

Dear Neighbor,

As a grandparent, it was painful and heartbreaking to see school children once again killed in a mass shooting, this time in Uvalde, Texas.

No parent should fear for their child's life when their child goes to school, the grocery store, their church, a movie theater, or anywhere else they are supposed to be safe. Guns are the number one killer of children in America—more than car accidents or cancer—it's horrendous but preventable.

This week, once again, House Democrats passed sensible policies to keep our children and families safe from the horrors of gun violence and to keep guns out of the hands of people who pose a threat to themselves and others. It's now time for the US Senate to do the same!

I proudly voted for both the *Protecting Our Kids Act* and *Federal Extreme Risk Protection Order Act* which will reduce gun violence by:

- Raising the purchasing age for semi-automatic weapons from 18 to 21 years old.
- Cracking down on gun trafficking and pass-through purchases to get illegal guns off our streets.
- Subjecting ghost gun purchases to background check requirements.
- Strengthening safe storage requirements to protect children from accidental shootings.
- Closing the bump stock loophole to ban these deadly tools from civilian use.
- Outlawing high-capacity magazines, which are designed for killing en masse and have been the accessory of choice in the bloodiest mass shootings.

- Requiring an annual report of demographic data of those being determined to be ineligible to purchase guns.
- Keeping guns out of the hands of those who pose a threat to themselves or others by implementing a nationwide extreme risk law (now in place in Florida) and encouraging states to enact their own.

These bills now go to the Senate for consideration.

And yes, there are other life-saving strategies that should be put into place. But most Americans know and share the belief that gun violence prevention is an important part of the solution for saving lives.

Gun violence is an epidemic in the United States and requires all-hands-ondeck. If you know someone who might need help, there are many resources available:

- Palm Beach County School District has launched a hotline number if you or someone you know is showing mental and behavioral health concerns. Call 561-432-6389.
- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline is available 24/7 at 1-800-273-TALK (8255), or you can text the Crisis Text Line at 741741 (and starting in July, the hotline will have a new national three-digit number: 988).
- Veterans experiencing a crisis can call 1-800-273-8255 and Press 1 to talk to someone or send a text message to 838255 to connect with a VA responder. You can also chat with someone online at the <u>Veterans Crisis</u> <u>Chat</u>.

I'm dedicated to reducing gun violence in America and together, we can do something about it.

Sincerely,

Congresswoman Lois Frankel

Lois Frankel





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