



No parent should fear for the safety of their child every time they leave home. But all too often, young lives are destroyed or changed forever due to gun violence and other forms of violence in the places our children should be the most safe—their communities. More must be done immediately to protect our nation’s most vulnerable population. It’s up to all of us—community members, parents, educators and other child well-being advocates—to work together to prevent gun violence. That’s why PTA members advocate, year after year, for sensible gun safety and violence prevention policies that will help keep children safe and sound.

THE DATA

Since 2013, there have been at least **347** incidents of gunfire on school grounds in America ^[1]

Firearms are the second leading cause of death for American children and teens, with nearly **1,600** children and teens dying by gun homicide every year ^[2]

Approximately **three million** American children witness gun violence every year ^[2]

Children exposed to violence, crime and abuse are more likely to abuse drugs and alcohol; suffer from depression, anxiety and posttraumatic stress disorder; fail or have difficulties in school and engage in criminal activity ^[1]

WE ADVOCATE TO



Fund federally funded research on the causes and effects of gun violence on youth and communities, as well as evidence-based strategies to reduce gun violence



Establish education programs to teach students, parents and community members about gun safety and violence prevention



Require a waiting period and comprehensive background check for all individuals prior to buying a firearm



Restrict internet gun sales, including kits that can be used to make and modify guns



Ban access to military-style semi-automatic assault weapons

VOICE FROM THE FIELD

In 2018, tragedy struck the state of Florida when 17 students lost their lives in a senseless mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Broward County. In the aftermath of such a horrific event, even as vigils were being held and funerals were attended, Angie Gallo knew she needed to **take action**.

Florida PTA was already known as a fierce advocate on gun safety and violence prevention measures following the shooting at the Pulse nightclub in 2016. As a result of their exemplary advocacy work, Angie was invited to represent the parent voice on Governor Scott's education working group, which was formed to develop a more comprehensive school safety policy. **The Governor's recommended school safety plan incorporated many of the proposals Angie discussed with her fellow members during the working group meeting.** After this plan was released, the Florida Legislature drafted a bill that would end up putting \$400 million dollars into schools for safety and mental health.



Angie Gallo
Florida PTA

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH

"We have all watched in horror as our country has experienced far too many gun-related tragedies. We need immediate change.

It is urgent that we work together to enact bipartisan policy solutions and make meaningful changes to keep our children safe. Every student deserves to learn and grow in a safe environment."

-Statement from National PTA President,
Jim Accomando



^[1] Everytown for Gun Safety. (2018). [Gunfire on school grounds in the United States](#). New York, NY.

^[2] Everytown for Gun Safety (2018). [Gun violence in America](#). New York, NY.