennsylvania

East Allegheny School District

North Versailles

Penn Hills School District

Penn Hills

Woodland Hills School District

Braddock

Karen Brandes

State College

Jared Brooks

Philadelphia

Michelle Davis

Altoona

Todd Davis

Altoona

Katherine Harris

Pittsburgh

Joe Maluchnik

Braddock

Elizabeth Parziale

Ambler

Melanie Sprenkel

Pittsburgh

Eric Smith

Sugar Grove

Wendy Souders

Lititz

Jessica Turner

Pittsburgh

Peggy Walsh

Morrisville

Erin Marie Williams-Hatala

Pittsburgh

Sandra Woolley

Pittsburgh

**Faith Organizations and Leaders**

Episcopal Community Services

Philadelphia

Episcopal Diocese of Central Pennsylvania

Carlisle

National Council of Jewish Women	Philadelphia
Open Door Community Outreach Center Inc.	Aliquippa
Philadelphia Episcopal Cathedral	Philadelphia
Saving Lives: Ending Gun Violence, The Episcopal Diocese of Central Pennsylvania	Harrisburg
Sisters of Divine Providence	Allison Park
Social Justice and Outreach Committee, Episcopal Diocese of Plttsburgh	Pittsburgh
St. Brendan's Social Justice Ministry	Sewickley
Susquehanna Conference of The United Methodist Church Peace with Justice Commission	Roaring Spring
University Mennonite Church	State College
UU Justice PA % the Unitarian Church of Harrisburg	Harrisburg
Rev. Jack Brennan	Aliquippa
Ariana Chloe Capptauber	Harrisburg
Malinda S. Clatterbuck	Holtwood
Bobbi Cohen	Philadelphia
Dale Cranmer	Lansdowne
Anne Flynn	Carlisle
Bonnie and Gary Graham	Philadelphia
Rev. Brenda J. Gregg	Pittsburgh
Rev. Martha Harris	Lancaster
Jane Isaacs Lowe	Philadelphia
Pat Millen, OSF	Philadelphia
Erin Jones	Pittsburgh
Bonnie Kline Smeltzer	Boalsburg
Sandra Knaub	Lititz

Lynn Marsden-Atlass	Wynnewood
Moni McIntyre	Pittsburgh
Sr. Betty McVeigh	Flourtown
Erik Meyer	Willow Grove
Pat Millen	Chester
David Reinwald	Pittsburgh
Anjel Scarborough	Harrisburg
Stuart Scarborough	Harrisburg
Bethany Spicher Schonberg	Huntingdon
Kieth A. Taylor	Aliquippa
Sr. Mary Traupman	Pittsburgh
Evelyn Janet Wald	Belleville
Ben Wideman	State College
Meredith Wiggins	Philadelphia

### **Health Organizations and Professionals**

American Trauma Society, Pennsylvania Division	Mechanicsburg
Health Educated	Sharon Hill
Health Promotion Council of Southeastern PA	Philadelphia
Tessa Agbonifioror, Nurse Practitioner	Lansdowne
Dr. Robert Barraco	Allentown
Dr. Sherry Blumenthal	Glenside
Judith Brooks, Nurse	Bethlehem
Dr. Edward Chory	Lancaster
Dr. Gabriel Cisneros	Pittsburgh
Dr. Marjorie Curtis-Cohen	Abington

Dr. Christine Dacier	Glenside
Mary Derstein	Boalsburg
Dr. Sharon Elwell	Drexel Hill
Deborah Erdman, Nurse	Danville
Dr. Elinore Kaufman	Philadelphia
Nora Kramer, Nurse	Philadelphia
Ali Layton, Trauma Therapist	Pittsburgh
Dr. Margaret Lytton	Wynnewood
Mary Markey, Nurse	Feasterville Trevose
Dr. Deborah Moss	Pittsburgh
Diane Powell	Pittsburgh
Dr. Daniel Relles	Zionsville
Dr. Toni Richards-Rowley	Blue Bell
Lawana Scales	Havertown
Sarah Schlechter	Bala Cynwyd
Mary K. Sykes, Nurse	Uniontown
Dr. Robert Tessier	Pittsburgh
Hannah Thomas, Nurse	Rutledge
Aleida Thorogood	Claymont
Dennis Trainer	Glenside
Skyla vanTrikt	Glenolden
Kathie Westman, Nurse	Gibsonia
Meredith Wideman, Nurse	State College
Dr. Byard Yoder	Manheim

### **Local Elected Officials**

Councilperson Jaime Arroyo	Lancaster
M. Emerson	Harrisburg
Councilperson Erika Strassburger	Pittsburgh
Delia Lennon-Winstead	Braddock
Karen Lyons	Pittsburgh
Councilperson Mary Nesby	Homestead
Mayor Dwan B. Walker	Aliquippa
Councilperson Barbara Warwick	Pittsburgh

### **Gun Violence Survivors**

Catherine Bartch	Philadelphia
Lisa Brooks	Upper Chichester
Vickie DeTorre	Coraopolis
Marlene Layton	Pittsburgh
Lisa Ofalt	Exton
Rachel Usdan	Pittsburgh
Dawn Williams	North Versailles

### **Youth**

Kavi Shahnawaz	Philadelphia
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