



April 17, 2023

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden Jr.  
President of the United States  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20006

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer  
Majority Leader, United States Senate  
322 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Speaker, United States House of Representatives  
2468 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Re: California Legislators Urge the Federal Government to Take Action on Gun Safety

Dear President Biden, Majority Leader Schumer, and Speaker McCarthy:

We, the undersigned California state legislators, urge our federal leaders to take action to pass commonsense gun safety reforms to protect the American public from the threat of gun violence.

As deadly mass shootings dominate headlines across the nation on a near-daily basis, the need for stronger protections for our communities could not be more apparent. Americans should not have to fear for their safety as they go about their daily lives and gather in their homes, schools, workplaces, houses of worship, public spaces, and even dance halls. Sadly, this has become the stark reality for the American public, and the federal government has failed to take meaningful enough action to protect our communities.

California is proud to be on the front lines of the fight against gun violence, championing some of the strongest gun safety laws in the nation. Last year alone, the Legislature passed a groundbreaking package of gun safety bills, strengthening prohibitions against ghost guns, restricting the marketing of firearms to minors, and paving the way for lawsuits against bad actors in the gun industry. As a robust package of gun legislation awaits consideration in the new legislative session, it is clear that California will continue to serve as a national model for sensible gun safety reforms. Giffords Law Center ranked California #1 in the nation for gun safety for 2022. The state also ranked 43<sup>rd</sup> in terms of its gun death rate, with a rate 39 percent lower than the national average. The results of our policy decisions are clear—strong gun laws work to decrease gun violence.

Unfortunately, one state alone cannot put an end to the gun violence epidemic. While California's strict gun safety laws have made a real difference, California recently experienced multiple mass shootings weeks apart, including tragic losses of life in Monterey Park, Goshen, and Half Moon Bay.

According to Giffords Law Center's 2021 Gun Law Scorecard, gun violence has risen by 22% across the country over the last decade, and states with the weakest gun laws have been hit the hardest. This surge in violence disproportionately impacts communities of color. Despite the increasing ubiquity of gun violence, policymakers must not accept these statistics as the new normal. Our nation's leaders must have the courage to act.

Without significant action on the federal level, devastating mass shootings will continue to plague our communities. Under our current system, an inconsistent patchwork of state gun laws allows guns to flow from states with weaker gun laws to states that have taken decisive action on gun reform, jeopardizing their efforts to keep their communities safe. For example, the perpetrator of the 2022 Laguna Woods, California mass shooting was a resident of Nevada, a state that received a C+ gun safety rating from Giffords Law Center. Recently, a man charged with the hate-motivated shooting of two Jewish men in Los Angeles told authorities that he obtained the guns in Arizona, a state that received an F rating from Giffords. When the federal government fails to act, it opens the proverbial floodgates for illegal weapons to pour into California with impunity.

President Biden's recent Executive Order on Reducing Gun Violence and Making Our Communities Safer will make a real difference in our local communities by moving the country closer to universal background checks and increasing awareness about existing tools to keep guns out of the hands of dangerous individuals. Congressional leaders must also do their part to keep our communities safe.

Congress is currently considering a suite of sensible gun legislation that, if passed, would save lives and make our communities safer. Two major highlights include the Assault Weapons Ban of 2023, which would prohibit military-style assault weapons, and the Keep Americans Safe Act, which would ban the high-capacity magazines used in these weapons. Assault weapons have become the weapon of choice in many mass shootings, making these tragedies deadlier than ever before. These weapons of war have no place in our communities, and federal leaders must act to keep them off our streets.

In the wake of countless mass shooting tragedies, it is incumbent upon our leaders to pass commonsense gun safety legislation that will protect all Americans' right to live free from gun violence. We urge the federal government to take meaningful action to pass comprehensive gun reforms that will make our communities safer.

Sincerely,



Mike Fong  
Assemblymember, 49<sup>th</sup> District



Susan Rubio  
Senator, 22<sup>nd</sup> District



Tina McKinnor  
Assemblymember, 61<sup>st</sup> District



Sabrina Cervantes  
Assemblymember, 58<sup>th</sup> District

Gregg Hart  
Assemblymember, 37<sup>th</sup> District

Brian Maienschein  
Assemblymember, 76<sup>th</sup> District

Kevin McCarty  
Assemblymember, 6<sup>th</sup> District

Pilar Schiavo  
Assemblymember, 40<sup>th</sup> District

Philip Ting  
Assemblymember, 19<sup>th</sup> District

Cottie Petrie-Norris  
Assemblymember, 73<sup>rd</sup> District

Henry I. Stern  
Senator, 27<sup>th</sup> District

Bill Dodd  
Senator, 3<sup>rd</sup> District

Catherine Blakespear  
Senator, 38<sup>th</sup> District

Christopher M. Ward  
Assemblymember, 78<sup>th</sup> District

Marc Berman  
Assemblymember, 23<sup>rd</sup> District

Josh Becker  
Senator, 13<sup>th</sup> District

Damon Connolly  
Assemblymember, 12<sup>th</sup> District

Anthony J. Portantino  
Senator, 25<sup>th</sup> District



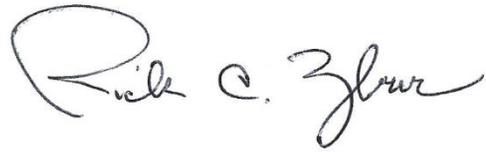
Thomas J. Umberg  
Senator, 34<sup>th</sup> District



Dave Cortese  
Senator, 15<sup>th</sup> District



Jim Wood  
Assemblymember, 2<sup>nd</sup> District



Rick Chavez Zbur  
Assemblymember, 51<sup>st</sup> District



Luz Rivas  
Assemblymember, 43<sup>rd</sup> District



Jesse Gabriel  
Assemblymember, 46<sup>th</sup> District



Corey A. Jackson  
Assemblymember, 60<sup>th</sup> District



Akilah Weber  
Assemblymember, 79<sup>th</sup> District



Anna M. Caballero  
Senator, 14<sup>th</sup> District



Mike A. Gipson  
Assemblymember, 65<sup>th</sup> District



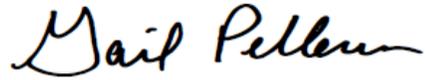
Robert Rivas  
Assemblymember, 29<sup>th</sup> District



Al Muratsuchi  
Assemblymember, 66<sup>th</sup> District



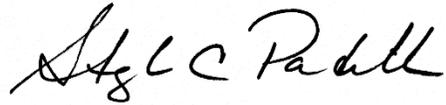
Lena A. Gonzalez  
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Gail Pellerin  
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Dave Min  
Senator, 37<sup>th</sup> District



Steve Padilla  
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Liz Ortega  
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John Laird  
Senator, 17<sup>th</sup> District



Mia Bonta  
Assemblymember, 18<sup>th</sup> District



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Assemblymember, 38<sup>th</sup> District



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Assemblymember, 52<sup>nd</sup> District



Evan Low  
Assemblymember, 26<sup>th</sup> District



Alex Lee  
Assemblymember, 24<sup>th</sup> District



Laura Friedman  
Assemblymember, 44<sup>th</sup> District



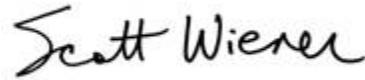
Angelique V. Ashby  
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Diane Papan  
Assemblymember, 21<sup>st</sup> District



Caroline Menjivar  
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Scott D. Wiener  
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Cecilia M. Aguiar-Curry  
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