

The Honorable Bill Lee
Governor of Tennessee
State Capitol, First Floor
600 Dr. Martin L. King Blvd.
Nashville, TN 37243

Wednesday June 1, 2022

Dear Governor Lee,

In the most beautiful sermon ever preached, Jesus said, “*Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God*” (Matthew 5:9). “*Peacemakers*” intentionally seek peace by speaking out against oppression, injustice, strife, and violence. It is with this attitude, and in the name of Jesus who spoke those words, that we write this letter.

Our country, and our local communities, are hurting because of the scourge of gun violence. The horrific massacre of nineteen children and two teachers inside Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, TX is but the latest of thousands of mass shootings since Columbine in 1999. In fact, gun violence is now the leading cause of death among our children and adolescents.¹ Even in our own state, just this past weekend, six teenagers were shot in Chattanooga.² ENOUGH IS ENOUGH! As ministers of the gospel of Jesus Christ, and as agents of peace, we plead with you to use all your legislative power to enact sensible gun control regulations.

Furthermore, we request that you call a special session of the Tennessee General Assembly to address gun violence. Specifically, we are asking the Tennessee General Assembly to do five things:

- (1) Repeal the Permitless Carry Law that went into effect July 1, 2021.
- (2) Pass a Universal Background Check Law that closes the gun-show loophole.
- (3) Call for a vote on SB1807 (“Red-Flag Law”) that has been pending in the Senate Judiciary Committee since June of 2020.³
- (4) Ban semiautomatic assault weapons, armor-piercing ammunition, and high-capacity cartridges.
- (5) Form a committee that includes clergy from all faiths to work on common sense gun control regulations.

We believe such actions to be positive steps in the right direction for bringing peace to our communities.

Sincerely,

1

<https://www.healthline.com/health-news/guns-surpass-motor-vehicles-as-top-cause-of-death-for-u-s-children-what-parents-should-know>

2

https://www.local3news.com/regional-national/6-people-shot-in-downtown-chattanooga-tennessee-on-saturday-night/article_40a858ff-c9e7-5492-a0f9-0e2717936beb.html

³ <https://wapp.capitol.tn.gov/apps/BillInfo/Default.aspx?BillNumber=SB1807&ga=111>

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