

# WE ARE HIGHLAND PARK

## OPEN LETTER TO CONGRESS



# FREEDOM FROM GUN VIOLENCE

#WeAreHighlandPark

Dear Congress,

We are friends, neighbors, and loved ones. We are parents, advocates, elected officials, and survivors. We are teachers, health care professionals, and community leaders. Our country prides itself on our long-held values of freedom and independence. But those values are under attack by an epidemic of gun violence. **We are calling on you, our lawmakers who have sworn to defend the welfare and liberty of the people, to protect our freedom and lives by passing legislation to ban assault weapons.**

One year ago on July 4, 2022, a shooter used an assault weapon and large-capacity magazines to kill seven people and wound dozens of others during a uniquely American Independence Day parade in Highland Park, IL. This wasn't just an attack on the community of Highland Park. It was an attack on the sense of safety and freedom of all Americans, especially on what should have been a celebration of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

**We are all Highland Park. We are all at risk of being shot, whether we are marching in a parade, in class at school, shopping at the grocery store, or simply walking down the street.**

The shooting in Highland Park was the 309th mass shooting of 2022. Already in 2023, we've surpassed that marker and had more mass shootings than days in the year. Assault weapons are weapons of mass destruction. They are the weapons of choice for America's mass shooters because they have one purpose: to kill as many people as possible, as quickly as possible. In shootings where they are used, 155% more people are shot and 47% more people are killed.

In the absence of a national assault weapons ban, states and localities, including Highland Park, have taken steps to protect their communities and ban these weapons of war. But without federal action, we are all left vulnerable. **That's why we are joining together this Independence Day to demand that Congress pass a ban on assault weapons. Every day we wait, more people will die. Please, honor our most American holiday by freeing us from the threat of gun violence and terrorism that we face today and every day.**

Signed,

Mayor Nancy R. Rotering, Highland Park

Brady: United Against Gun Violence

Advocates For Change

Alliance for Gun Responsibility

American Federation of Teachers

American Medical Women's Association

Americans Against Gun Violence

Battle Born Progress

Brady PAC

Brave New Films

California State Senator Catherine Blakespear (CA-38)

Calvary Presbyterian Church

CeaseFire PA

Change the Ref

Chi-Town Gun Violence Prevention Summit

Colorado Ceasefire Legislative Action

Colorado State Senator Rhonda Fields (CO-28)

Delaware Coalition Against Gun Violence

DesignedMind Data & Analytics

DJR Global Concepts, LLC

Doctors of America

Dr. Joe Sakran, trauma surgeon

Enough Gun Violence

Fred Guttenberg, Parkland dad and advocate

Friends of Lakeside Village

Gays Against Guns

Gays Against Guns New York

Grace Cathedral, San Francisco

Guns Down America

Gun Violence Prevention PAC

Honor with Action Coalition

Hope and Heal Fund

Indivisible

Loyola Stands Against Gun Violence

Lutheran Social Services of Northern California

March For Our Lives  
Marylanders to Prevent Gun Violence  
Michigan State Representative Felicia Brabec (MI-33)  
Michigan State Representative Lori Stone (MI-13)  
Michigan State Representative Stephanie Young (MI-16)  
National Council of Jewish Women  
National Council of Jewish Women, Essex County  
National Education Association  
National Parent Teacher Association  
New Jersey Gun Violence Research Center  
New Mexicans to Prevent Gun Violence  
Newtown Action Alliance  
New Yorkers Against Gun Violence  
North Carolinians Against Gun Violence  
Ohio Council of Churches  
Older Women's League - San Francisco  
Old First Presbyterian Church - San Francisco  
One Aim Illinois  
Orange Ribbons for Gun Safety  
Oregon Alliance for Gun Safety  
Patrick Boyle, Commissioner of St. Louis County, MN  
Protect Minnesota  
Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism  
Remembering Darien Victims Foundation  
Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital  
Safer Country  
San Diegans for Gun Violence Prevention  
San Francisco Interfaith Council  
San Francisco Islamic School  
St. Louis County, MN Commissioner Patrick Boyle  
Stop Handgun Violence  
Sunnyvale Citizens for Sensible Gun Measures  
Survivors Lead  
Swan Isle Press  
Teachers Unify to End Gun Violence  
Team ENOUGH  
The Campaign to Keep Guns Off Campus  
The Fudge Foundation  
This is Our Lane  
Thomas Gabor LLC, Author  
Torrey Pines Democratic Club  
Village of Northbrook, Illinois  
Virginia State Senator Barbara Favola (VA-31)  
Virginia State Senator David Marsden (VA-37)

Virginia State Senator Ghazala Hashmi (VA-10)  
Virginia State Senator Jennifer Boysko (VA-33)  
Virginia State Senator R. Creigh Deeds (VA-25)  
Washington State Representative Amy Walen (WA-48)  
Washington State Representative Liz Berry (WA-36)  
Women Against Gun Violence  
Women for American Values and Ethics (WAVE)