

Dear Representative/Senator \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Every week we hear about another tragedy with more individuals dying due to gun violence. Unfortunately, another one recently unfolded on Michigan State University's campus. No parent/grandparent/daughter/son should have to fear for their family member's safety, and no community should bury a child because of violence. In our own Kalamazoo County, we continue to witness escalation in violence. We recently remembered the 7<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Uber driver shootings which took place in our community. Enough is enough.

As a person of faith, I can tell you we have prayed mightily. Prayer is important. But without action, it is not enough. Keeping our children and students safe in school means preventing violence. I encourage the Michigan legislature to move swiftly to pass the following reforms:

- Require universal background checks before the sale of all firearm purchases in Michigan regardless of where and when the sale is conducted
- Red flag laws which remove the immediate threat of violent action by giving courts the authority to temporarily remove firearms from individuals who are a threat to themselves or others
- Safe storage of weapons to prevent child access to firearms by creating requirements for those with minors (children) in the home to help keep families safe

These measures have broad support among the public with polling from August 2022 finding that 78% of Michigan voters support universal background checks, 82% support red flag laws, and 82% support child access prevention/safe storage legislation. These proposals are broadly popular, and our citizens need immediate action to prevent further injury and death.

Gun violence leaves deep scars on our community, our mental health, our politics, and our capacity for empathy. We can and we must take action to prevent further damage to our state and citizens.

Thank you for your consideration of this life and death matter. The time for action is now!

Sincerely,

\_\_\_\_\_(name)

\_\_\_\_\_(full address)

Member/Constituent of Portage Chapel Hill Church

You can look up your legislator by visiting [www.house.mi.gov](http://www.house.mi.gov) or [www.senate.michigan.gov](http://www.senate.michigan.gov)

Place your letter in an envelope, and put the name of the Senator or Representative on the envelope. An address won't be necessary on the outer envelope because the letters will be hand-delivered to their Lansing office during the statewide United Methodist Church advocacy day on March 22.