

CONGREGATION LETTER

Please make two copies of the letter on this page for your congregation to sign, one for the state senator and one for the state representative of your church's or temple's physical address. Write the name of your place of worship at the bottom and have congregants sign their names to each copy as they exit the service on Stand-Up Sunday/Stand-Up Sabbath, adding new sheets of paper with scotch tape each time one gets filled. Place both in a large envelope and send them to Gun Sense SC, 164 Market St., Suite 103, Charleston, SC 29401. We'll get them to the proper legislators. PLEASE INCLUDE THE NAME AND EMAIL ADDRESS OF ONE CONGREGANT SO THAT GUN SENSE SC CAN RESPOND.

CUT OFF THE INSTRUCTIONS ABOVE & MAKE COPIES OF THE LETTER BELOW.
DON'T FORGET TO WRITE YOUR CONGREGATION'S NAME ON THE LETTER!

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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 80% to 89% of 10 South Carolinians who — in *three* statewide surveys conducted in the last two years — support this legislation, along with the 83% of gun owners nationally.

Background checks don't threaten the Second Amendment right to lawfully own guns, and states with thorough ones have experienced significant declines in their gun deaths.

Our state has the fifth-highest rate of gun homicides, ranks second in aggravated assault with a firearm and is the fifth-leading supplier of crime guns to other states. With so many human lives at stake, we can't keep allowing guns to fall into the wrong hands.

Let's close the gaps in our laws that allow guns to be sold by unlicensed "private sellers" online and at gun shows with no background checks. Let's honor democracy and the wishes of the overwhelming majority of South Carolina voters who want to change a system that's permitting 22% of guns to be acquired without any background check occurring at all.

Could we possibly be content with this dangerous inconsistency in our gun laws, allowing criminals and those deemed dangerously mentally ill by a court of law to purchase guns from unlicensed sellers? If your answer is no -- as we feel confident that it must be -- then please push for this legislation in the 2017 session. Many thanks!

Sincerely,

INDIVIDUAL LETTER

Please have a large stack of photocopies of this letter available at your church and social hall, encouraging congregants to sign and send individually to the state senators and representatives of their voting districts. . . and to pass on to their family and friends to do likewise. They 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 sales, including those by unlicensed dealers who sell at gun shows and online.

Over eight out of ten South Carolinians, across all party affiliations, want this to happen, as indicated in three statewide polls published in the last two years . . . and 83% of gun owners nationally agree. Background checks don't threaten the Second Amendment right to lawfully own guns, and they work: States with thorough background checks have experienced significant declines in their gun deaths.

South Carolina has the fifth-highest rate of gun homicides, ranks second in aggravated assault with a gun and is the fifth-leading supplier of guns used in crimes in other states, at a rate 82% higher than U.S. average. Are we satisfied with that?

Could we possibly be content with allowing criminals and those deemed dangerously mentally ill by a court of law to purchase guns from unlicensed sellers, as our current system allows them to do? If your answer is no -- as I feel confident that it must be -- then please push for this legislation in the 2017 session.

Thank you for your help in turning the tide and saving lives.

Sincerely,

Address: