

December 2023



Gun Violence Prevention

THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF MISSOURI

Representative Dean Plocher, Speaker of the House

Missouri House of Representatives
201 West Capitol Avenue, Room 308
Jefferson City MO 65101

Dear Representative Plocher,

As a person of faith, I am committed to working for a more peaceful world, starting right here in Missouri. I was devastated to learn that guns are the leading cause of death for children and teens in Missouri. I am also deeply troubled that over 50% of gun deaths in Missouri are suicides, and that Missouri has the 8th highest firearm death rate in the nation, a statistic of which we cannot be proud.

These facts are unacceptable. My faith compels me to put love into action and to promote peace in our communities. We know that guns in the wrong hands have deadly consequences. This is a fact that we cannot ignore.

I am writing to ask you, as the 2024 session begins, that the House of Representatives hold hearings on sensible gun laws to protect our children and our communities from preventable death and injury. Each year sensible gun law bills are proposed, but they rarely make it to a hearing on the house floor. I am asking you, as the Speaker of the House, to please assign bills to committee in a timely fashion so that the process can unfold for hearings to be held on sensible gun laws such as:

- Universal background checks for gun purchases
- Age requirements to buy and carry a firearm
- Permits to carry
- “Red Flag” laws
- Safe firearm storage requirements

Preventing gun violence is a public safety measure, an economic measure, and a critical measure to uphold the sanctity of human life. Please allow hearings this session of gun bills that would address curbing the gun violence that destroys lives and families and Missouri communities. Thank you.

