

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

**7/18/16**

After the shooting at the Pulse nightclub in Orlando, a hateful attack targeting the LGBT community that took the lives of 49 innocents, people around the country stood together saying, “Enough is enough.” While mass shootings such as this one capture national attention, Americans are affected daily by gun violence in urban, rural and suburban communities.

We returned to Washington hopeful that we might finally make progress in combatting our nation’s gun violence epidemic. Sadly, Congress has responded only with silence and a refusal to act on even the most basic gun safety measures. Congressional inaction does not mean that we are powerless to fight violence, however, and we ask that you join us in working toward making safer communities for our families.

Far too often, violence and poverty go hand in hand as individuals without other options, especially young men, turn to crime to support themselves. A life of violence not only harms communities, but traps these young men in the criminal justice system, affecting their prospects for future employment and perpetuating the cycle. The toll that this everyday gun violence takes on our neighborhoods is staggering, but we can stop it if we act now and act together.

As a leader of the business community, you have the power to make a real difference in the lives of your employees and the communities in which they live. Small investments of time and energy can reap large rewards, by improving quality of life and improving safety. Some examples of initiatives you could undertake include:

- Starting a mentorship program for employees to work with at-risk youth in the community.
- Developing hiring policies that extend opportunities to applicants from surrounding neighborhoods.
- Investing in neighborhood beautification, public park improvement, and the creation of safe spaces that create safe and constructive environments for young people.
- Sponsoring local schools or youth sports teams in the community.
- Working with outside organizations to find employment for individuals who have previously been involved in the criminal justice system and need a second chance.

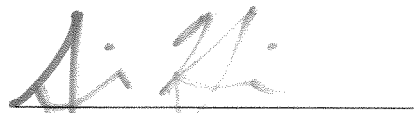
Many companies are already deeply involved in this work, and we are grateful for those efforts. We would welcome the opportunity to learn from successes and share them with the rest of the

business community. If you wish to become more involved, we are more than willing to put our resources to work to help you find the right level of involvement for your company and seek out partner organizations. Hopefully, this is just the beginning of an ongoing conversation.

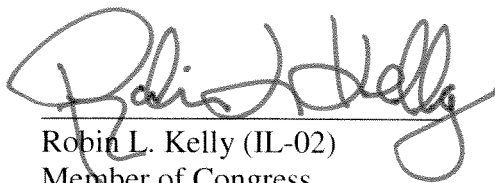
As Congress goes into recess for the summer without any progress made to reform our gun laws, the burden falls on all of us to carry on the fight at home. We are at your disposal and look forward to working in partnership with you over the coming weeks and months to make a safer country.

Sincerely,

The Undersigned Members of the US House of Representatives



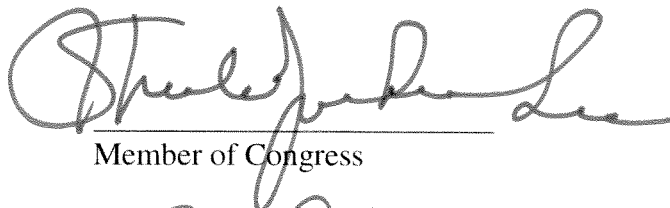
Jim Himes (CT-04)  
Member of Congress



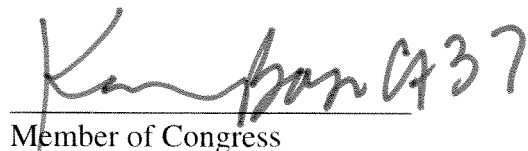
Robin L. Kelly (IL-02)  
Member of Congress



