State Representative/Senator OH Template

Senator / Representative:

My name is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and I am a sister/associate/employee of (religious organization). I am also your constituent and a resident of (enter your city).

In light of my Catholic faith, I am supporting a new campaign led by Cincinnati-area Catholic religious congregations featuring a billboard on I-75 that says “Put the Guns Down! Nobody is Winning. Let Peace Begin with Me.” We realize, however, that a billboard is not enough, we must take concrete steps to end gun violence in our communities.

The toll gun violence takes on our communities is staggering with **120 firearm deaths and 200 more wounded** per day.[1] Death by suicide, homicide, and mass shootings ravage our communities at rates **26 times higher than other high-income nations**.[2] Troublingly, the **leading cause of death of children and teens in the United States is now firearms**.[3] It is unacceptable that our state legislators, who we elect, have not taken decisive action to prevent these deaths from happening.

Moreover, I am gravely concerned with the state of gun violence in Ohio and legislation that expands access to guns rather than puts limits on them. In particular, I am concerned about **House Bill 51** and its desire to forgo complying with any federal gun legislation as well as **Senate Bill 148** which would prevent the government from keeping a list of those who own firearms and prevent financial institutions from distinguishing firearms retailers from general merchandise retailers.

Additionally, there are already laws in place that prevent any local gun legislation from regulating the guns in their communities. This is counter to what Ohioans want. For instance, in both 2013 and 2019, polls consistently show that **90% of Ohioans and 86%-87% of gun owners support universal background checks.**

Moreover, statistics show that states with stronger gun laws have fewer gun deaths. As our state legislators, you must carry out the will of the people and pass the legislation that Ohioans actually want for their communities. Together we must protect lives and prioritize the health and well-being of all citizens, including our children, over the gun lobby.

For these reasons and more, I am urging you to vote no on legislation that won’t make our communities safer and to support legislation like Senate Bill 164, the Suicide Self-Defense Act. We must prevent more tragedies from occurring and create a world where gun violence is no longer the norm.

Prayerfully,

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Federal Legislators - OH

Senator / Representative \_\_\_\_\_\_

My name is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and I am a sister/associate/employee of (religious organization). I am also your constituent and a resident of (enter your city).

In light of my Catholic faith, I am supporting a new campaign led by Cincinnati-area Catholic religious congregations featuring a billboard on I-75 that says “Put the Guns Down! Nobody is Winning. Let Peace Begin with Me.” We realize, however, that a billboard is not enough, we must take concrete steps to end gun violence in our communities.

The toll gun violence takes on our communities is staggering with **120 firearm deaths and 200 firearm casualties a day**.[4] Death by suicide, homicide, and mass shootings ravage our communities at **rates 26 times higher than other high-income nations**.[5] Troublingly, the **leading cause of death of children and teens in the United States is now firearms**.[6] It is unacceptable that we have not taken decisive action to prevent these deaths from happening.

Yet for many years now, Ohioans have been supportive of creating more accountability and transparency when it comes to gun ownership. For instance, in both 2013 and 2019, polls consistently show that 90% of Ohioans and 86%-87% of gun owners support universal background checks.[7] Additionally, more than 60 percent of Ohio voters opposed the change in Ohio law that currently allows Ohioans to carry a concealed loaded gun in public places without a license, and 74 percent of Ohio voters support an extreme risk law that would allow family members and/or law enforcement to petition a court to temporarily remove guns from individuals who are at risk of harming themselves or others.[8]

I urge you as our elected federal legislators to listen to the people who elected you and support federal gun legislation policies that voters want to see. Such as the following pieces of federal legislation:

**House:**

** HR 698: The Assault Weapons Ban of 2023**

** HR 660: Ethan’s Law**

** HR 6618: The ARMAS Act of 2023**

**Or Senate:**

** S 25: The Assault Weapons Ban of 2023**

** S 173: Ethan’s Law**

For these reasons and more, I am urging you to co-sponsor these bills and/or assist your fellow lawmakers to move these bills out of committee. We must prevent more tragedies from occurring and create a world where gun violence is no longer the norm.

Prayerfully,

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

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

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

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

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

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

[7] “Poll says 90% of Ohioans support gun background checks,” WYKC Staff, accessed 7 February 2024,<https://www.wkyc.com/article/news/poll-says-90-of-ohioans-support-gun-background-checks/95-ea935860-d94f-4682-90a5-89bf9fb80b88>.

[8] “Ohio Poll Results Show Overwhelming Support for Lifesaving Gun Violence Prevention Policies,” Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence, accessed 7 February 2024, <https://giffords.org/press-release/2020/11/ohio-poll-overwhelming-support-for-gun-violence-prevention/>.