

Dear \_\_\_\_\_;

I submit to you the following:

8/1/22 Nightclub, Orlando, FL	7 wounded
7/4/22 Independence Day Parade, Highland Park, IL	6 killed, 12 wounded
6/1/22 St. Francis Hospital, Tulsa, OK	5 killed
5/24/22 Robb Elementary School, Uvalde, TX	21 killed
5/15/22 Tops Friendly Supermarket, Buffalo, NY	10 killed

What is a “mass shooting”? According to Gun Violence Archive, it is an incident where at least 4 people, exclusive of the shooter, are injured or killed.

This appears to be largely a US phenomenon. According to a study conducted by the International Journal of Comparative and Applied Criminal Justice from 1998-2019, of the United States and 35 other “developed” countries:

- there were 138 mass shootings in all countries combined
- 10 countries had more than one mass shooting (5 countries had 2, one had 3, one had 4, one had 5, one had 8)
- the US had 101
- 73%** of all the mass shootings occurred in the US during that period

Mass shootings in our country have increased exponentially. As of August 5<sup>th</sup>, according to Gun Violence Archive, there have been 462 mass shootings in the United States in 2022. We are well on our way to exceeding the 703 that occurred in 2021.

### **THESE NUMBERS ARE INCOMPREHENSIBLE.**

I applaud the steps that have been taken to curb this violence:

- December 2018- the US Justice Dept. bans “bump stocks”
- August 10, 2022-a federal appeals court upholds this ban

On June 25, 2022, President Biden signed into law the bi-partisan Safer Communities Act, which provides funding for school safety and state crisis intervention programs. This is a huge step forward. It will help to treat the mental and emotional needs of high-risk individuals who are often the perpetrators of these baseless acts. It will also help to provide additional steps that can be taken to keep our communities and most importantly, our children safer.

### **BUT IT IS NOT ENOUGH.**

On September 13, 1994, the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act was signed, containing a provision that prohibited the manufacture for civilian use of certain semi-automatic firearms, defined as “assault weapons” and certain ammunition magazines defined as “large capacity”. This legislation sunset in 2004 and no similar legislation has been successful since.

## **IT IS TIME TO REVISIT THIS TYPE OF ACTION.**

What is an automatic or semi-automatic firearm? There are a number of definitions. Please see the Wikipedia definitions, attached as Appendix A.

To summarize, they are weapons capable of discharging continuous or bursts of continuous projectiles. The projectiles can be a variety of different types of bullets, shot, or “slugs”. These weapons were designed for military use. And, if they must be used at all, that appears to be the arena in which they would be most appropriate.

I think it safe to conclude that in mass shootings, some type of bullet is used as opposed to a “slug”. And to what end is this intended? To harm, maim, or kill. And with automatic or semi-automatic firearms *mass casualties* are likely the intended goal. And who are the chosen targets? The innocent. Our families, friends and neighbors. Often children. My children, your children, our children.

## **THERE IS NO PLAUSIBLE EXCUSE FOR ENABLING THE CONTINUATION OF THIS CARNAGE.**

The Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act is a good start in dealing with the perpetrators. But it is not enough. We must vet firearms purchases through background checks to prevent those with a history of violence or mental illness from purchasing these weapons. This will reduce the easy access to the tools used by these individuals to carry out these heinous acts. Oh, we will never be able to totally eradicate these weapons. But, we can reduce their numbers and availability.

## **WE MUST STRENGTHEN BACKGROUND CHECKS AND ILLEGITIMATIZE THE MANUFACTURE AND PURCHASE OF AUTOMATIC WEAPONS FOR PERSONAL USE.**

This is what I propose and support. I leave you with this:

1/29/79 Grover Cleveland Elementary School, San Diego, CA	2 killed, 9 wounded
1/17/89 Cleveland Elementary School, Stockton, CA	5 killed, 32 wounded
4/20/99 Columbine High School, Columbine, CO	15 killed, 21 wounded
4/16/07 Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA	32 killed, 17 wounded
12/14/12 Sandy Hook Elementary School, Newtown, CN	26 killed
6/17/15 Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church, Charleston, SC	9 killed
6/12/16 Pulse Night Club, Orlando, FL	49 killed, 53 wounded
10/1/17 Route 91 Harvest Music Festival, Las Vegas, NV	60 killed, 413 wounded
2/14/18 Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, Parkland, FL	17 killed, 17 wounded/
10/27/18 Tree of Life Synagogue, Pittsburgh, PA	11 killed, 6 wounded

I am certain there are others that I’ve missed. But isn’t this enough?

