

Please make two copies of this letter from your congregation, one for your congregation's state senator and one for its state representative. Set up a table outside your church and have congregants sign their names and addresses to each copy as they exit the service on Stand-Up Sunday, adding on new sheets of paper with scotch tape each time one gets filled. Go to www.scstatehouse.gov/legislatorssearch.php to find the name and mailing address of the state senator and representative for your congregation's address, and please mail immediately.

CUT OFF THE INSTRUCTIONS ABOVE & MAKE 2 COPIES of THE LETTER BELOW.

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Dear

Our faith congregation, _____, urges you to enact legislation immediately to make thorough and completed background checks mandatory for all gun purchases.

We stand with the 9 out of 10 South Carolinians who voiced their desire for this legislation in Public Policy Polling's statewide poll published in September, and with the 85% of gun owners nationally. Because background checks don't threaten the 2nd Amendment right to lawfully own guns, and they work: States with thorough background checks have experienced significant declines in their gun deaths.

Our state has the 11th-highest number of gun deaths per capita in the U.S., and we're the 6th-leading supplier of crime guns to other states. *Gun violence is a public health and moral crisis* that's now taking as many lives as car accidents.

When clergy across South Carolina are hiring armed security to guard their congregations, and teachers are hiding with our children in lockdown drills to prepare for a gunman on the loose in our schools, it's *time*:

- To close loopholes that allow guns to be sold online and at gun shows with no background checks.
- To mandate that no guns are sold until background checks are completed.
- To strengthen laws and prosecution pertaining to gun dealers who are circumventing the process entirely.

. . . and to honor the wishes of the overwhelming majority that want to make South Carolina a safer place to live, learn and worship.

Sincerely,

Please have a stack of photocopies of this letter available outside your church, encouraging congregants to sign and send individually to the state senators and representatives of their district . . . and to pass on to their family and friends to do likewise. Your congregants can find their legislators' names and addresses by going to www.scstatehouse.gov/legislatorssearch.php.

CUT OFF THE INSTRUCTIONS ABOVE & MAKE MANY COPIES of THE LETTER BELOW.
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Dear

I believe in democracy and I trust that the will of the overwhelming majority will be expressed in our legislature. That's why, as a constituent in your district, I'm writing to ask that you pass legislation for thorough and completed background checks on *all* gun purchases — including those that occur online and at gun shows.

Nine out of ten South Carolinians — 91% of Republicans and 90% of Democrats — want this to happen, as indicated in the statewide poll published in September by Public Policy Polling . . . and 85% of gun owners nationally agree. Because background checks don't threaten the 2nd Amendment right to lawfully own guns, and they work: States with thorough background checks have experienced significant declines in their gun deaths.

Nine of our finest South Carolinians were killed at Emanuel AME Church in Charleston last June by a gun purchased without a completed background check. We're losing nine of our citizens in SC every five days to guns, and 91 Americans a day. Only accidents and chronic disease cause more deaths in our state, and I'm saddened that we're the sixth-leading supplier of crime guns to other states.

We can do something about this by closing the tragic loopholes in our porous background-check system. Thank you for your help in turning the tide and saving lives.

Sincerely,