

#TheTimesNow

April 23, 2021

Dear Members of the U.S. Senate,

We are a diverse group of families and survivors who have been directly impacted by gun violence from every corner of our nation. We urge the U.S. Senate to take immediate action to address the public health crisis of gun violence.

Since the beginning of the year, over 13,000 Americans have died from gun violence and today alone, more than 300 Americans will feel the pain of a bullet. Tragically, more than 100 will die. The ripple effects of those shootings reverberate across communities all across America -- tearing at the fabric of healthy families, schools, neighborhoods, and communities.

Every child, woman and man deserves to live in the U.S. free from gun violence and lawmakers must prioritize gun safety and act to save lives now.

There is broad American support for life-saving gun legislation. Last month, the House of Representatives passed a set of gun violence prevention bills. Last Thursday, President Joe Biden announced his initial administrative actions and investments in community violence prevention programs to end the gun violence crisis in our nation. Therefore, the time is now for the U.S. Senate to act. We call on the Senate to take initial steps by passing H.R.8 and H.R. 1446, two bipartisan House-passed measures that strengthen and expand the background check system, and protect the \$5 Billion investment in the American Jobs Act for evidence-based community violence prevention programs.

While efforts continue to seek 60 votes for legislation like expanding background checks for more firearm purchases, we will not accept or support measures that fall significantly short of the robust provisions included in H.R.8. Should Senators fail to find at least 60 votes to pass this foundational life-saving reform, the Senate Majority Leader must move to alter the filibuster and allow this critical legislation to pass with a simple majority vote.

Simply put: we can no longer allow a small number of Senators to repeat the tragic mistakes of the past. They must not undermine progress on the universal background check legislation that is supported by over 90 percent of Americans, including Republicans and gun owners. We can no longer afford to give Mitch McConnell and the NRA veto power over life saving policies supported by a majority of Americans, a majority of the U.S. House of Representatives and the majority of the U.S. Senate.

At Congressman John Lewis's funeral, President Barack Obama described the filibuster as a "relic of the Jim Crow Era." That is because the filibuster's modern corrupted use was initiated as a means to protect the systemic violence and oppression that benefited the oppressors, mainly and historically white men. Today we have a gun violence

problem that disproportionately impacts communities of color, young Black men in particular. Tools like the filibuster further marginalize and disenfranchise these communities from creating the change they need to build a safe and just future.

One of the primary responsibilities of the federal government is to keep Americans safe. We are beyond tired of hearing political excuses for inaction. Voters have given you a mandate to advance popular legislation and we are here to hold you accountable and ensure that you work to create a viable path forward for these life-saving measures.

Sincerely,

#TheTimelsNow Families and Survivors:

Megan Ackerman , Los Angeles, California
Katherine Aker, Tujt, California
Nancy Bacon, Maple Grove, Minnesota
Miyoshia Bailey, Chicago, Illinois
Sharon Baker , Goshen , Indiana
Jennifer Bates, Spokane, Washington
Michael Bishop, Pine Mountain, Georgia
Stephanie Bishop, Atlanta, Georgia
Paul Bocanegra , Redwood City , California
Tika Bordelon, Seattle, Washington
Pamela Bosley, Chicago, Illinois
Shaundelle Brooks, Antioch, Tennessee
Aldane Brooks, Antioch, Tennessee
Susan Browder, Gainesville , Florida
Jacqueline Brown, Petersburg, Virginia
Amy Bruner, Cedar Rapids, Iowa
Rafael Burgos, Chicago, Illinois
Milagros Burgos, chicago, Illinois
Julie Butcher, La Crescenta, California
Thomas Campbell, Danbury, Connecticut
Keren Carter, Concord, California
Monica Cassaberry, Brooklyn, New York
Heather Chapman, Parkland, Florida
Lauren Child, South Pasadena, California
Kathleen Clarke-Pearson, Chapel Hill, North Carolina
Abbey Clements, Danbury, Connecticut
Nicole Cook, Hollywood, Florida
Matthew Crebbin, Newtown , Connecticut
Marie Curtis, Oakhurst, New Jersey
Abede DaSilva, Antioch, Tennessee
Ryan Deitsch, Parkland, Florida
Marie Delus, Brooklyn, New York
Carolyn Dixon , Jamaica , New York
Doreen Dodgen-Magee, portland, Oregon
Tara Donnelly, Easton, Connecticut