Gale E Gallo  
President, Lemoyne Borough Council

# Automatic firearm

An **automatic firearm** is an auto-loading firearm that continuously chambers and fires rounds when the trigger mechanism is actuated. The action of an automatic firearm is capable of harvesting the excess energy released from a previous discharge to feed a new ammunition round into the chamber, and then ignite the propellant and discharge the projectile (either bullet, shot, or slug) by delivering a hammer or striker impact on the primer.

If *both* the feeding and ignition procedures are automatically cycled, the weapon will be considered "fully automatic" and will fire continuously as long as the trigger is kept depressed and the ammunition feeding (either from a magazine or a belt) remains available. In contrast, a firearm is considered "semi-automatic" if it only automatically cycles to chamber new rounds (i.e. self-loading) but does not automatically fire off the shot unless the user manually resets (usually by releasing) and re-actuates the trigger, so only one round gets discharged with each individual trigger-pull.<sup>[1]</sup> A burst-fire firearm is an "in-between" of fully and semi-automatic firearms, firing a brief continuous "burst" of multiple rounds with each trigger-pull, but then will require a manual re-actuation of the trigger to fire another burst.

Automatic firearms are further defined by the type of cycling principles used, such as recoil operation, blowback, blow-forward or gas operation.



A M2 Browning machine gun, surrounded by ejected cartridge cases

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## Rates of fire

### Cyclic rate

Self-loading firearms are designed with varying rates of fire due to having different purposes. The speed with which a self-loading firearm can cycle through the functions of:

1. Fire
2. Eject
3. Load
4. Cock

is referred to as its cyclic rate. In fully automatic firearms, the cyclic rate is tailored to the purpose the firearm is intended to serve. Anti-aircraft machine guns often have extremely high rates of fire to maximize the probability of a hit. In infantry support weapons, these rates of fire are often much lower and in some cases, vary with the design of the particular firearm. The MG 34 is a WWII-era machine gun which falls under the category of a "general purpose machine gun". It was manufactured in several variations: with a cyclic rate as high as 1200 rounds per minute, but also in an infantry model which fired at 900 rounds per minute.<sup>[2]</sup>

## Effective rate of fire

Continuous fire generates high temperatures in a firearm's barrel and increased temperatures throughout most of its structure. If fired continuously, the components of the firearm will eventually suffer structural failure. All firearms, whether they are semi-automatic, fully automatic, or otherwise, will overheat and fail if fired indefinitely. This issue tends to present itself primarily with fully automatic fire. For example, the MG34 may have a calculated cyclic rate of 1200 rounds per minute, but is likely to overheat and fail in the space of one minute of continuous fire.<sup>[3]</sup>

Semi-automatic firearms may also overheat if continuously fired. Recoil plays a significant role in the time it takes to reacquire one's sight picture, ultimately reducing the effective rate of fire.<sup>[4]</sup>

## Automatic firearm types

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Automatic firearms can be divided into six main categories:

### **Automatic rifle**

The standard type of service rifles in most modern militaries, usually capable of selective fire. Assault rifles are a specific type of select-fire rifle chambered in an intermediate cartridge and fed via a high-capacity detachable magazine. Battle rifles are similar, but chambered in a full-powered cartridge.<sup>[5]</sup>

### **Automatic shotgun**

A type of combat shotgun capable of firing shotgun shells automatically, usually also semi-automatically.<sup>[5]</sup>

### **Machine gun**

A large group of heavier firearms used for suppressive automatic fire of rifle cartridges, usually attached to a mount or supported by a bipod. Depending on size, weight and role, machine guns are divided into heavy, medium or light machine guns. The ammunition is often belt-fed.<sup>[5]</sup>

