



Senate Democrat Caucus
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May 27, 2022

The Honorable Eric Holcomb, Governor
State of Indiana
200 West Washington Street
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

Dear Governor Holcomb,

We respectfully write to you today, at a time when all Hoosiers join the nation in mourning the terrible losses suffered by the people of Uvalde, Texas. Thoughts and prayers are insufficient in the urgency of this moment. We write to request that you take action by calling a special session to address the ever-present and ever-growing threat of gun violence.

Unfortunately, we have not been immune from the threat of gun violence in Indiana with mass shootings occurring at the Fed-Ex facility in Indianapolis just last year, another in Goshen this year and multiple incidences of guns brought to schools. Firearms are the #1 leading cause of death among Hoosier children and teenagers. The CDC ranks Indiana 17th in the nation in overall firearm mortality rates, and 77% of homicides in Indiana involve a gun. Just last year, Republicans offered a “crime bill package” to deal with record-breaking homicide rates in Indianapolis (89% of which were committed with a firearm in 2020). However, this package did not go nearly far enough to protect our children.

Research shows us that action and policies work. During the ten-year federal ban on military-style assault weapons, there was a drop in the number of mass shootings and an even larger drop in deaths. A study from the New York University School of Medicine found that fatalities were 70% less likely during the ban. In addition, the Johns Hopkins Center for Gun Violence Prevention and Policy found that strengthening licensing laws and reducing the supply of larger magazines can help cut deaths in mass shootings by 56%. With your leadership, we can convene immediately to pass common sense, popular policies that keep our communities safer: universal background checks, safe storage requirements, training and permitting obligations and bans on assault weapons.

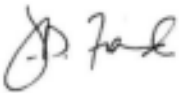
We are all aware this is a crisis we face, and solutions will come from the bravery of elected officials who stand up and say that protecting children's lives is our most important priority—more important than scoring votes or political points. We must not wait until January to show Hoosiers we are serious about protecting families, as we are obligated in our roles to secure our schools and protect our children before the next school year begins in August. Our young Hoosiers, our educators, and all of their

families and loved ones eagerly wait for their elected leaders to demonstrate a commitment to finally addressing this epidemic.

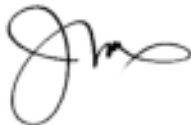
To quote our Republican colleagues, “As a state that recognizes that life is a precious gift that should never be neglected, it is our desire that you, as the Governor of Indiana, ensure that those values are upheld without delay.” We hope you agree and immediately call us into session to do our duty to serve and protect Hoosiers.

We look forward to hearing from you on this urgent matter.

Sincerely,



Senator J.D. Ford



Senator Jean Breaux



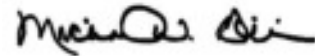
Senator David Niezgodski



Senator Eddie Melton



Senator Tim Lanane



Senator Michael Griffin



Senator Fady Qaddoura



Senator Lonnie Randolph



State Senator Shelli Yoder



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Senate Minority Leader Greg Taylor