

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 13, 2025

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump,

We write to express our deep concern regarding the recent closure of the White House Office of Gun Violence Prevention (WHOGVP). Established in September 2023, this office helped facilitate a cross-agency public health approach to gun violence prevention. The efforts of WHOGVP contributed to a nationwide reduction in homicide rates and provided comprehensive support to communities impacted by senseless gun violence.

WHOGVP played a pivotal role in coordinating federal responses to mass shootings, supporting state and local initiatives to reduce gun violence, and implementing critical legislation such as the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act. WHOGVP's work also contributed to a significant decrease in the proliferation of un-serialized and untraceable firearms, commonly known as "ghost guns," and provided resources to community violence intervention organizations.

WHOGVP created the Gun Violence Emergency Response Team to respond to mass shootings. Deploying for the first time after the mass shooting in Lewistown, Maine, the team brought together officials from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the Small Business Administration, Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), and other agencies to offer services to the community in the aftermath of the crisis. From providing support through the FBI Victim's Services to helping small businesses support affected employees, the Emergency Response Team helped this suffering community navigate difficult-to-access federal resources. This response was replicated in other communities including Chicago and Kansas City.

In addition to coordinating emergency responses to mass shootings, WHOGVP also helped coordinate funding from the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act (BSCA). BSCA provided robust funding for school mental health support and community violence intervention programming. WHOGVP worked with the Department of Education to ensure that schools received mental health funding and used it to hire mental health professionals.

WHOGVP also worked with communities suffering from gun violence to support access to the \$250 million in community-based violence prevention funding from BSCA. This funding helped create and expand community violence intervention (CVI) programs in major cities and small towns across the United States through partnerships between several entities – such as law enforcement, local organizations, faith-based groups, and city, county and state governments. On average, CVI programs have been shown to reduce violent crime by over 30 percent,¹ helping to make America safer.

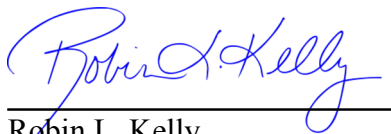
¹ <https://publichealth.jhu.edu/center-for-gun-violence-solutions/solutions/community-violence-intervention#:~:text=The%20most%20successful%20of%20these,and%20the%20neighborhoods%20they%20serve.>

The efforts of WHOGVP focused on fighting the root causes of gun violence and responding to emergencies. We understand that your administration has reservations about firearm regulation; however, WHOGVP was primarily focused on addressing causes of gun violence unrelated to firearm ownership. If you decide to reopen WHOGVP, the focus can remain on emergency response and community violence intervention programs that complement law enforcement's efforts to reduce and prevent violence in communities.

Gun violence remains a significant concern in our nation, with more than 300 Americans being shot every day. The elimination of this office threatens to reverse the progress we have made in reducing gun-related incidents and undermines the safety of our communities.

We urge you to reconsider the decision to disband the White House Office of Gun Violence Prevention. Reinstating this office would reaffirm the federal government's commitment to addressing gun violence through a comprehensive and coordinated approach, ensuring the safety and well-being of all Americans.


Sincerely,




Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress



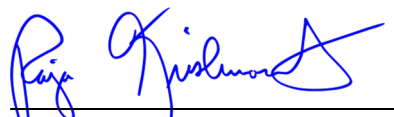
Maxwell Alejandro Frost
Member of Congress




Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress



Dina Titus
Member of Congress

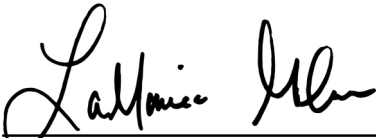


Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress




Deborah K. Ross
Member of Congress


Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick
Member of Congress




LaMonica McIver
Member of Congress




Emanuel Cleaver, II
Member of Congress



Terri A. Sewell
Member of Congress




Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress




Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress



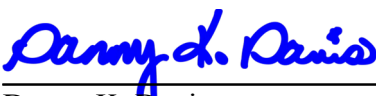
Mike Quigley
Member of Congress



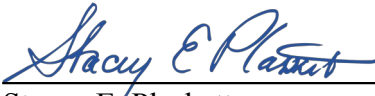
Shri Thanedar
Member of Congress



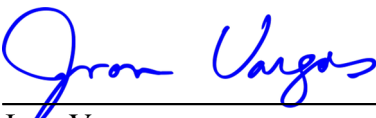
Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



Stacey E. Plaskett
Member of Congress




Juan Vargas
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Gwen S. Moore
Member of Congress



Frederica S. Wilson
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Jan Schakowsky
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Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress



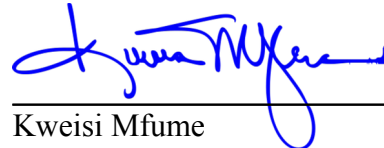
Valerie P. Foushee
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Adam Smith
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Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress



Kweisi Mfume
Member of Congress



Ritchie Torres
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Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress



