



August 6, 2019

The Honorable Tom Wolf
Governor
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Room 225 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Governor Wolf,

On behalf of members of the PA Safe Caucus, a bicameral body dedicated to reducing gun violence, we request that you convene a special joint session of the legislature to address the epidemic of gun violence and violent ideology that resulted in two mass shootings in the course of 13 hours this past weekend.

The tragedies that occurred at a highly populated business district in Dayton, Ohio and a store in El Paso, Texas are only the most recent and widely publicized incident of gun violence. Allentown, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, and countless communities in between have been impacted by gun violence. Even one incident more is too much. Nearly a year ago, a gunman armed with weaponized misinformation and assault rifles and legally purchased handguns killed eleven worshippers at the Tree of Life Or L'Simcha Congregation.

Mass shootings in schools, places of worship, workplaces, shopping centers and other places of gathering should not be normalized, and cannot be treated as a phenomena without available solutions. Our constituents deserve better and demand it. It is past time to focus on the realities that enable these atrocities and work together to reduce them.

It is our moral duty to address the crisis of gun violence and violent ideology with the focus and passion a special session could provide. There are a variety of commonsense gun safety measures pending in the State House and Senate, including bills to ban assault weapons, address access to guns for people at risk of violence to themselves or others, require safe storage of firearms and close the loophole for gun background checks, among others.

The PA SAFE Caucus is made up of 70 members of the PA House and Senate across the Commonwealth who believe in reducing all types of violence in our society through adequate funding for mental health services; stronger tools for law enforcement; resources to curb the effects of addiction and illegal drugs; and solutions that reduce gun violence and promote public safety. We respectfully ask, on behalf of those we represent and are obliged to protect and serve,

that you convene a special joint session. Pennsylvanians have demanded meaningful steps to curb gun violence and violent extremism, and we must heed their call.

Signed,

Chairs of the PA Safe Caucus



Steven J. Santarsiero
State Senator, 10th District
Chair, Senate PA Safe Caucus



Dan B. Frankel
State Representative, 23rd Legislative District
Co-Chair, House PA Safe Caucus



Movita Johnson-Harrell
State Representative, 190th District
Co-Chair, House PA Safe Caucus