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Las Vegas: America's Gun Carnage Continues

Colorado Ceasefire, like so many millions of Americans, offers its support and condolences to the many victims of the horrific massacre in Las Vegas. Being an organization that includes people who have been directly impacted by gun violence, Ceasefire recognizes the ongoing grief and trauma that will be felt by so many innocent Americans.

One man, with a large cache of high-powered firearms and ammunition, was able to inflict untold damage, even unheard of on the battlefield. At least fifty-nine are dead, well over 500 wounded, and thousands of relatives and friends are left grieving. Colorado Ceasefire believes it is madness that America continues to accept these tragedies as just a normal part of American life.

We have heard the voices of many Americans who call for something to be done about gun violence. Unfortunately, in recent years, our Congress, and many state legislatures, have been loosening our gun laws, not tightening them. At the present time, Congress has introduced and is considering specific bills that would, among other things, make gun silencers more easily obtainable, federally mandate that all states accept the concealed weapons permits of all other states regardless of their own state rules, let manufacturers decide what is classified as an armor-piercing (cop-killer) bullet, and relax laws on the interstate transport of firearms.

We believe that Congress should immediately and permanently abandon all of the gun loosening proposals it has on its docket. Furthermore, Congress should question why it is appropriate for citizens to be armed with weapons of war. Elected officials in Washington and in Denver should be demonstrating that their concerns are with the people and not the gun industry and its promoters. Colorado Ceasefire will be asking all of Colorado's Congressional delegation why battlefield arms should be allowed for civilians and whether they think the public believes that the gun lobby bills currently before Congress will make citizens safer.

Many critics of gun safety reform will charge that "Now is not the time to talk about gun policy changes." Tom Mauser, whose son Daniel was shot and killed at Columbine responds "So, just when is the time?"

Colorado Ceasefire, an all-volunteer statewide organization, has been fighting for freedom from gun violence since 2000. Ceasefire initiated and was instrumental in the enactment of the 2013 Colorado firearms laws, which included universal background checks, a high capacity magazine ban, and domestic violence firearms relinquishment.

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