



**LATINO CHRISTIAN
NATIONAL NETWORK**

June 1, 2022

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Room S-221, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Room S-230, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader Schumer and Minority Leader McConnell:

As our country mourns in the wake of the most recent horrific mass shooting this past week in Uvalde, Texas at Robb Elementary school, which claimed 22 lives, including 19 children and 2 teachers, we Christian pastors and leaders representing Latino Evangelical, Pentecostal, and historic Protestants from across our country and allies, urge you to take bold action to protect the life of our children.

We are in deep and constant prayer for all those affected by this tragedy and recognize that prayer is simply not enough. As followers of Jesus, we know that faith without action is dead. We must "love not in word or speech, but in truth and action" (1 John 3:18).

Every year over 30,000 Americans die in gun related incidents. Firearms are a leading cause of death for children in the United States. On the 144th day of 2022 the country had already experienced 213 mass shootings, including 27 in schools. It does not have to be this way. The United States does not have to be the only nation where this senseless slaughter so regularly happens. The impediment to enacting sensible and lifesaving gun safety legislation at the federal and state levels is not the Second Amendment but political will.

Accordingly, we urge you to act now to ban assault weapons, mandate universal background checks and pass sensible “red flag” laws to keep guns out of the hands of those with violent histories, including those who have perpetrated domestic violence. We also urge you to appropriate funds for the Center for Disease Control and Prevention to research gun violence and ask you to fund community intervention strategies that have proven effective in preventing gun violence.

Thousands of our children have died while Congress refuses to enact sensible gun laws supported by the majority of Americans. The lives and future of our children is in yours and our hands. As faith leaders, mother, fathers, tías, tíos, abuelas and abuelos, we implore you in the name of Jesus to enact legislation to protect the lives of our children and our communities.

Sincerely,

Rev. Carlos Malave, President
Latino Christian National Network

Rev. Dr. Alexia Salvatierra, Academic Dean
Centro Latino, Fuller Theological Seminary

Rev. Adam Russell Taylor, President
Sojourners

Lisa Trevino Cummins, President
Urban Strategies

Rev. Eddy Alemán, General Secretary
Reformed Church in America

Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Conde-Frazier, Executive Director
Association for Hispanic Theological Education

The Rev. Canon Dr. Anthony Guillén, Director of Ethnic Ministries & Missioner for
Latino/Hispanic Ministries
The Episcopal Church

Rev. Ruben N. Ortiz, Latino Field Ministries Coordinator
Cooperative Baptist Fellowship

Jesse Rincones, Executive Director
Hispanic Baptist Convention of Texas

Rev. Efrain Pineda, President & Senior Pastor
Congreso RED & Vida Church

Rev. Lori Tapia, National Pastor for Hispanic Ministries
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the U.S. and Canada

Rev. Doug Avilesbernal, Executive Minister, Bishop
American Baptist Churches

Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Haggray, Executive Director,
American Baptist Home Mission Societies

Rev. Roberto Ochoa, Minister for Ethnic Inclusion & Congregational Support for Rural & Small
Churches
United Church of Christ

Dr. Norlan Hernández, Director
Jesse Miranda Center at Vanguard University

Agustin Quiles, President
Mission Talk

Bishop José García
Church of God of Prophecy

Rev. Dr. Sergio Navarrete, Superintendent of Southern Pacific District
Assemblies of God

Rev. Karen Figueroa, Academic Dean
Centro Hispano de Estudios Teológicos, Evangelical Covenant Church

Elder Marco A. Grimaldo, Strategist
Bread for the World

Karen Gonzalez, Author of the *The God Who Sees*

Sandra Ovalle, Director of Campaigns and Mobilizing
Sojourners

Rev. Carlos Rincon, Senior Pastor
Centro de Vida Victoriosa, Assemblies of God

Rev. John H Caicedo, Senior Pastor
Iglesia Cristiana el Sembrador, Christian Reformed Church of North America

Rev. Inés Velásquez-McBryde, Lead Pastor
The Church We Hope For

Rev. Melvin Valiente, Senior Pastor
First Baptist Church of Maywood

Rev. Jaime Lazaro, Pastor
Iglesia Presbiteriana de Estados Unidos, Presbyterian Church USA

Rev. Michael A. Mata, Community Engagement Pastor
First Church of the Nazarene

David Jaimes, Pastor
Santa Ana United Methodist Church

Rev. Carmen Lopez, Lead Pastor
Iglesia Cristiana del Este de Whittier (Discípulos de Cristo)

Rev. Gabriel Lopez, Co-Pastor
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