



A Guide to Calling Your Officials

Gun violence kills over 30,000 Americans every single year.ⁱ The rate of gun violence in the United States is up to 25 times higher than other developed countries.ⁱⁱ The devastating massacre in Parkland was the 18th school shooting of 2018. The gun death rate for Black children and teens was nearly four times that for White children and teens and more than 8 times that for Asian and Pacific Islander children and teens.ⁱⁱⁱ Enough is enough.

Reform Judaism demands that we “Do not stand idly by while our neighbor’s blood is shed.” For too long, Congress has stood idly by, refusing to take action to prevent senseless deaths. We need to make it clear to our elected officials that inaction is not an option. No more empty calls for thoughts and prayers. No more excuses for abrogating their basic responsibility to protect the safety of the American people. We are urging Congress to pass comprehensive legislation that would improve public safety, prevent gun violence, and save lives. After you've made your call, [let us know how it went!](#)

Step 1: Pick Your Policy

There are some bills working their way through the House, and others through the Senate. When you reach out to your legislators, use the House Script for your representative and the Senate Script for your senators.

We recommend advocating for the Assault Weapons Ban (S.2095 & H.R.5087), the Background Check Expansion Act (S.2009), and the Public Safety and Second Amendment Rights Protection Act of 2017 (H.R.4240).

Incidents in which assault weapons or high capacity magazines are used result in 155% more people shot and 47% more people killed compared to other incidents.^{iv} The Assault Weapons Ban (S.2095 & H.R.5087) would ban the purchase and sale of assault weapons and high capacity ammunition magazines.

Millions of guns are sold every year in “no questions asked” transactions. Experts estimate that 1 in 5 guns now sold in America are done so without a Brady background check.^v We are advocating for universal background checks, closing the private sale loophole, and strengthening the National Instant Criminal Background Check System by supporting the Background Check Expansion Act (S.2009) and the Public Safety and Second Amendment Rights Protection Act of 2017 (H.R.4240).

the internet.

You can learn about these and other policies through our [Gun Violence Prevention Fact Sheet](#).



Step 2: Find Your Elected Official

If you know the names of your senators and representatives, you can skip ahead to Step 3.

Find Your Senators

Choose your state from the drop-down menu, and your two senators will pop up. Keep their names handy.

Find Your Representative

Enter your zip code in the box at the top right of the page and click “look up.” You may have to enter your exact address to narrow down the search. Keep their names handy.

Step 3: Make the Call

Call the Capitol Switchboard at **202-224-3121** and ask to speak with one of your elected officials’ offices. When the call is connected, introduce yourself and say that you are calling because you want your legislator to take action on gun violence prevention. The individual answering the phone will pass your message on to the member of Congress.

Step 4: Get Ready to Share Your Opinion

Below are sample scripts to share with the staff of your elected officials when you make your call. Don’t forget to personalize it by mentioning why this issue is important to you! It’s always helpful to practice once or twice, but don’t be nervous – the staff member who answers the phone will typically note your support, thank you, and say goodbye.

House Script

Hello, my name is ____ (name) ____, and I am from ____ (town) _____. I am calling today as a constituent and as a Reform Jew to speak about the epidemic of gun violence in our country. I want to urge ____ (Senator or Representative Name) ____ to protect the safety of the American people, and be a leader in gun violence prevention by advocating for the Assault Weapons Ban and the Public Safety and Second Amendment Rights Protection Act of 2017.

This is so important to me, because _____.
Thank you for your time.



Senate Script

Hello, my name is ____ (name) ____, and I am from ____ (town) _____. I am calling today as a constituent and as a Reform Jew to speak about the epidemic of gun violence in our country. I want to urge ____ (Senator or Representative Name) ____ to protect the safety of the American people, and be a leader in gun violence prevention by advocating for the Assault Weapons Ban and the Background Check Expansion Act.

This is so important to me, because _____.
Thank you for your time.

Step 5: [Let us know how it went](#) by filling out our quick form. We want to be able to say that thousands of Reform Jews across America flooded Congress with our calls, and we want to make sure your voice is counted!

-
- ⁱ <http://www.bradycampaign.org/key-gun-violence-statistics>
 - ⁱⁱ <https://everytownresearch.org/gun-violence-by-the-numbers/>
 - ⁱⁱⁱ <http://www.childrensdefense.org/library/data/2015-protectchildrennotgunsfactsheet.pdf>
 - ^{iv} <https://everytownresearch.org/documents/2015/09/analysis-mass-shootings.pdf>
 - ^v <http://www.bradycampaign.org/key-gun-violence-statistics>