



METROPOLITAN COUNCIL
of NASHVILLE and DAVIDSON COUNTY

Courtney Johnston
Councilwoman, District 26

June 12, 2022

Office of Governor Bill Lee
1st Floor, State Capitol
Nashville, TN 37243

Dear Governor Lee,

It's time. It's time to stop the cycle of apathy to outrage and back to apathy again. Our thoughts and prayers are no longer enough.

It's time. It's time to act. To take a hard look at our policies and what we can and should do differently.

It's time to come together, not as politicians, but as people. It's time to sit down together as mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters, and neighbors - as Tennesseans - and make meaningful changes.

It's time to have the hard conversations about gun rights and responsibilities. It's time to have the hard and uncomfortable conversations about mental health.

It's time to look in the mirror and say, "Could we do things differently?" This is not about gun control. I'm not questioning the second amendment. But with that right comes responsibility. It shouldn't require more education and licensure to drive a vehicle that was designed for transportation than to get a gun that was designed for the sole purpose of killing. The people that are causing harm are broken. Their hearts, minds and souls are broken, and we must do more as a government and a community to address this.

We've reached a point where parents think twice about leaving their child at school, where we scan the crowd when we walk into a grocery store, when a little flash of hesitancy comes when we walk into large crowds, concerts and movie theaters. We've reached a point where we have people being shot at just sitting on their own front porch. We've reached a place where nowhere is safe.

I'm asking you as a fellow Tennessean, as a representative of my district in Davidson County, and as a human being to call a special legislative session to focus on the areas of gun rights and responsibilities, mental health, and school security.

It's time.

Respectfully,

Courtney

Courtney Johnston
Councilwoman, District 26
Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County