



**THE WHITE HOUSE**

**WASHINGTON**

August 3, 2024

Jill and I send our love and prayers to the people of El Paso as we continue to mourn the precious lives lost in the horrific mass shooting 5 years ago today.

On August 3, 2019, 23 souls were stolen from us in a despicable act of hate-fueled violence directed at the Latino community. In the aftermath of this tragedy, my message to the families of the victims was that they would get through their unimaginable pain by finding purpose in the memories of those they lost. I know the profound heartache felt in your city was shared by many. El Paso, Pulse, Uvalde, and everyday acts of gun violence continue to cause a ripple of anguish and fear for Latino families across the Nation. I will keep doing all I can to prevent these cowardly acts and to ensure that hate against any group has no safe harbor in this country.

Just over 2 years ago, with the help of so many of you, I signed the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act—the most significant gun legislation in nearly 30 years. This bill is already stopping shootings and saving lives, but there is much more we can do to create a safer America. That's why, last September, I launched the first-ever White House Office of Gun Violence Prevention to drive and coordinate an all-of-Government, nationwide effort to reduce gun violence in America.

I am proud of the progress we have made, but I know there is more work to do. We have to continue to invest in our communities and young people while also investing in accountable community policing and stemming the flow of illegal guns. We must disarm hate and support the survivors of these heinous acts. It's time to ban assault weapons and high-capacity magazines, like we did before. It's time to establish universal background checks. And it's time to end immunity for the gun lobby. While the challenges ahead are great, I am more optimistic than ever that we can stop the scourge of gun violence that has devastated too many families across America—and that's in no small part because of the resilience and unshakeable courage your community has shown in the last 5 years.

To the survivors and the loved ones of the victims: I know how hard these days can be. Even after years have passed, milestones like this can bring you back to how you felt in the moment you lived your worst nightmare. While there are no words that will fill the emptiness you continue to feel, I want you to know that you remain in my prayers. May God bless you all, and may He bless the entire El Paso community.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Biden", written over a diagonal line.