



Deep Faith. Courageous Spirit. Action for Justice.

January 7, 2016

Federal Legislator's Name

Address

City, State and 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. While the President took the first step by issuing a series of executive actions designed to curb gun violence, he reiterated that, "Congress still needs to act." I urge you to take decisive action this year to pass legislation that:

- Requires universal background checks for all gun purchases
- Bans semi-automatic assault weapons and high-capacity magazines
- Makes gun trafficking a federal crime
- Funds basic research for gun-violence as a public health issue
- Mandates keeping guns unloaded and stored safely in homes where they are present
- Improves access to mental health services

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

Sincerely

Your Name

Address

City, State Zip

E-mail Address