November 9, 2023

The Honorable Mike Johnson  
Speaker of the House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Johnson:


As yet another American community has been traumatized by a mass shooting, we demand more than thoughts and prayers. We know that at least 18 people have been killed and 13 more have been wounded after a gunman, armed with a weapon of war, opened fire in Lewiston while people were bowling and enjoying a meal. As the new Speaker of the House, we need you to lead your colleagues and save lives from gun violence by prohibiting assault weapons.

Of the 10 deadliest mass shootings that have taken place since 2015, eight involved an assault weapon. There is a reason mass shooters choose to use assault weapons, time and again, to commit mass shootings: assault weapons are military-style firearms designed to shoot and kill as many people as possible as quickly as possible. The tragedy in Lewiston is no different: This shooting was able to turn as deadly as it was because the shooter had access to an assault weapon. Research shows that mass shooting deaths were 70 percent less likely to occur when the federal prohibition on assault weapons and high-capacity magazines was in effect. Some of our states have strong gun laws—including laws that prohibit assault weapons. But without strong national legislation, it’s far too easy for someone to go to a state with worse gun laws and bring death and destruction back home.

Mayors across this country are the first ones called when a shooting happens in our city—whether one person is shot or dozens are—and we cannot leave when the cameras do. We will always put the safety of our communities first, and as gun violence continues to terrorize every corner of this country, we are asking you to do the same. Our communities were never meant to be war zones. But with unfettered access to assault weapons on our streets, that is what so many have become,
with all the same bloodshed and carnage. As we continue to work in our cities to prevent gun violence and protect our constituents, we need Congress to do the same. Congress must act to get weapons of war off our streets.

Sincerely,

Mayor Eric Adams, New York, New York
Mayor Mark Huguley, Arcadia Lakes, South Carolina
Mayor Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft, Alameda, California
Mayor Kelly Girtz, Athens, Georgia
Mayor William B. Judge, Barberton, Ohio
Mayor Melanie Kebler, Bend, Oregon
Mayor Byron W. Brown, Buffalo, New York
Mayor Elizabeth B. Kautz, Burnsville, Minnesota
Mayor Stephen W. Rideout, Cambridge, Maryland
Mayor James Brainard, Carmel, Indiana
Mayor Maria Rivera, Central Falls, Rhode Island
Mayor Pam Hemminger, Chapel Hill, North Carolina
Mayor Justin M. Bibb, Cleveland, Ohio
Mayor Elaine O'Neal, Durham, North Carolina
Mayor Nicole LaChapelle, Easthampton, Massachusetts
Mayor Becky Daggett, Flagstaff, Arizona
Mayor Dean J. Trantalis, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida
Mayor Emmett V. Jordan, Greenbelt, Maryland
Mayor Carolyn McAdams, Greenwood, Mississippi
Mayor Luke Bronin, Hartford, Connecticut
Mayor Nancy Rotering, Highland Park, Illinois
Mayor Sylvester Turner, Houston, Texas
Mayor Quinton Lucas, Kansas City, Missouri
Mayor Nigel Herbig, Kenmore, Washington
Mayor Steve Noble, Kingston, New York
Mayor Dontario Hardy, Kinston, North Carolina
Mayor Andy Schor, Lansing, Michigan
Mayor Linda G. Swan, Los Altos Hills, California
Mayor Jared Nicholson, Lynn, Massachusetts
Mayor Satya Rhodes-Conway, Madison, Wisconsin
Mayor Annette M. Blackwell, Maple Heights, Ohio
Mayor Steve Little, Marion, North Carolina
Mayor Paul Brodeur, Melrose, Massachusetts
Mayor Cavalier Johnson, Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Mayor Jose Sanchez, Monterey Park, California
Mayor Steven L. Reed, Montgomery, Alabama
Mayor T.J. Cawley, Morrisville, North Carolina
Mayor Shawyn Patterson-Howard, Mount Vernon, New York
Mayor Justin Elicker, New Haven, Connecticut
Mayor Timothy Rogers, New Paltz, New York
Mayor Ras J. Baraka, Newark, New Jersey
Mayor Kathy Mulcahy, Orange Village, Ohio
Mayor Buddy Dyer, Orlando, Florida
Mayor Adrian O. Mapp, Plainfield, New Jersey
Mayor Thurman Bill Bartie, Port Arthur, Texas
Mayor Jim Thomson, Richmond Heights, Missouri
Mayor Chris Duncan, San Clemente, California
Mayor Kate Colin, San Rafael, California
Mayor Lisa M. Gillmor, Santa Clara, California
Mayor Van R. Johnson, II, Savannah, Georgia
Mayor Bruce A. Harrell, Seattle, Washington
Mayor Stephan K. Pickett, Sleepy Hollow, Illinois
Mayor Georgine Welo, South Euclid, Ohio
Mayor Tishaura O. Jones, St. Louis, Missouri
Mayor Timothy L. Ragland, Talladega, Alabama
Mayor Jane Castor, Tampa, Florida
Mayor Heidi Lueb, Tigard, Oregon
Mayor Marvin Natiss, Village of North Hills, New York
Mayor Brian P. Stack, Union City, New Jersey
Mayor Martha Guerrero, West Sacramento, California
Mayor Michael R. Helfrich, York, Pennsylvania
Mayor Tito Brown, Youngstown, Ohio