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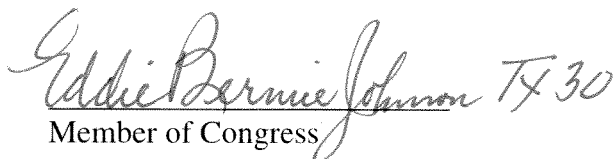
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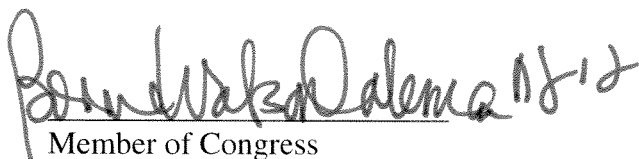
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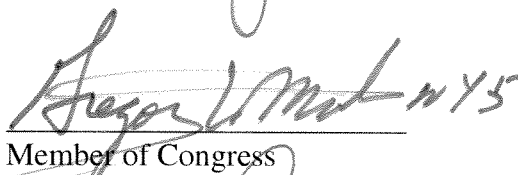
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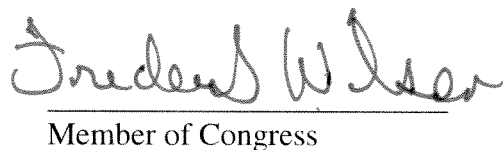
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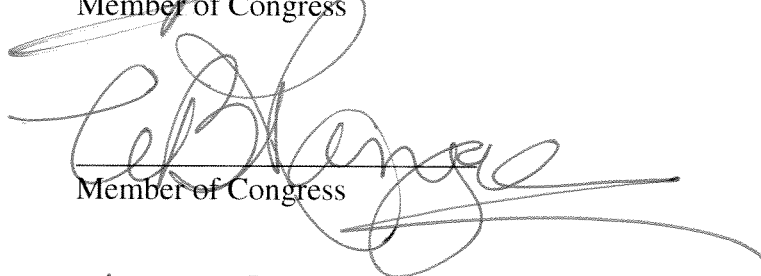
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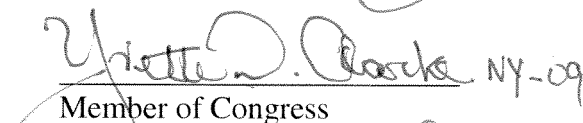
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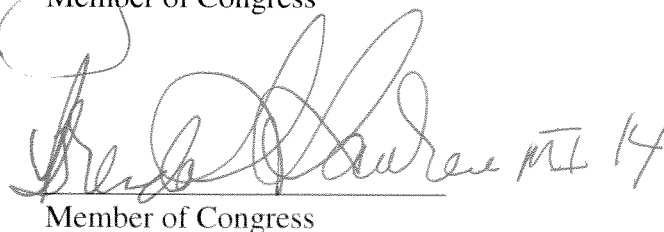
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Donna F. Edwards

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Jay Bybee

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Dan Claitor

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W. H. H. H.

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Joshua C. Hawley

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Bob D. D.

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Samuel W. Bishop

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John C. Canaway

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Art Helt

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Bill Foster

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Bob D. D.

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Kathleen M. Rice

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David L. Bonior

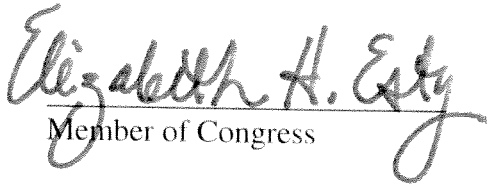
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Rice

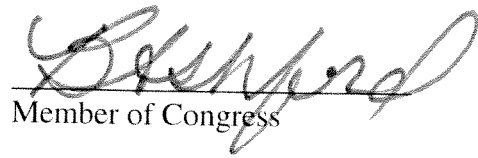
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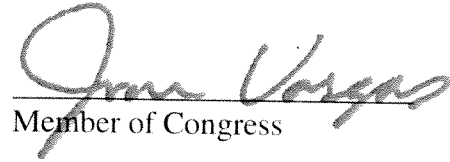
Alan S. L.

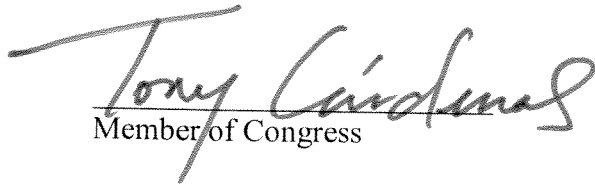
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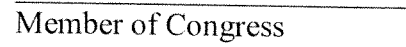
  
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