

## WHEN GUN VIOLENCE BECOMES THE NORM

Grandparents For Gun Safety stands with gun violence prevention groups nationwide in condemning the horrific assassination of Charlie Kirk, founder of Turning Point USA, on September 10. His killing came just days after two children were murdered on their first day back at Annunciation School in Minneapolis on August 27, and two students were wounded at Evergreen High School in Colorado on the very same day Kirk was gunned down.

These tragedies are no longer rare shocks—they are becoming a devastating norm. And yet, the national response too often defaults to thoughts, prayers, blame, and recrimination. None of that saves lives. None of that prevents the next tragedy. What will? Addressing the one factor these incidents share: easy access to firearms made possible by dangerously weak gun laws.

There is a way forward. Passing common-ground gun reform—measures that respect the rights of responsible gun owners while also protecting the rights of non gun-onwers —will reduce gun deaths and the lifelong trauma of the victims' families and the survivors. .

Our mission is clear, and it echoes across the country: **Everyone deserves the right to feel safe in their own community.** That safety is possible, but only if we demand it. Universal background checks. Extreme Risk Protection Orders. Safe storage. Permits to purchase. These are not radical ideas—they are life-saving solutions.

Here at home, the need could not be more urgent. Kansas ranks 42nd and Missouri 48th in the nation for gun law strength.\* We can do better. We must do better. Lives depend on it.

Founded in 2013 in the wake of the Sandy Hook Elementary School tragedy, Grandparents For Gun Safety continues to fight for common-ground reform at every level of government. And while we advocate for stronger gun laws, we address the immediate danger of access to firearms through our signature program, **Lock It For Love**. Since it began in 2017, we have distributed more than 8,900 free gun locks at community events in our metro area. One lock, one law, one life at a time—we are proving change is possible.

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\*Source Giffords.org

NOTE: Possible line if we do something just for our data base.... Now we must make it happen on a larger scale. **Stand with us. Speak out. Demand action. Together, we can turn the tide on gun violence.**