



THE VICE PRESIDENT

August 3, 2024

Today, the community of El Paso and the entire Nation remember the horrific mass shooting that took place five years ago during back-to-school shopping at a neighborhood grocery store. Doug and I join you in remembering those who lost their lives in this senseless act fueled by white supremacy, and we are thinking of those who were injured. We also recommit ourselves to achieving a future where every person can live free from gun violence, fear, and hate.

On August 3, 2019, 23 people were killed, and 22 others were injured during an act of hate that targeted Latinos and was carried out with a weapon of war. In the days, months, and years after, El Pasoans inspired the world by coming together as one community and turning anguish into action—standing strong for one another, helping neighbors, donating blood, and organizing to take on the epidemic of gun violence. As we honor the lives that were taken and support the survivors, we recognize that hate-fueled violence must not prevent us from fulfilling our Nation’s promise of freedom and justice for all. In America, you should feel safe while going to the store to buy school supplies—no matter your ethnicity or country of origin.

Far too many communities across Texas—from Uvalde to Midland-Odessa to Sutherland Springs to Santa Fe—and throughout our Nation have experienced the tremendous pain caused by gun violence. That is why President Biden and I have continued our work to address this issue and keep our communities safe. With the help of community leaders, gun violence survivors, and the families of those who have lost loved ones, we fought to enact the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act—the first major gun safety law in nearly 30 years, which expanded background checks and enacted enhanced background checks for purchasers under the age of 21. We have also closed the gun show loophole, made historic investments in student mental health and community violence intervention, and launched the first-ever National Extreme Risk Protection Order Resource Center to support the implementation of red flag laws in states across the country. Additionally, we launched the first-ever White House Office of Gun Violence Prevention—an office that I am proud to oversee.

While we have made critical progress in the five years since this tragic crime of violence and hate in El Paso, there is still more work to do. President Biden and I are dedicated to advancing justice, standing against white supremacy, and assuring safety for all communities across our country. We continue to urge Congress to pass commonsense gun safety laws—including red flag laws, universal background checks, and a ban on assault weapons.

El Paso, you have shown incredible resilience and strength after suffering unimaginable pain. Please know that you are not alone. Our entire Nation is with you today and always. Together, we are so much stronger than those who do us harm, and we will continue to build a safer, more inclusive future for all.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kamala Harris", with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.