Date:

Dear Congressman/woman... or Dear Senator ,

Like so many Americans, I am angry and frustrated that no action is being taken to protect our citizens from gun violence – just talk. We need our legislators to take their oath seriously, to protect the safety of citizens, just as they did after 9/11.

In addition to the most recent tragedies of Sandy Hook and Aurora, approximately 268 people are shot ***every single day.*** We need to prevent future violence to our children, teachers, and innocent bystanders from criminals and mentally disturbed people.

That is why we need a comprehensive approach to solve this problem. The following are a list of legislative actions we hope to have your LEADERSHIP on, to help stem the tide of gun violence in our country:

* Require a criminal background check for every gun sold in America and expand coverage to private sales and gun shows to insure that all prohibited purchasers are, in fact, prevented from obtaining and possessing firearms;
* Ban assault weapons ban high-capacity ammunition magazines which have no place in civilian life. Police officers are being “outgunned” by criminals.
* Make gun trafficking a federal crime, with real penalties for “straw purchasers" and FUND the ATF, so we can have better enforcement of new laws and ones already on the books;
* Institute a buyback of assault and assault-style weapons;
* Create requirements for trigger locks and safe gun storage;
* Require micro stamping technology on all firearms sold, bought or delivered, in order to improve bullet tracing by law enforcement;
* Fund research and care for persons with mental illness, impulse disorders and substance abuse issues to prevent violence;

The gun lobby tells us that the only way to make us safer is to carry more guns. That is a lie. President Kennedy, President Reagan, and James Brady were surrounded by the

U.S. Secret Service, the best-trained professionals in the world, when they were shot.

This is the same conversation we've had for too many years and through too many tragedies. Enough is enough. Now is the time for change and action.

Sincerely,

(Your name) number and address if you choose to include; and your affiliation with Sayville Congregational United Church of Christ if you wish, or other faith or affiliate organization of which you may be a part.