Liv Doscher, Sandy Hook, Connecticut
Brad Dupee, Superior, Colorado
Gail Finney, Davis, California
Mary Fryer, San Francisco, California
Carol Gaxiola, Sahuarita, Arizona
Wayne Gilbert, Tiburon, California
Jordan Gomes, Sandy Hook, Connecticut
Shirell Gross, North Hollywood, California
Sara Grossman, Denver, Colorado
Fred Guttenberg, Parkland, Florida
Paul Guttenberg, Commack, New York
Laura Hale, Carson City, Nevada
Holly Hall, Temecula, California
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Archer Heinzen, Alexandria, Virginia
Craig Hexham, Traverse City, Michigan
Christian Heyne, Washington, District of Columbia
Pamela Hight, New York, New York
Geraldine "Gerry" Hills, Phoenix, Arizona
Gregory Jackson, Washington, District of Columbia
Dolene John, Brooklyn, New York
Kinnon Karamo John, San Leandro, California
Lael Johnson, Los Angeles, California
Rachael Joseph, Minneapolis, Minnesota
Joshua Kadish, Reseda, California
Paul Kaneko, Santa Cruz, California
Celeste Kanpurwala, Ann Arbor, Michigan
Seth Kaplan, Hudson, Massachusetts
Lee Keylock, Woodbridge, Connecticut
Alyssa Kilpatrick, Sierra Madre, California
Kerry Kraemer, Lockport, Illinois
Maggie LaBanca, Sandy Hook, Connecticut
Honora Laszlo, Arlington, Virginia
Jenn Lawlor, Bethel, Connecticut
Tom Lawlor, Bethel, Connecticut
Lisa LeBlanc, Houston, Texas
Lisa Litberg, Morton Grove, Illinois
Mia Livas Porter, Los Angeles, California
Don Lococo, Newtown, Connecticut
Sara Macaluso, Los Angeles, California
Denise Marks, Valencia, Pennsylvania
Rachel Maurice, Menifee, California
Marcel McClinton, Houston, Texas
Melody McFadden, Easley, South Carolina
Erin Milgram, Sandy Hook, Connecticut
Jackson Mittleman, Newtown, Connecticut
Cindy Montoya, Sierra Madre, California
Andrea Moore, New Fairfield, Connecticut

Giselle Morch, Silver Spring, Maryland
Jenny Morgan, Grand Prairie, Texas
Peter Murchison, Ridgefield, Connecticut
Yvonne Murray, Menlo Park, California
Mo Neal, Lincoln, Nebraska
Andrei Nikitchyuk, Sandy Hook, Connecticut
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Tracy Nishimuta, San Juan Capistrano, California
Manuel Oliver, Parkland, Florida
Corey E. Olsen, Delafield, Wisconsin
Gregory Orfalea, Washington, District of Columbia
Marc Orfanos, Thousand Oaks, California
Tymaeus Orfanos, Thousand Oaks, California
Susan Orfanos, Thousand Oaks, California
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Karen Pandula, Sunnyvale, California
Camille Paradis, Newtown, Connecticut
Deborah Parker, Tucson, Arizona
Barbara Parker, Collinsville, Virginia
Andy Parker, Collinsville, Virginia
Nicholas Payne, New Milford, Connecticut
Eloise Peterson, Houston, Texas
Joan Peterson, Cloquet, Minnesota
Sandy Phillips, Long Beach, Texas
Lonnie Phillips, Boerne, Texas
Chip Pryde, Flat Rock, North Carolina
Cristen Rescigno, Newtown, Connecticut
Judi Richardson, South Portland, Maine
Wayne Richardson, South Portland, Maine
Jeanette Richardson, Newport News, Virginia
Jerry Rivers, Roosevelt, New York
Madison Roeschke, Santa Clarita, California
Rosa Rosenberg, Los Angeles, California
Kim Russell, Brooklyn, New York
Liz Russell, Napa, California
April Schentrup, Parkland, Florida
Susan Schmidt-Orfanos, Thousand Oaks, California
Gail Schwartz, Parkland, Florida
Diane Sellgren, Minneapolis, Minnesota
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Jessica Sewell, Stockton, California
Leatha Sherill-Bush, Miami, Florida
Pam Simon, Tucson, Arizona
Melissa Sisco, Carlsbad, California
Mike Song, Guilford, Connecticut
Kristin Song, Guilford, Connecticut
Jeremy Stein, Ridgefield, Connecticut
Manjula Stokes, Santa Cruz, California

