

Gun Violence Prevention Letter Writing Campaign

Thank you for joining us to support efforts to reduce gun violence in the education system! For our letter-writing campaign, the best way to get information is to follow a specific template to ensure that the letter gets logged properly. Here is how to start:

- In all communications with legislative offices, include your name, contact information, and full address and date in the upper right corner
- hand write your letters utilizing the paper and pencils/ pens provided
- Below you will find everything you need to get started, if you have any questions at all please do not hesitate to ask

You may write to your legislators at the following addresses:

The Honorable (insert name of Senator)
Texas Senate
P.O. Box 12068
Austin, Texas 78711-2068

The Honorable (insert name of Representative)
Texas House of Representatives
P.O. Box 2910
Austin, Texas 78768-2910

John Cornyn

Address: 517 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510

Phone: (202) 224-2934

Email: <https://www.cornyn.senate.gov/contact>

Ted Cruz

Address: 127A Russell Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510

Phone: (202) 224-5922

Email: <https://www.cruz.senate.gov/?p=form&id=16>

Find your representative here:

<http://www.fyi.legis.state.tx.us/>

Texas senators sorted by district

<https://senate.texas.gov/members.php>

Additional information about addressing your letter here:

<https://lrl.texas.gov/genInfo/contactleg.cfm>

What to include in your letter:

- Direct things that YOU want to change about the stance of gun control
- Reference direct bills and state clearly which bills you support or oppose (find bills and representatives that support this below)
- Personal experiences (how gun violence or the threat of it affects the letter writer)
- Specific statistics
- Express your opinion as a student

Here is who to reference based on the priorities listed above filtered by bill:

- **Raising the Age**
Representatives in support: (HB 2075: Rep Goodwin HB 925: Rep Dutton SB 1274: Sen Gutierrez et al)
- **Background Checks**
Representatives in support: (HB 544: Rep Johnson HB 236: Rep Goodwin SB 170: Sen Blanco SB 728: Sen Huffman HB 3089: Rep Lalani, SB 523: Sen West)
- **Extreme Risk Protection Orders**
Representatives in support: HB 123: Rep Goodwin HB 1398: Rep Moody SB 529: Sen West HB 3057: Rep Johnson)
- **Community Violence Intervention**
Representatives in support: (HB 690: Rep Rosenthal)
- **Safe Gun Storage**
Representatives in support: (HB 2242: Rep Howard SB 964: Sen Johnson SB 912: Sen Gutierrez, Sen Eckhardt, Sen Menendez SB 1740: Sen Gutierrez)
- **Firearm Suicide Prevention**
Representatives in support: (HB 671: Rep González SB 581: Sen Eckhardt SB 964: Sen Johnson)
- **Protect Domestic Violence Victims**

Representatives in support: (HB 2076: Rep Goodwin SB 1172: Sen Alvarado HB 1479: Rep Ramos)

- **Expansion of Guns in Sensitive Places**

Representatives that oppose: (HB 249: Rep Rogers SB 142: Sen Springer HB 1177: Rep Patterson SB 354: Sen Hall HB 636: Rep Patterson HB 2811: Rep Slaton HB 1648: Rep Anderson SB 599: Sen Birdwell HB 4007: Rep Slawson HB 192: Rep Schaefer HB 1229: Rep Harris)

Statistics to reference:

- Each day 12 children die from gun violence in America. Another 32 are shot and injured (Sandy Hook Promise)
- Guns are the leading cause of death among American children and teens. 1 out of 10 gun deaths are age 19 or younger (Sandy Hook Promise)
- Children of color are far more likely to experience campus gun violence. It's more than twice as much for Hispanic students and over three times as much for Black students (sandy hook promise)

Find more stats from sandy hook promise here:

<https://www.sandyhookpromise.org/blog/gun-violence/17-facts-about-gun-violence-and-school-shootings/>

- An estimated 3 million children in the US are exposed to shootings per year (everytown research and policy)
- Children exposed to violence, crime, and abuse are more likely to abuse drugs and alcohol; suffer from depression, anxiety, and posttraumatic stress disorder; fail or have difficulties in school; and engage in criminal activity (everytown research and policy)

