

WRITING TO YOUR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS

1. Tip: Even if you use some or all of the information contained below, **include why you care about this issue**. How does this affect you personally, your community, state or nation?
2. Find your Senators' and Representative's address by using [this easy search engine](#).

SAMPLE LETTER

Dear Senator/Representative [THEIR NAME]

As your constituent, I'm asking you to help address the disproportionate impact that gun violence and the COVID-19 pandemic has had on communities of color by allocating \$150 million annually to support community-based violence intervention groups, including by passing the **Break the Cycle of Violence Act** (S. 2671 H.R. 4836).

While horrific school shootings tend to receive the most national press, everyday gun violence in the US disproportionately impacts communities of color: gun homicide was the leading cause of death for Black men and boys aged 15-34 in 2018, and the third leading cause of death for Latino men and boys in the same age range.

Research indicates that long-term violence intervention projects, working in partnership with the affected communities, can substantially reduce gun violence. But these programs are critically underfunded and have had to make drastic cuts to staff, programming and outreach in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The causes of gun violence are multifaceted, but Congress has a concrete opportunity to help save lives and support systemic changes in communities by ensuring sustainable support for these evidence-based programs. That's why I support the Break the Cycle of Violence Act, which would fund these critical programs led by community members that are proven to be effective at preventing gun violence.

In addition to the horrific human toll of gun violence across the country, including in our state, I've recently learned that the economic cost (taking into account medical and criminal justice expenses) is estimated to reach tens of billions. At the same time, firearm violence can cause a range of health problems throughout our community, which increases the burden on under-resourced services. It's not only in the interest of fundamental human rights, but also your constituents as taxpayers, to robustly fund these programs.

You can make a difference. As your constituent, I am asking for you to support the Break the Cycle of Violence Act (S. 2671, H.R. 4836) and support Congress allocating at least \$150 million annually for 10 years to community gun violence prevention and intervention programs.

Sincerely,

[YOUR NAME AND SIGNATURE]

[YOUR CITY, STATE AND ZIP CODE]