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
ABIM Foundation
Academy of Neonatal Nursing
Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments
American Academy of Ambulatory Care Nursing
American Academy of Social Work and Social Welfare
American Association of Directors of Nursing Services
American Association of Nurse Practitioners
American College of Nurse Midwives
American College of Nurse Midwives, Hawai‘i State Affiliate
American Holistic Credentialing Corporation
American Nurses Association
American Nurses Association-New York
American Nursing Informatics Association
American Psychiatric Nurses Association
American Public Health Association, Public Health Nursing Section
American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses
ARNPs United of Washington State
Association of Black Nursing Faculty
Association of Community Health Nursing Educators
Association of Nurses in AIDS Care
Association of periOperative Registered Nurses
Association of Public Health Nurses
Association of Rehabilitation Nurses
Boston College, William F. Connell School of Nursing
Center for Forensic Nursing Excellence International
Center for Human Encouragement
Chi Eta Phi Sorority, Inc.
Children’s Hospital Los Angeles
Children’s Mercy Kansas City
Coalition of Geriatric Nursing Organizations
Community Health Center, Inc.
Drexel University College of Nursing & Health Professions
Duquesne University School of Nursing
Fairfield University Marion Peckham Egan School of Nursing and Health Studies
Forum for Shared Governance
Gerontological Advanced Practice Nurses Association
GLMA: Health Professionals Advancing LGBT Equality
Grandmothers for Peace International
Greater Cleveland Nurses Association
Gundersen Medical Foundation, Inc. La Crosse, WI
HealthEd Connect, Inc.
Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association