Tom Sullivan , Centennial , Colorado
Cathy Taylor, Midlothian, Texas
Lenie Urbina, Sandy Hook, Connecticut
Michele Voigt, Greenwich , Connecticut
Mary Ward, Pullman, Washington
Gail Warek, Sandy Hook, Connecticut
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Angela Weber, Coral Springs, Florida
Jan Weisel, Woodinville, Washington
Jane Weiss, Snohomish, Washington
Stephanie Wells, Carlsbad, California
Joseph Wenzel, Lake Elmo, Minnesota
Wendy Wheatcroft, San Diego, California
David Wheeler, Sandy Hook, Connecticut
Francine Wheeler , Sandy Hook, Connecticut
Jean Wiant, Glenolden, Pennsylvania
Bridgette Wiggins , Norfolk , Virginia
Brandon Wolf, Orlando, Florida
Patricia Wrencher, Far Rockaway, New York
Frederick Wright, Pinecrest, Florida
Abbie Youkilis, Cincinnati, Ohio
Missy Zeitsoff, Santa Barbara, California

#TheTimelsNow Coalition:

AlphabetChallenge
Amnesty International USA
Ban Assault Weapons Now!
Blessed Ministries & Blessed Devotions
Blue Future
Brady
Broward for Progress
Bullets4Life
Businesses for a Livable Climate
Call to Action Colorado
CatholicNetwork US
Ceasefire Oregon
CEO Pipe Organs/Golden Ponds Farm
Change the Ref, INC
Chi-Town GVP Summit
CO Businesses for a Livable Climate
Coalition to Stop Gun Violence
Colorado Ceasefire
Community Justice Action Fund
Connecticut Violence Intervention Program
CT Against Gun Violence
Delaware Coalition Against Gun Violence

DemCast USA
Equality California
Falmouth Gun Safety Coalition
Franciscan Action Network
Friends of the Children Chicago
Gays Against Guns
Georgia Alliance for Social Justice
Grandmothers Against Gun Violence
Grandparents Against Gun violence
Gun Sense Vermont
Guns Down America
Herndon-Reston Coalition to stop Gun Violence
Honor with Action Coalition
Hoosiers Concerned About Gun Violence
Imani Dream Angel
Impact
Indivisible Northern Nevada
Iowans for Gun Safety
Journey4ward
Junior Newtown Action Alliance
Justice for D'Londre Foundation
Leaders of Kenosha
Maine Gun Safety Coalition
Mainers for Accountable Leadership
Marair International Inc
March For Our Lives
Monmouth Center for World Religions and Ethical Thought
Newtown Action Alliance
#NoRA
North Carolinians Against Gun Violence
Not Another Child Inc
Ohio Coalition Against Gun Violence
Orange Ribbons For Gun Safety
Our Revolution
Peace Love and Em Inc
People for a Safer Society
Psychiatrists for Gun Violence Prevention
Purpose Over Pain
Raleigh-Apex NAACP
RapidShift Network
Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association
Remembering Darien
Resistance Seacoast
San Diegans for Gun Violence Prevention
Show Up Network for Gun Safety
St. Marks Episcopal Church Capitol Hill DC
States United to Prevent Gun Violence
Stop Handgun Violence

Survivors Affected By Violence The Jack Brown III Foundation

Survivors Empowered

Survivors Lead

Terrell Bosley Anti-Violence Assoc

The Akilah Dasilva Foundation

The Campaign to Keep Guns Off Campus

The Ethan Miller Song Foundation

The Kedrick Ali Morrow Jr. Foundation

This Is Our Lane

Virginia Center for public safety

WAVE Educational Fund

Where Do We Go From Here Inc

Woman's National Democratic Club

Women for Biden-Harris Digital Coalition