



DAVID P. JOYCE  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS  
14TH DISTRICT OF OHIO

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
WASHINGTON, D.C.  
June 29, 2022

COMMITTEE ON  
APPROPRIATIONS

Solon Church of the Resurrection  
32001 Cannon Road  
Solon, OH 44139-1639

Dear Solon Church of the Resurrection:

Thank you for contacting me regarding gun violence in our country and the need for reform. It was good to hear from you all and I am grateful for the opportunity to respond.

First let me say, that I appreciate members of Solon's, Church of the Resurrection taking the time to sign the memorandum pushing for action to address gun violence and I assure you that your voices are heard.

As a father of three and former Geauga County Prosecutor who was a member of the initial prosecuting team for the Chardon High School shooting in 2012, I can assure you that I am committed to passing commonsense legislation to reduce gun-violence that addresses the root causes of these tragedies and directly improves the safety of our communities.

As you may know, I recently voted in support of S. 2938, the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act to protect America's children, keep our schools safe, and reduce the threat of violence across our country. Some key provisions of this bill include:

1. Creating a \$750 million funding pot available to states for crisis intervention orders
2. Adding convicted domestic abusers in dating relationships to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS)
3. Supporting national expansion of children and family mental health services and provides investments in programs that expand provider training in mental health
4. Investing in programs to expand mental health and supportive services in schools, such as early identification and intervention programs and school safety

I was proud to support this bill alongside several of my Republican colleagues, including three from Ohio. While this bill takes the first steps towards a safer country, please know I remain committed to finding bipartisan solutions to gun violence.

I respect that there are many differing perspectives on what the best path forward is to reducing gun violence, but the fact remains that the threat it poses to our communities is growing. That's why, in the wake of the merciless attack at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas, I sent a letter to President Biden offering my assistance in developing bipartisan solutions to protect our nation's children from these unspeakable tragedies. School shootings are the most incomprehensible form of evil. It is far past time for non-partisan action to take place in Washington and that Congress addresses these heartless attacks head on.

Throughout my time in Congress, I have voted to preserve the Second Amendment for legal gun owners, while also supporting common-sense gun control legislation to hold bad actors accountable. Specifically, I have voted to strengthen the accuracy of background checks, penalize agencies that fail to report required information, and increase funding for the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS). Furthermore, as someone who believes we must address mental health issues early-on so they never reach the point of violence, I cosponsored the Mental Health Parity Act of 2019 as well as the Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act of 2016. That's also why I voted for the 21st Century Cures Act, which reformed outdated mental health programs and advanced early intervention and prevention programs.

Once again, thank you for contacting me. Should you have additional comments or questions on this or any other issue, please feel free to contact me at my Mentor, Twinsburg, or Washington, D.C. office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David P. Joyce". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "David" being the most prominent.

David P. Joyce  
Member of Congress