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Welcome To Ohio  
From the desk of Rep. McNally

## Answering the “Do Something” Call to Curb Gun Violence

August 4th is the anniversary of the Dayton mass shooting that claimed the lives of 9 Ohioans and wounded 27 more. At the time, Governor DeWine joined local leaders, [including Youngstown Mayor Tito Brown](#), in calls for lawmakers to “[Do Something](#)” about gun violence in our state. Five years later and he did not, in fact, do anything.

I take that back. The Governor has done “something,” it’s just the opposite of what Ohioans want or need, going as far as [suggesting he would veto](#) a [Stand your Ground](#) bill, controversially known as a “shoot first, ask questions” later policy, only to sign it into law, all [at the pleasure of the powerful gun lobby](#) whose tight grip on Ohio won’t easily be relinquished. In just one week, these laws emboldened the [shootings of four unarmed Americans over simple, everyday mistakes](#): pulling into the wrong driveway, ringing the wrong doorbell, and getting into the wrong car.

But this isn’t the only policy that increased the likelihood of gun violence in Ohio. He and his Republican accomplices in the legislature [ignored pleas from public safety providers and law enforcement](#) by eliminating concealed carry permit requirements, gun and shooting training requirements for those permits, and the requirement to “promptly” notify police officers when carrying concealed weapons. They [ignored the police again](#) by passing a bill to arm our teachers [without sufficient gun training](#), a law the teachers themselves strongly opposed.

My children are already terrified by the sound of a loud “pop” after years of active shooter drills at school. As if fearing who could enter their building wasn’t enough, these lawmakers are bringing guns into classrooms. It’s why it takes some serious audacity to frame legislation like [Senate Bill 112](#), a proposal by then Senator Mike Rulli to require protective door assemblies in school buildings, as a solution to a school shooting problem and why I spoke out when we took it to a vote.

If the members of this legislature seriously believe that this is all we need to do to curb school shootings and that SB 112 is the only difference between a dead child or not, then I hope it comforts them and any grieving parent if they are wrong. Because as a mother with four young kids at home I don’t think it’s enough.

That’s why the recent advocacy from the [bipartisan coalition of Mayors from Ohio’s 31 largest cities](#), representing just over 3 million Ohioans including Youngstown, is so important. [Their letter](#) calls on us to take action as communities around Ohio continue seeing upticks in gun violence. There is so much more we can and should be doing to end gun violence in Ohio and keep our students safe.

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But in a tale that has become as old as time, instead of doing something, they do nothing.

Unlike Statehouse Democrats who held the first ever [Gun Violence Prevention Summit](#) this February, featuring panels of experts in gun safety, public health, and law enforcement. We unveiled several popular and uncontroversial proposals. For example, [83% of Ohioans and nearly 80% of gun-owning Ohioans agree](#) that background checks should be expanded. Similarly, [74 percent of Ohio voters support](#) an extreme risk law that would allow family members and/or law enforcement to petition a court to temporarily remove guns from individuals who are at risk of harming themselves or others.

But the proposals aligned with these views like [HB 170](#), the Enact Extreme Risk Protection Order Act, and [HB 419](#), the Universal Background Checks Act, haven't received the time of day. Meanwhile, Republican sponsored gun expansion bills like [Al Cutrona's HB 189](#) which removes sales tax on guns and ammunition, are on their way to passage.

Just like the August special election and November's vote for reproductive freedom, Republicans in Columbus are hoping they can ignore the will of Ohioans and never face electoral consequences. We keep having the same, go nowhere, conversation with them on this and many issues.

If they won't, and they continue ignoring the will of the people, we know what to do.

It's exhausting, it's unacceptable, and it's deliberate.

It can be discouraging, having your constant cries for action ignored, which is why the steadfast work of the [Ohio Mayor's Alliance](#), a bipartisan coalition of mayors in Ohio's 31 largest cities including Youngstown Mayor Brown, on this issue is invaluable. They remain resolute in reducing gun violence deaths in their communities and in Ohio, as do I.

In [their recent letter to Governor DeWine](#), these mayors representing just over 3 million Ohioans asked that DeWine re-engage lawmakers on necessary state law changes that help reduce gun violence and improve public safety in Ohio. I stand ready for that engagement. We know the statistics, we've had the conversations, and now it's time for my colleagues to make an alternative values statement, one that is aligned with these local leaders and an overwhelming majority of Ohioans.

It's been three weeks since an assassination attempt on Donald Trump involving an AR-15-style rifle that was [legally obtained](#). While the details surrounding this tragic event that claimed two lives and left several seriously injured are still being gathered, it's remarkable how quickly public dialogue died down. We're becoming numb to the pain and trauma inflicted by gun violence. We've been here before and, with unresponsive Statehouse leadership, we will be here again.

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