

Tell Lawmakers to Work Harder to Enforce Gun Safety and Stop Gun Violence

Write a postcard to your NC legislator

Pass Extreme Risk / Red Flag Laws - Urge the passing of Extreme Risk/Red Flag laws at the state level, and encourage Congress to pass a strong federal law. These laws provide a way for family members and/or law enforcement to intervene when someone is showing serious signs that they are at risk of harming themselves or someone else with a gun. Currently, these laws have been passed in 17 states and Washington, DC. *North Carolina does not have a red flag law.*

Update Background Checks - Support mandatory waiting periods, closure of the gun show loophole, and mental health restrictions for gun purchases. Current federal law requires background checks to be performed for anyone purchasing a firearm at a federally licensed gun dealer—however only 40% of guns sold in the US are sold through a federally licensed dealer. In most states, sales at gun shows, flea markets, and private gun sales are not subject to regulations. *North Carolina does not require universal background checks for firearms purchases.*

- or -

Write a thank you postcard to President Biden

for reauthorizing the Violence Against Women Act, which was signed into law on 3/16/22.

for passing the Safer Communities Act, <https://takeaction.sandyhookpromise.org/a/2022-congress-thankyou>, which was signed into law on 6/25/22. This shows that Democrats and Republicans can work together to stop gun violence.

- or -

Write a postcard to your US Legislators

Disarm Domestic Abusers - Urge lawmakers to protect all survivors of domestic violence, including non-married partners, by preventing abusers from possessing firearms after a criminal conviction or while under a restraining order. And the law must ensure that abusers actually turn in their guns after becoming prohibited in a court of law from possessing guns.

Support and Teach Responsible Gun Storage - Provide education and awareness about child gun deaths and responsible gun storage, <https://BeSMARTforkids.org>

Secure all guns in your home and vehicles

Model responsible behavior around guns

Ask about the presence of unsecured guns in other homes

Recognize the role of guns in suicide

Tell your peers to be **SMART**

- or -

Create your own postcard to any elected officials

Current legislation is only a start.

We need tighter gun control to begin dismantling the extreme “guns everywhere” culture, which means advancing gun safety policies like comprehensive background checks, “red flag” laws, safe storage.

The number of deaths for children in America has overtaken the number of deaths caused by motor vehicle crashes. Over time, cars have become safer and driver education has improved. We can do the same thing with firearms.

Firearm injuries are a public health problem, contributing substantially to premature death and disability of children. Understanding their nature and impact is a first step toward prevention. The American Academy of Pediatrics has been involved for decades in advocacy efforts to address gun violence as a public health issue and advance policies that keep children, families and communities safe. <https://www.aap.org/en/advocacy/gun-violence-prevention/>

Most commonly what makes the news is horrific mass shootings, but they are a small aspect of the overall problem ... it's daily deaths that are occurring making up the totality of what we are seeing. Researchers analyzed data collected by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention showing that there were a record 45,222 firearm-related deaths in the US. in 2020. The figures between adults and children and firearms are almost an inverted image of each other. For adults, 65% of gun related deaths are attributed to suicide, while 30% are homicides and about 2% come from accidental discharges ... for children, 65% of firearm deaths are homicides and 35% are categorized as suicide.

Elect candidates who will advocate for life-saving gun safety policies.

Much of the information in this document was supplied by the strong advocacy group Moms Demand Action, <https://momsdemandaction.org>