### **Submachine gun**

An automatic, short rifle (carbine) typically chambered for pistol cartridges. Today seldom used in military contexts due to a rise in the use of body armor, they are commonly used by police forces and close protection units in many parts of the world.<sup>[5]</sup>

### **Personal defense weapon**

A new breed of automatic firearms that combines the light weight and size of the submachine gun with the medium power caliber ammunition of the rifle, thus in practice creating a submachine gun with body armor penetration capability.<sup>[5]</sup>

### **Machine pistol**

A handgun-style firearm, capable of fully automatic or burst fire. They are sometimes equipped with a foldable shoulder stock, to promote accuracy during automatic fire, creating similarities to their submachine gun counterparts. Some machine pistols are shaped similarly to semi-automatics (e.g., the Glock 18, Beretta 93R). As with SMGs, machine pistols fire pistol caliber cartridges (such as the 9mm, .40, .45 ACP etc.).<sup>[5]</sup>

## Burst mode

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Burst Automatic is an Automatic Fire mode, it is typically used to limit the number of rounds fired, due to the inaccuracy of fully automatic fire. In the US M16/M4 platforms, the burst mode fires three rounds per trigger reset. The rifle will not fire again until the trigger is released and pulled again. There are suggestions that fully automatic fire has no genuine benefit and has been restricted or banned in combat due to being a waste of ammunition. The M4 carbine is now the main combat rifle of the US armed forces and has been available until recently in semi-automatic and burst mode of three rounds only.<sup>[6]</sup>

## Regulation

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Automatic weapons tend to be restricted to military and police organizations in most developed countries that permit the use of semi-automatic firearms. Where automatic weapons are permitted, restrictions and regulations on their possession and use may be much more severe than for other firearms.<sup>[1]</sup> In the United States, taxes and strict regulations affect the manufacture and sale of fully automatic firearms under the National Firearms Act of 1934 and the closing of the "machine gun" registry by the Firearm Owners Protection Act of 1986 (only previously registered automatic weapons may be purchased). A prospective user must go through an application process administered by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), which requires a federal tax payment of \$200 and a thorough criminal background check. The tax payment buys a revenue stamp, which is the legal document allowing possession of an automatic firearm. The use of a gun trust to register with the ATF has become an increasingly popular method of acquisition and ownership of automatic firearms.

## Similar weapons

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Other similar weapons not usually referred to as automatic firearms include the following:

- Autocannon, which are 15 mm or greater in bore diameter and thus considered cannons, not small arms.
- Gatling guns, multiple-barrel designs, often used with external power supplies to generate rates of fire higher than automatic firearms.

## See also

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- Bump stock
- Federal Firearms License
- Firearm action
- Gun Control Act of 1968
- Gun politics

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## These are the gun control laws passed in 2022 so far

By [Emma Tucker](#), CNN

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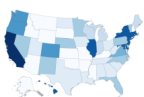


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Many states -- including California, Delaware and New York -- have approved laws to help curb gun violence.

**(CNN)** — Several [mass shootings](#) and a [sustained rise in gun violence](#) across the United States have spurred law enforcement officials and lawmakers to push for more gun control measures.

President Joe Biden in June signed into law the first major gun safety legislation passed in decades. The measure failed to ban any weapons, but it includes funding for school safety and state crisis intervention programs. Many states -- including California, Delaware and New York -- have also passed new laws to help curb gun violence, such as regulating untraceable ghost guns and strengthening background check systems.



### RELATED ARTICLE

States with weaker gun laws have higher rates of firearm related homicides and suicides, study finds

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There is a direct correlation in states with weaker gun laws and higher rates of gun deaths, including homicides, suicides and accidental killings, [according to a January study](#) published by Everytown for Gun Safety, a non-profit focused on gun violence prevention.

Not everyone agrees that increased gun control is the answer. Some Americans advocate for their right to keep and bear arms, enshrined in the Constitution, while others argue that gun control measures save lives and do not infringe citizen rights.

Amid the debate, some lawmakers have forged ahead with passing gun control laws.

