Urgent Call to Action!

The Ohio Public Health Association expresses extreme sadness and joins in the national mourning of the senseless loss of life during the recent mass shootings in El Paso, Texas, and in our own community of Dayton, Ohio. We offer our deepest sympathies to the victims and families and our sincere gratitude goes out to those first responders who displayed acts of remarkable selflessness and bravery.

Our communities are under siege with the frequency of these occurrences as there has been more than 250 mass shootings this year alone. Regrettably, there is no end in sight and the freedoms we all enjoy are at risk unless there is a coming together of our nation to implement common sense gun safety laws.

The time for action is now! As the “Voice of Public Health in Ohio” OPHA pledges to leverage the power of its collective membership to affect positive change in our communities. Gun violence is preventable, and we can all play a part in addressing this public health crisis.

Ohio Governor Mike DeWine has heard the demands for help from those impacted by the recent assaults and has proposed a 16-point plan to curb the violence. While not perfect, the Governor’s plan is a practical first step forward toward protecting our children, our families and our way of life. His plan will require background checks for most gun purchases, will keep firearms away from people who are legally prohibited from owning them and will provide funding to address mental health concerns.

OPHA urges all its member to immediately contact their state representatives and let them know you support Governor DeWine’s efforts to establish common sense gun laws in our state.

To view the governor’s plan visit: https://www.dispatch.com/news/20190806/here-is-dewines-16-point-plan-to-address-gun-violence - Contact Governor Mike DeWine’s Office at (614) 644-4357

Ways to speak out on this issue (NOTE If you do a search using your zip code and you are shown 2 or more legislators, you need to find your zip+4 here: https://tools.usps.com/go/zip-code-lookup.htm).

Contact your State Legislator

Ohio House: http://www.ohiohouse.gov/index

Ohio Senate: http://www.ohiosenate.gov/senators/district-map

Contact your Federal Legislators

House: House link: https://www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative

If you know who your representative is but you are unable to contact them using their contact form, the Clerk of the House maintains addresses and phone numbers of all House members and Committees, or you may call (202) 224-3121 for the U.S. House switchboard operator.

Senate: https://www.senate.gov/senators/index.htm

Alternatively, you may phone the United States Capitol switchboard at (202) 224-3121. A switchboard operator will connect you directly with the Senate office you request.
Thank you for your commitment to public health for all.

Robert Jennings, OPHA President

David Maywhoor, OPHA Executive Director