

A MESSAGE FROM CONGREGATION BONAI SHALOM'S WORKING GROUP ON GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION (A SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE TIKKUN OLAM COMMITTEE)

Unbelievably and yet so predictably, we are here again, reeling from another school shooting, in Uvalde, Texas, occurring just 10 days after the mass shooting at a supermarket in Buffalo, NY, a racist act of domestic terror. Despite the gun violence that occurs in the U.S. regularly and frequently, we are not powerless against this public health crisis, and we are obligated to take action to honor those who have lost their lives in this senseless, and in so many cases, preventable bloodshed. Here are a few ideas:

Friday June 3rd is National Gun Violence Awareness Day.

Consider observing this day by contacting our U.S. Senators from Colorado and urging them to pass meaningful, evidence-based gun violence prevention laws. Encourage them to start with **H.R.8 - Bipartisan Background Checks Act of 2021**, which stipulates that all private gun sales, including at gun shows and online sales, require a background check, closing a huge loophole in federal law. It passed the House of Representatives on March 11, 2021 and was sent to the Senate, where it has sat idle ever since. (Colorado closed this loophole a number of years ago.)

In the same email or phone call, please urge them to confirm Steven Dettelbach, a former federal prosecutor, as director of the ATF, the government agency tasked with enforcing federal gun laws. This agency **hasn't had a permanent director since 2015**.

Senator Michael Bennet: 303-455-7600, <https://www.bennet.senate.gov>

Senator John Hickenlooper: 303-244-1628, <https://www.hickenlooper.senate.gov/email-john/>

Tuesday June 7: Help pass local gun violence prevention ordinances.

Boulder City Council and Louisville City Council will have public hearings and will vote on the same package of GVP ordinances. Boulder's will be virtual and Louisville's will be in person with a virtual option. These ordinances include banning the sale and possession of assault weapons, bump stocks, large-capacity magazines, and ghost guns, raising the age to purchase firearms from 18 to 21, and several other evidence-based measures.

If you live or work in Boulder, have family or friends in the city, or enjoy the city's shopping and recreational opportunities, please contact Boulder City Council Members to voice your support of these ordinances **before** 6 PM on June 7th: <https://bouldercolorado.gov/government/city-council>

If you live or work in Louisville or have other connections to the city, please contact Louisville City Council Members about these ordinances **before** 6 PM on June 7th: <https://www.louisvilleco.gov/local-government/government/city-council/contact-the-city-council>

And finally – VOTE for local, state, and federal candidates who support sensible, evidence-based gun violence prevention laws.

GUNS DO NOT KEEP US SAFER. If that were true, the U.S. would be among the safest nations in the world, and that is far from the case. We can and must take action.