

#TheTimeIsNow

April 16, 2021

Dear Members of the U.S. Senate,

We are a diverse group of gun violence prevention organizations and allies from every corner of our nation and 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, at least 12,000 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.

Everyone 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,
#TheTimesNow Coalition

Amnesty International USA
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

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
Maine Gun Safety Coalition
Mainers for Accountable Leadership
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
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 Empowered
Survivors Lead
The Akilah Dasilva Foundation
The Campaign to Keep Guns Off Campus
The Ethan Miller Song Foundation

This Is Our Lane

WAVE Educational Fund

Woman's National Democratic Club

Women for Biden-Harris Digital Coalition