

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Leader McConnell, Minority Leader Schumer, Speaker Ryan, and Minority Leader Pelosi:

We, the undersigned organizations, share a commitment to keep children, parents, families, teachers, responders, and administrators safe. We are writing to urge Congressional leadership to launch a bipartisan National Commission on Mass Shootings within the next thirty days.

The time to act is now. In addition to thoughts and prayers for victims and families, we need the will of Congressional leadership to lead. We need common sense gun laws.

We recommend that the National Commission on Mass Shootings should be charged with identifying strategies for:

1. Creating a universal system for background checks designed to highlight an applicant's history of dangerousness and require that all purchasers of firearms complete a background check.
2. Strengthening laws so that high-risk individuals, including those with emergency, temporary, or permanent protective or restraining orders or those with convictions for family violence, domestic violence and/or stalking are prohibited from purchasing firearms.
3. Banning the future sale, importation, manufacture, or transfer of assault weapons, incorporating a more carefully crafted definition of the term "semiautomatic assault weapon" to reduce the risk that the law can be evaded.
4. Ensuring that health care professionals are unencumbered and fully permitted to fulfill their role in preventing firearm injuries by health screening, patient counseling, and referral to mental health services for those with high risk danger behaviors.
5. Focusing federal restrictions of gun purchase for persons on the dangerousness of the individual and fully funding federal incentives for states to provide information about dangerous histories to the National Instant Check System for gun buyers.
6. Supporting enriched training of health care professionals to assume a greater role in preventing firearm injuries by health screening.
7. Researching the causes of and solutions to firearm violence.

Thank you for your commitment to keep children safe. Convening a bipartisan National Commission on Mass Shootings is a start. If we can provide more information or if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the American Academy of Nursing, Cheryl G. Sullivan, CEO, Cheryl_Sullivan@AANnet.org or 202-777-1170.

Sincerely,

American Academy of Nursing