



Dear Representative

My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ and a member of the national organization Nuns Against Gun Violence. I am also your constituent and a resident of \_\_\_\_\_

In light of my Catholic faith, every year I observe the practice and season of Lent. For 40 days prior to Easter, I and other Catholics engage in practices of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving as we prepare our whole selves for the coming celebration of Easter.

This year, in partnership with the national organization, Nuns Against Gun Violence, I will be participating in a fast to end gun violence in this nation. In the book of Isaiah, the prophet describes what is an acceptable fast for God: *“Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?”* (Isaiah 58:6)

For too long we have been struggling in our local communities with the yoke of gun violence. The toll gun violence takes on our communities is staggering with 120 firearm deaths and 200 more wounded per day.<sup>1</sup> Death by suicide, homicide, and mass shootings ravage our communities at rates 26 times higher than other high-income nations.<sup>2</sup> Troublingly, the leading cause of death of children and teens in the United States is now firearms.<sup>3</sup> Yet as a nation, we seem to be afraid of taking decisive action to prevent these deaths from happening.

If you have not already, I am asking you to cosponsor and advocate to pass these common-sense gun safety bills to save lives:

- HR 698: The Assault Weapons Ban of 2023
- HR 660: Ethan’s Law
- HR 6618: The ARMAS Act of 2023

When will we finally realize that protecting individual rights and the gun lobby over the common good is killing us and our children?

For these reasons and more, I am fasting to raise awareness and urge lawmakers like yourself to listen to those who are suffering from gun violence. I urge you to do something to change the narrative and prevent more tragedies from occurring, and to join me and many others, in creating a world where gun violence is no longer the norm.

Prayerfully,

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<sup>1</sup> Everytown Research & Policy, “Gun Violence in America,” Everytown for Gun Safety Support Fund, 13 February 2023, <https://everytownresearch.org/report/gun-violence-in-america/>.

<sup>2</sup> Everytown Research & Policy, “Gun Violence in America,” Everytown for Gun Safety Support Fund, 13 February 2023, <https://everytownresearch.org/report/gun-violence-in-america/>.

<sup>3</sup> “Statistics,” Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence, Accessed 11 January 2024, <https://giffords.org/lawcenter/gun-violence-statistics/>.