



Dear SAHM Members,

Yesterday many of us celebrated Valentine’s Day, a time when we honor our relationships and love for one another. However, on that same day, horrified parents and families mourned the loss of their loved ones killed and impacted by another school shooting strategically planned after a pulled fire alarm. Our young people go to school to learn, to discover, to develop relationships. For many young people schools have been a safe haven from troubled homes, violent communities or from homelessness—a place where they may get their day’s meal and have a roof over their head. Is any place safe from gun violence? Certainly, we have not found safety in our schools, communities, highways, concerts, movie theaters, night clubs, military bases, and colleges. When will enough be enough? We have already surpassed that threshold.

I urge you to take action in your offices with promising practices and evidence-based strategies to reduce gun violence, prevent youth access to firearms, and to screen for mental illness and social determinants that place one at risk for firearm injuries. Encourage our adolescents and young adults that if they “see something, say something,” even if it’s on social media. Lastly, continue to advocate for gun violence prevention strategies with our legislators locally, nationally and internationally; let’s learn from our colleagues outside of the United States. Legislative strategies include helping to register young adults to vote, sensible policies to reduce gun violence and advocating for peace.

I look forward to seeing you all next month. We need each other. And our adolescents and young adults need us more. Safe travels.

Warm regards,

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SAHM President