



Honorable Chuck Schumer
 Senate Majority Leader
 U.S. Senate
 322 Hart Senate Office Building
 Washington, D.C. 20510

Honorable Mitch McConnell
 Senate Minority Leader
 U.S. Senate
 317 Russell Senate Office Building
 Washington, D.C. 20510

Honorable Mike Johnson
 Speaker of the House
 U.S. House of Representatives
 568 Cannon House Office Building
 Washington, D.C. 20515

Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
 House Minority Leader
 U.S. House of Representatives
 2433 Rayburn House Office Building
 Washington, D.C. 20515

November 27, 2023

K-12 Organizations Urge Congress to Protect Students & Families by Reinstating a Federal Assault Weapons Ban

Dear Leaders Schumer, McConnell, Johnson, and Jeffries:

As the leading national education organizations committed to building safe learning environments and ensuring that every child can grow and reach their full potential, we strongly urge Congress to reinstate a strengthened federal assault weapons ban as quickly as possible. For the first time, firearms are now the leading cause of death for children under the age of 19.¹ Many more children and youth experience trauma and other adverse effects of exposure to gun violence. Our nation’s schools, communities and families cannot wait.

The recent mass shooting and devastating tragedy in Lewiston, Maine where 18 people were killed and another 13 injured by an assault weapon only exemplifies for us the horrific reality of the damage access to weapons of war by any individual in our nation can cause to a local community. While the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act signed into law in June 2022 makes some necessary improvements to existing gun laws, we must not stop there.

We have witnessed in horror as military-style weapons have been deployed against children and educators learning and teaching at school, against families exercising their right to worship, against seniors shopping, against communities celebrating together, and now against communities enjoying local evening recreational activities together. In the aftermath, we work to rebuild communities that are shattered, comfort children haunted by fear and memory, and carry those families whose children will now never have the opportunity to grow into adults or who may live with the trauma of bearing w

our nation's families where they live, learn, and play and build safe communities where every child has the opportunity to grow and reach their full potential.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions or would like to discuss further with us, please contact Kate Clabaugh, National Parent Teacher Association (National PTA