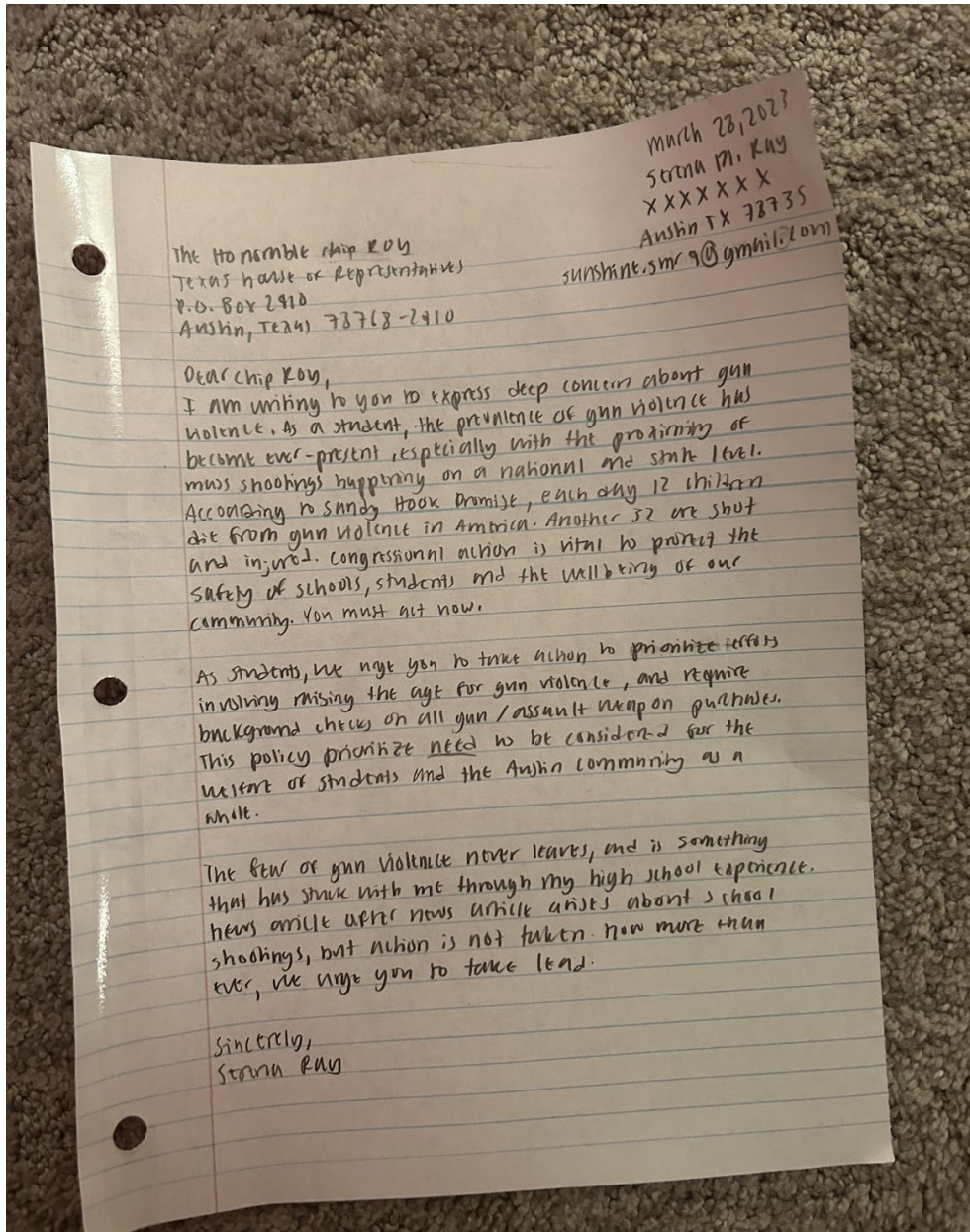
Find more information from Everytown Research and Policy

<https://everytownresearch.org/maps/gunfire-on-school-grounds/#:~:text=When%20it%20comes%20to%20how,exposed%20to%20shootings%20per%20year.>

- In 2020, the most recent year for which complete data is available, 45,222 people died from gun-related injuries in the U.S., according to the CDC
- Nearly eight-in-ten (79%) U.S. murders in 2020 – 19,384 out of 24,576 – involved a firearm (CDC)
- More than 348,000 students have experienced gun violence at school since Columbine

You are welcome to find more through research, there is a ton of information out there.

Below is one example of a letter:



The Honorable Chip Roy
Texas House of Representatives
P.O. Box 2910
Austin, Texas 78768-2910

March 28, 2023
Storma M. Kay
XXXXXXX
Austin TX 78735
sunshine.smr9@gmail.com

Dear Chip Roy,
I am writing to you to express deep concern about gun violence. As a student, the prevalence of gun violence has become ever-present, especially with the proximity of mass shootings happening on a national and state level. According to Sandy Hook Promise, each day 12 children die from gun violence in America. Another 52 are shot and injured. Congressional action is vital to protect the safety of schools, students and the wellbeing of our community. You must act now.

As students, we urge you to take action to prioritize efforts involving raising the age for gun violence, and require background checks on all gun/assault weapon purchases. This policy prioritize need to be considered for the welfare of students and the Austin community as a whole.

The fear of gun violence never leaves, and is something that has struck with me through my high school experience. News article after news article exists about school shootings, but action is not taken. How many more than ever, we urge you to take lead.

Sincerely,
Storma Kay