January 7, 2016

State Legislator’s Name  
Address

City, State, Zip

Dear:

I am writing you today as a member/associate/friend of the IHM Sisters of Monroe, Michigan to express my deep concern for the pervasiveness of gun violence in the United States. The IHM Sisters, a religious community of 335 vowed members and 122 associates, are committed to work with others to build a culture of peace and right relationship*.* In this spirit, we choose to work together on many issues including gun violence prevention.

Gun violence is taking a huge toll on our society. More than 30,000 people are killed with guns in the United States every year and another 70,000 are injured. Like tens of thousands of others, the IHM community was personally touched by gun violence. In the 1980s Sister John Clement Hungerman, IHM, was shot and killed. More recently, two students of the IHM sponsored high school, Detroit Cristo Rey, were lost to gun violence.

We are saddened with each new report of gun violence, appalled that assault weapons are used to attack both children and adults, and angry over the NRAs insistence that unfettered ownership of guns is essential. It has been over one month since the tragic shooting in San Bernardino. Without strong leadership we fear that our nation will slip back into resigned tolerance of both high profile mass shootings as well as the daily murders, suicides, acts of domestic violence and accidental shootings. I urge you to take decisive action this year to pass legislation in Michigan that:

* Keeps guns out of all prohibited concealed pistol carry areas
* Creates universal background checks to cover all gun purchases
* Allows for the removal of firearms from individuals susceptible of harming themselves or others
* Allows “gun free” facilities to prohibit the open carry of firearms on their property.
* Restores pistol license mandates for all private gun purchases

I specifically urge you to oppose SB 442 which is pending in the legislature and would allow concealed pistol license holders to carry in currently gun free zones.

Martin Luther King Jr. said, “The time is always right to do what is right.” Let’s make 2016 the year we implement sustainable solutions to the pervasive culture of gun violence in our state and our nation. I will be in touch with your office regularly throughout the year on this issue.

Sincerely,

Your Name  
Address  
City, State, Zip  
E-mail address