“Following the passage of the first federal gun safety legislation in nearly three decades, policymakers across the country are heeding our call for action,” said Monisha Henley, senior director of State Government Affairs at Everytown for Gun Safety. “We are seeing real momentum for gun safety at the state level, but there is still far more to be done.”

Here is a summary of the state and federal laws that have been approved in 2022:

## Federal legislation

On June 25, Biden [signed into law the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act](#) after the the House and the Senate approved the measure. The package represents the most significant federal legislation to address gun violence since the expired 10-year assault weapons ban of 1994.

“God willing, it’s going to save a lot of lives,” Biden said at the White House as he signed the bill.

The package includes \$750 million to help states implement and run crisis intervention programs, which can be used to manage red flag programs, as well as for other crisis intervention programs such as mental health, drug and veteran courts.



### RELATED ARTICLE

Here's what's in the bipartisan gun safety bill

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Red flag laws, approved by the federal measure, are also known as Extreme Risk Protection Order laws. They allow courts to temporarily seize firearms from anyone believed to be a danger to themselves or others.

The legislation encourages states to include juvenile records in the National Instant Criminal Background Check System, which would provide a more comprehensive background check for people between 18 and 21 who want to buy guns.

It also requires more individuals who sell guns as primary sources of income to register as Federally Licensed Firearm Dealers, which are required to administer background checks before they sell a gun to someone.

The law bars guns from anyone convicted of a domestic violence crime who has a “continuing serious relationship of a romantic or intimate nature.” The law, however, allows those convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence crimes to restore their gun rights after five years if they haven’t committed other crimes.

## California

California was ranked the top state in the nation for gun safety in 2021. It has the strongest system in the nation for removing firearms from people who become prohibited from having them, [according to the Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence](#).

California Gov. Gavin Newsom in July [signed a package of five bills on gun safety](#) after they were passed by the California State Senate.

On July 1, Newsom signed AB 2571, which prohibits the gun industry from marketing firearm-related products to minors, as well as AB 1621, which further restricts ghost guns, including the parts used to build them.



### RELATED ARTICLE

Newsom signs California gun bill modeled after Texas abortion law

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On July 12, the governor signed AB 1594, legislation that establishes a firearm industry standard of conduct to promote “safe and responsible firearm industry member practices,” the bill states.

Also included in the package is AB 2156, signed on July 21, which cracks down on the manufacture of firearms by prohibiting any person, regardless of federal licensure, from manufacturing firearms without a state license. It also prohibits unlicensed individuals from using 3D



printing to manufacture any firearm or precursor part.

The last bill, signed on July 22, is SB 1327. It allows private citizens to bring civil action against anyone who manufactures, distributes, transports or imports assault weapons or ghost guns, which are banned in the state.

## Colorado

Colorado Gov. Jared Polis signed House Bill 22-1086, or [The Vote Without Fear Act](#), on March 30.

The law prohibits a person from openly carrying a firearm within any polling location or central count facility.

It also bans individuals from open carrying within “100 feet of a ballot drop box or any building in which a polling location or central count facility is located,” while election activity is in progress, according to the legislation. Violations are punishable by a maximum \$1,000 fine, up to 364 days imprisonment in the county jail, or both.

## Delaware

Delaware Gov. John Carney on June 30 [signed a package](#) of gun safety bills that includes legislation to prohibit assault weapons, regulate high-capacity magazines and strengthen background checks.

The Delaware Lethal Firearms Safety Act of 2022 prohibits the manufacture, sale, offer to sell, transfer, purchase, receipt, possession or transport of assault weapons in Delaware, subject to certain exceptions, according to HB 450.

The package also includes legislation that would raise the minimum age requirement to purchase or possess a firearm from 18 to 21, ban the use of devices that convert handguns into fully automatic weapons and hold gun manufacturers and dealers “liable for reckless or negligent actions that lead to gun violence,” the bill states.

## Illinois

Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker signed two bills that address secure storage of firearms and regulating ghost guns.

On May 18, the governor [signed HB 4383](#), which prohibits individuals from selling or possessing ghost guns and ensures that all firearms are serialized, allowing law enforcement to better trace them.

