

Administration of Joseph R. Biden, Jr., 2023

Statement on the Shootings in Lewiston, Maine

October 26, 2023

Once again, our Nation is in mourning after yet another senseless and tragic mass shooting. Today Jill and I are praying for the Americans who've lost their lives, for those still in critical care, and for the families, survivors, and community members enduring shock and grief.

I also urge area residents to heed the warnings and guidance of local officials. Numerous Federal law enforcement personnel are on the scene and actively working with State and local partners. As I told Maine Governor Janet Mills, Senators Collins and King, and Congressman Golden last night, I have directed my administration to provide everything that is needed to support the people of Maine. We will continue to be there every step of the way.

For countless Americans who have survived gun violence and been traumatized by it, a shooting such as this reopens deep and painful wounds. Far too many Americans have now had a family member killed or injured as a result of gun violence. That is not normal, and we cannot accept it.

While we have made progress on gun safety through the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, the two dozen executive actions I've taken, and the establishment of the first-ever White House Office of Gun Violence Prevention, it's simply not enough.

Today, in the wake of yet another tragedy, I urge Republican lawmakers in Congress to fulfill their duty to protect the American people. Work with us to pass a bill banning assault weapons and high-capacity magazines, to enact universal background checks, to require safe storage of guns, and end immunity from liability for gun manufacturers. This is the very least we owe every American who will now bear the scars—physical and mental—of this latest attack.

Categories: Statements by the President : Lewiston, ME, shootings.

Names: Biden, Jill T.; Collins, Susan M.; Golden, Jared F.; King, Angus S., Sr.; Mills, Janet T.

Subjects: Criminal background check procedures, strengthening efforts; Gun control efforts; Gun violence, prevention efforts; Maine, Governor; Maine, shootings in Lewiston; White House Office of Gun Violence Prevention.

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