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Re: Open Letter to Congress: Gun Violence

Thank you for the opportunity to address gun safety and reducing gun violence in our communities. I appreciated reading your letter, especially as it relates to the methods we are using to reduce gun violence and the impact that language has on how we interact with one another.

The recent shooting in Nashville, Tennessee adds to the long list of schools scarred by our country's gun violence epidemic – one that includes Columbine, Sandy Hook, Marjory Stoneman Douglas, Robb Elementary, and our own community in Isla Vista. This is unacceptable. California has led the way in implementing common-sense, proven measures to reduce gun violence and save lives. However, this progress must be coupled with action at the federal level to address gun violence throughout the United States.

Gun safety is one my top priorities in Congress. That's why I voted with my colleagues to pass the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act. This legislation, signed into law by President Biden on June 25, 2022, includes provisions of my Extreme Risk Protection Order Act that I have championed since my first days in Congress. This law provides \$750 million dollars for states to create and administer red flag laws, which help to keep firearms out of the hands of individuals who are a proven danger to themselves or others. Additionally, this bill protects victims of domestic violence by closing the boyfriend loophole, cracks down on straw purchases, increases enhanced background checks for people under 21, and invests in anti-violence community initiatives and safer schools. The Bipartisan Safer Communities Act is an important step in our fight against gun violence. However, more must be done.

This Congress, I am a proud cosponsor of H.R. 660, Ethan's Law, which establishes a framework to regulate the safe storage of firearms in homes for the protection of minors who may access them without permission. I have also cosponsored H.R. 715, the Bipartisan Background Checks Act of 2023. This bill requires every sale of a firearm include a background check. Additionally, I am a cosponsor of H.R. 698, the Assault Weapons Ban of 2023, which prohibits the sale, transfer, manufacture, and importation of semiautomatic weapons while protecting hunting and sporting rifles. Weapons of war have no place in our communities. Please know that I will continue to fight for gun safety and keep your views in mind as Congress continues to deliberate on this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "S.O. Carbajal". The signature is stylized and written in a cursive-like font.

Salud Carbajal  
Member of Congress