LEGISLATIVE CALL TO ACTION

Dear [[Find Your State Legislators - Open States](https://openstates.org/find_your_legislator/)],

My name is [insert name] and I live in [insert County, State]. I am writing to ask that you prioritize our children’s safety when appropriating funding in this year’s budget. While much funding has been allocated toward preventing school violence, early intervention, and mental healthcare for students, and even funds to train and provide more security offers for schools, the frequency of school shootings has quadrupled in the last decade. According to the Center for Homeland Defense and Security, students and teachers are more likely to be shot in the classroom than in any other area inside the school. And yet, little to no funding has been provided for protection and school safety hardening measures *inside* schools and classrooms.

Since 1999, more than 338,000 students in the United States have experienced gun violence at school (with 43,000 of those in 2022 alone). While politicians such as yourself and members of both political parties debate how to stop these shootings, measures can be taken to protect our children NOW. Please ensure that this year’s budget, and any existing pass-through funding from the federal government intended for school safety, includes language that qualifies and includes physical hardening measures such as rapid access safety rooms, ballistic shields, ballistic film on windows, and classroom door protection. Technologies are emerging every day that can be utilized by our schools but do not qualify under existing grants because they are written too narrowly.

Unfortunately, many of these emerging technologies come with a high price tag, but we cannot put a price on our children’s well-being and safety. Our future literally depends on it. Again, please prioritize and appropriate funding for our children’s school safety in the upcoming fiscal year budget. I appreciate your ongoing work on this issue.

Sincerely,

[Name]