



Newtown Action Alliance Supports H.R. ____ to Honor All Victims of Gun Violence

December 14, 2017

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Democratic Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Majority Leader McConnell, Leader Schumer, Speaker Ryan, Leader Pelosi, and Members of Congress:

Today marks the 5th anniversary of the heartbreaking Sandy Hook tragedy when 20 children and six educators were senselessly massacred by a mentally ill gunman with an AR-15 and high capacity magazines in an elementary school.

Last week, we held the 5th Annual National Vigil for All Victims of Gun Violence at St Mark's Episcopal Church on Capitol Hill, to commemorate the 5th anniversary of the Sandy Hook tragedy. We were joined by families and survivors directly impacted by mass shootings and daily gun violence from 20 states. These families and survivors are united in their grief due to their loved ones being senselessly taken by gun violence in America.

Nearly 300 local vigils and events are being held across the nation to honor all victims of gun violence and to engage more Americans to #HonorWithAction to #EndGunViolence in America.

Over 500,000 Americans have been killed or injured by guns since the Sandy Hook tragedy. On average, 12,000 Americans are victims of gun homicides on an annual basis therefore 60,000 Americans have been murdered by guns in the last five years. Gun violence in America is a public health emergency and thousands of families suffer daily from the loss of their loved ones. The pain felt by family members who lost their loved ones in Sandy Hook, Aurora and Orlando is the same as the pain felt those who lost their loved ones in Hartford, Oakland and Chicago.

Despite the fact that there are 33 victims of gun homicides on a daily basis, Congress pays tribute to only mass shooting victims with a moment of silence on the House or Senate floors.

Since the Sandy Hook mass shooting incident, moments of silence have been observed for the following tragic mass shootings incidents in America.

November 5, 2017 in Sutherland Springs when 26 people were killed in a church.
October 1, 2017 in Las Vegas, Nevada when 58 people were killed and 500 others were injured.

July 7, 2016 in Dallas, Texas when 5 Dallas police officers were killed

June 12, 2016- Orlando, Florida when 49 people were killed and 53 were injured at the Pulse nightclub.

Dec. 2, 2015 in San Bernardino, California when 14 people were killed and 17 wounded.

Nov. 27, 2015 in Colorado Springs, Colorado when 3 people were and 9 were wounded at a Planned Parenthood clinic.

Oct. 1, 2015 in Roseburg, Oregon when 10 people were killed at Umpqua Community College

July 16, 2015 in Chattanooga, Tennessee when 4 Marines and a Navy petty officer were killed.

June 17, 2015 in Charleston, South Carolina when 9 people were killed in a church.

October 24, 2014 in Marysville, Washington when 4 people were killed in a high school cafeteria.

May 23, 2014 in Isla Vista, California when 6 people were killed near University of California-Santa Barbara.

April 2, 2014 in Killeen, Texas when 3 people were killed and 16 were wounded in Fort Hood.

September 16, 2013 in Washington D.C. when 12 people were killed at the Washington Navy Yard

All lives taken by gun murders in America deserve equal attention. Congressional moments of silence are necessary for the 33 Americans who lose their life daily therefore we wholeheartedly support Representative Jamie Raskin's bill to amend "the rules of the House of Representatives to observe a 60-second moment of silence in the House for those killed by gun violence in the United States on the next legislative day after any such individual dies."

Let us be clear that in no way, shape or form do we believe that moments of silence should replace meaningful congressional action to truly end gun violence in America.

Sincerely,
Po Murray
Chairwoman
Newtown Action Alliance