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Sean Patrick Maloney
U.S. House of Representatives
18th District, New York
September 13, 2019

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Majority Leader
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Majority Leader McConnell:

I write to express my extreme disappointment over the lack of action from the United States Senate on the issue of gun violence prevention. As the Majority Leader in the Senate, you have an obligation to the American people to address this crucial issue and I strongly urge you to bring up legislation immediately.

There is a gun violence crisis occurring across our nation. Nearly 40,000 Americans die each year from gun-related injuries, with approximately 15,000 Americans dying from gun-related murders. Among developed nations, the United States is an outlier in the number of people who die from gun-related injuries.

As of September 1, 2019, there have been 283 mass shootings this year alone. Mass shootings are affecting our communities nationwide. These include such incidents as the shooting in Dayton, Ohio, that killed nine people and injured at least 27; a shooting at a Walmart in El Paso, Texas that killed 22 people and injured at least 24; and a drive-by shooting in Odessa and Midland, Texas that killed seven people and injured 24 people.

We are not powerless. We do not have to accept these incidents as an inevitable part of our daily lives. Tragedies such as these can be prevented, and action must be taken to protect American lives. Earlier this year, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 8, the Bipartisan Background Checks Act of 2019. This legislation expands required background checks to include sales between private parties. While this bill received bipartisan support to pass the House of Representatives, the Senate has not taken any action on this important piece of legislation.

Americans deserve to feel safe in their schools, workplaces, concert venues, and communities. There are numerous common-sense, bipartisan policies we can enact to reduce gun violence. Lives are at stake, and we cannot afford to delay action any longer. Anything less than immediate action is simply unacceptable.

Thank you for your attention to this issue. I look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sean Patrick Maloney". The signature is stylized with large loops and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Sean Patrick Maloney
Member of Congress