Pritzker [later signed HB4729](#) on June 10, which requires the Department of Public Health to develop and implement a two-year public awareness campaign focused safe gun storage, which includes sharing information about safe gun storage, the bill says.

## Maryland

Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan announced on April 8 that he would allow [Senate Bill 387](#), which bans the sale or possession of ghost guns, to become law without his signature, noting that it doesn’t go far enough in taking “decisive action to hold violent criminals accountable.”



### RELATED ARTICLE

Maryland joins 10 states and DC becoming latest to place restrictions on ghost guns

The bill, which took effect on June 1 after bipartisan support, expands the definition of “firearm” to include an unfinished frame or receiver. It requires the Secretary of State Police to maintain a system to register firearms imprinted with serial numbers and “prohibits a person from purchasing, receiving, selling, offering to sell, or transferring an ‘unfinished frame or receiver’ or a firearm unless imprinted with specified information,” the bill states.

The law also requires the governor to allocate \$150,000 in the annual state budget to fund registration proceedings.

## New Jersey

New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy on July 5 [signed seven gun safety bills](#), six of which were part of his Gun Safety 3.0 package that he introduced to the state legislature in April 2021.

The package includes legislation that would allow the state’s attorney general to sue members of the firearm industry for violations that stem from the sale or marketing of firearms, the bill states.

Also included in the package is legislation that would regulate the sale of handgun ammunition, developing a system of electronic

reporting of these sales; and require training prior to the issuance of a gun purchaser identification card with a validity date of 10 years.

Another bill that was signed as part of the package mandates firearm owners who become state residents to obtain a Firearm Purchaser Identification Card and register out-of-state acquired handguns, according to the bill.

## New York

Gov. Kathy Hochul signed a package of bills and an additional piece of legislation to address a wide range of gun safety issues.

Hochul signed a gun safety package on June 6, which includes bills that require microstamping on handguns, strengthen the state's extreme risk and firearm purchase permit law, raise the minimum age to purchase semiautomatic rifles to 21 and enhance information sharing between state, local and federal agencies when guns are used in crimes.



### RELATED ARTICLE

NY lawmakers pass bills to tighten state gun laws, including raising the minimum age to buy a semiautomatic rifle

Following the Supreme Court decision on June 23 to strike down a New York gun law enacted more than a century ago that places restrictions on carrying a concealed handgun outside the home, Hochul signed legislation to strengthen the state's gun laws and bolster restrictions on concealed carry weapons.

The law, which takes effect on September 1, will expand eligibility requirements in the concealed carry permitting process, restrict the carrying of concealed weapons in sensitive locations and establish state oversight over background checks for guns and regular checks on license holders for criminal convictions, according to the legislation.

## Rhode Island

Rhode Island Gov. Daniel McKee signed three gun safety bills on June 21. They prohibit high-capacity magazines, ban the open carry of rifles and shotguns in public and raise the legal age to purchase firearms or ammunition from 18 to 21, with exceptions for law enforcement officers.

One of the bills also changes the definition of "rifle" and "shotgun" consistent with federal law.

## Vermont

Vermont Gov. Phil Scott signed into law a package on March 25 that bans firearms from hospital buildings and prohibits the transfer of firearms between unlicensed people.

The governor vetoed a similar bill, S.30, in February that would have closed the "Charleston Loophole," which allows gun purchases to move forward by default after three days even if a background check has not been completed.

The new law, S.4, addresses the policy by extending the time period to seven days for the federal government to complete a background check before an individual can purchase a firearm. It also strengthens protections for victims of domestic violence, according to the bill.

## Washington

Washington Gov. Jay Inslee signed three gun safety bills into law on March 23.

HB 1705 prohibits the manufacture, sale, purchase or possession of ghost guns, while HB 1630 prohibits the open carry of firearms at local government meetings and restricts them at school board meetings and election-related locations.

The third bill, SB 5078, prohibits high-capacity magazines, defined as an "ammunition feeding device with the capacity to accept more than 17 rounds of ammunition," the bill states.

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