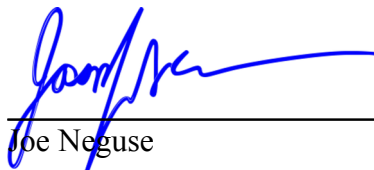
Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress



Jim Tokuda
Member of Congress



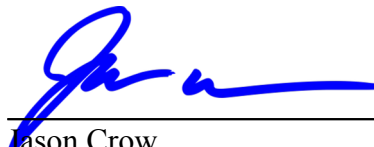
Dan Goldman
Member of Congress



Joe Neguse
Member of Congress



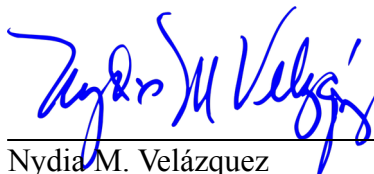
Morgan McGarvey
Member of Congress



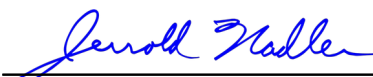
Jason Crow
Member of Congress



Summer L. Lee
Member of Congress



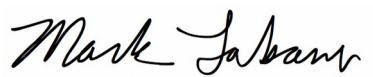
Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress



Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



Dwight Evans
Member of Congress



MARK TAKANO
Member of Congress



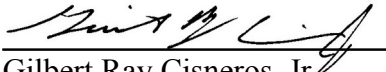
Julia Brownley
Member of Congress




Derek T. Tran
Member of Congress



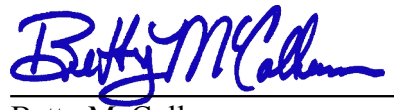
Seth Magaziner
Member of Congress



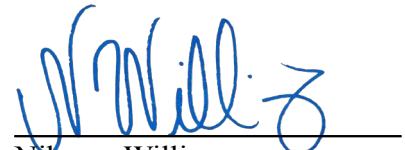
Gilbert Ray Cisneros, Jr.
Member of Congress




Robert Garcia
Member of Congress



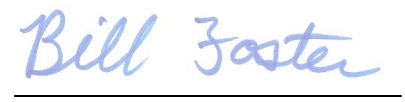
Betty McCollum
Member of Congress




Nikema Williams
Member of Congress




J. Luis Correa
Member of Congress



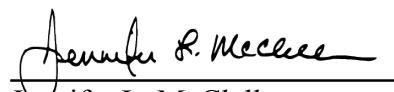
Bill Foster
Member of Congress



Madeleine Dean
Member of Congress




Mike Thompson
Member of Congress




Jennifer L. McClellan
Member of Congress



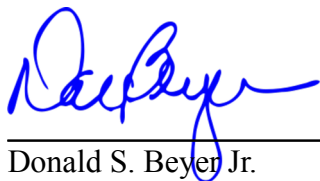
Yassamin Ansari
Member of Congress



Robert J. Menendez
Member of Congress



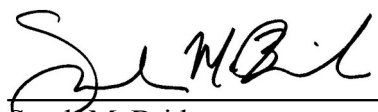
Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress



Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress



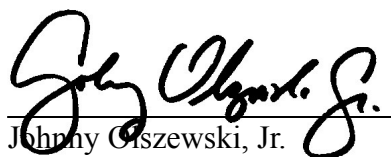
Mary Gay Scanlon
Member of Congress



Sarah McBride
Member of Congress



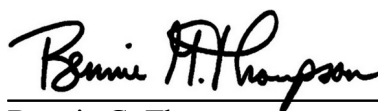
Gabe Amo
Member of Congress



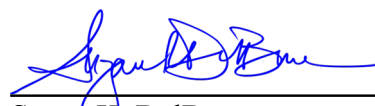
Johnny Olszewski, Jr.
Member of Congress



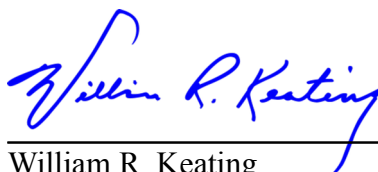
Julie Johnson
Member of Congress



Bennie G. Thompson
Member of Congress



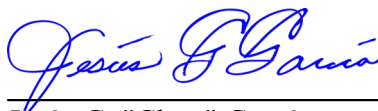
Suzan K. DelBene
Member of Congress



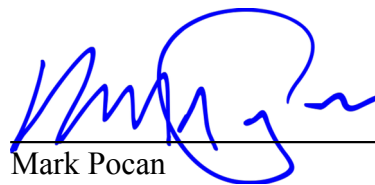
William R. Keating
Member of Congress



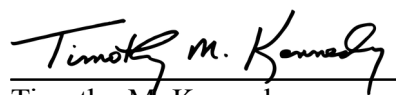
Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress



Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress



Mark Pocan
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Timothy M. Kennedy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Timothy M. Kennedy
Member of Congress