

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

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MEMORANDUM

June 3, 2022

To: Members of the Committee on Oversight and Reform

Fr: Committee Staff

Re: Hearing on “The Urgent Need to Address the Gun Violence Epidemic”

On **Wednesday, June 8, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. ET**, the Committee on Oversight and Reform will hold a hybrid hearing in **room 2154 of the Rayburn House Office Building and on the Zoom video platform** to examine the gun violence epidemic in the United States and commonsense reforms to prevent further loss of life from firearms.

I. BACKGROUND

On Tuesday, May 24, 2022, an 18-year-old gunman entered Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas, and opened fire on children in their classrooms. He killed 19 children and two teachers.¹ This horrific attack followed a mass shooting just ten days earlier, when another 18-year-old gunman murdered ten innocent people—including an armed security guard—at a Tops supermarket in Buffalo, New York.² The Buffalo shooter’s attack was racially motivated and meticulously planned to target a predominately Black community.³

The mass murders in Uvalde and Buffalo are just two of the latest examples of catastrophic gun violence that are occurring more frequently and affecting more communities

¹ *At Least 19 Children, 2 Adults Killed After Shooter Open Fires at Texas Elementary School*, CBS News (May 24, 2022) (online at www.cbsnews.com/live-updates/texas-elementary-school-shooting-robb-elementary-uvalde/).

² *Massacre Suspect Said He Modified Bushmaster Rifle to Hold More Ammunition*, Washington Post (May 15, 2022) (online at www.washingtonpost.com/investigations/2022/05/15/buffalo-shooting-gun-bought-bushmaster/); *How the 18-Year-Old Suspect Legally Obtained Guns Before the Buffalo Mass Shooting*, CNN (May 17, 2022) (online at www.cnn.com/2022/05/17/us/buffalo-mass-shooting-guns-suspect/index.html); *“All These Innocent Lives”: These Were the Victims in the Buffalo Attack*, New York Times (May 15, 2022) (online at www.nytimes.com/2022/05/14/nyregion/victims-buffalo-shooting.html).

³ *Buffalo Supermarket Shooting: What Do We Know So Far?*, Associated Press (May 16, 2022) (online at <https://apnews.com/article/buffalo-shooting-what-to-know-bcb5e0bd2aedb925d20440c2005ffe8>).

nationwide. On June 1, 2022, a gunman murdered four people in a medical building in Tulsa, Oklahoma, one of more than 17 mass shootings that have occurred since the tragedy in Uvalde.⁴

The gun violence epidemic poses a serious public health threat to all Americans, and disproportionately impacts marginalized communities.⁵ In 2022 alone, the United States has suffered more than 200 mass shootings.⁶ Guns are now the leading cause of death for children and teens in the United States.⁷ In 2020, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported a total of 45,222 gun-related deaths, a nearly 15% increase over the previous year.⁸ The U.S. leads in gun-related suicides and homicides among all high-income countries with at least 10 million inhabitants.⁹

The Committee has been examining gun violence in the United States for several years, and in 2019 launched an investigation into gun dealers that sell guns used in crimes.¹⁰ On April 28, 2022, the Committee released preliminary findings from its investigation, showing that a small number of gun dealers—particularly those in states with lax gun laws—have sold thousands of guns used in violent crimes.¹¹

⁴ *Four People Killed in Mass Shooting at Tulsa Hospital; Gunman Also Dead*, CBS News (June 2, 2022) (online at www.cbsnews.com/news/tulsa-shooting-saint-francis-hospital-medical-building/); *There Have Already Been 17 Mass Shootings in the Week Since Uvalde*, Newsweek (May 31, 2022) (online at www.newsweek.com/there-have-already-been-17-mass-shootings-week-since-uvalde-1711654).

⁵ Julia P. Schleimer et al., *Neighborhood Racial and Economic Segregation and Disparities in Violence During the COVID-19 Pandemic*, American Journal of Public Health (Dec. 22, 2021) (online at <https://ajph.aphapublications.org/doi/10.2105/AJPH.2021.306540>).

⁶ Gun Violence Archive, *Mass Shootings in 2022* (2022) (online at www.gunviolencearchive.org/reports/mass-shooting).

⁷ *In a First, Firearms Were the Leading Cause of Death for U.S. Children and Teens in 2020*, NBC News (Apr. 22, 2022) (online at www.nbcnews.com/health/health-news/guns-leading-cause-death-children-teens-rcna25443).

⁸ The Hub, Johns Hopkins University, *Report: CDC Records Highest-Ever Number of Gun-Related Deaths in 2020* (May 2, 2022) (online at <https://hub.jhu.edu/2022/05/02/highest-number-of-gun-related-deaths-in-2020-report/>); Giffords, *Press Release: 2020 CDC Data Shows Record Number of Gun Deaths, Makes Clear the Need for Immediate Action to Address Gun Violence in America* (Oct. 6, 2021) (online at <https://giffords.org/press-release/2021/10/2020-cdc-data-shows-record-number-of-gun-deaths/>).

⁹ Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluations, *On Gun Violence, the United States is an Outlier* (Mar. 25, 2021) (online at www.healthdata.org/acting-data/gun-violence-united-states-outlier); *What Other Countries Show Us About America's Gun Violence Epidemic*, ABC News (Nov. 5, 2021) (online at <https://abcnews.go.com/US/countries-show-us-americas-gun-violence-epidemic/story?id=80495637>).

¹⁰ Letter from Chairman Elijah E. Cummings, Committee on Oversight and Reform, to Acting Deputy Director Regina Lombardo, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (Aug. 9, 2019) (online at <https://oversight.house.gov/sites/democrats.oversight.house.gov/files/2019-08-09.EEC%20to%20Lombardo-ATF%20re%20Gun%20Tracing.pdf>).

¹¹ Committee on Oversight and Reform, *Press Release: Chairwoman Maloney Sends Letter to ATF Revealing How Certain Gun Dealers Are Fueling Violent Crime* (Apr. 28, 2022) (online at <https://oversight.house.gov/news/press-releases/chairwoman-maloney-sends-letter-to-atf-revealing-how-certain-gun-dealers-are>).

On May 27, 2022, the Committee sent letters to five leading manufacturers of semi-automatic rifles for information related to the manufacture, marketing, and sales of their weapons, to understand how these guns are fueling the gun violence epidemic and to inform gun safety legislation to protect Americans.¹²

II. HEARING PURPOSE

The purpose of this hearing is to examine the gun violence epidemic in the United States and commonsense reforms to prevent further loss of life from firearms.

III. WITNESSES

Panel I

Zeneta Everhart
Mother of Zaire Goodman
Buffalo, New York

Roy Guerrero, M.D.
Pediatrician
Uvalde, Texas

Felix Rubio and Kimberly Rubio
Parents of Lexi Rubio
Uvalde, Texas

Miah Cerrillo
Fourth Grade Student at Robb Elementary School
Uvalde, Texas

Panel II

Greg Jackson, Jr.
Executive Director
Community Justice Action Fund

Joseph Gramaglia
Police Commissioner
Buffalo, New York

Becky Pringle
President

¹² Committee on Oversight and Reform, *Press Release: Chairwoman Maloney Launches Investigation into Manufacturers of Assault Weapons Used in Mass Shootings* (May 27, 2022) (online at <https://oversight.house.gov/news/press-releases/chairwoman-maloney-launches-investigation-into-manufacturers-of-assault-weapons>).

National Education Association

Nick Suplina

Senior Vice President for Law & Policy
Everytown for Gun Safety

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