

Administration of Joseph R. Biden, Jr., 2024

Statement on the Shooting at the Abundant Life Christian School in Madison, Wisconsin

December 16, 2024

Today families in Madison, Wisconsin, are grieving the loss of those who were killed and wounded at Abundant Life Christian School. It's shocking and unconscionable.

We need Congress to act. Now.

From Newtown to Uvalde, Parkland to Madison, to so many other shootings that don't receive attention—it is unacceptable that we are unable to protect our children from this scourge of gun violence. We cannot continue to accept it as normal. Every child deserves to feel safe in their classroom. Students across our country should be learning how to read and write, not having to learn how to duck and cover.

Jill and I are praying for all the victims today, including the teacher and teenage student who were killed and those who sustained injuries. We are grateful for the first responders who quickly arrived on the scene, and the FBI is supporting local law enforcement efforts. At my direction, my team has reached out to local officials to offer further support as needed.

My administration has taken aggressive action to combat the gun violence epidemic. We passed the most significant gun safety legislation in nearly 30 years, I have taken more executive action to reduce gun violence than any other President in history, and I created the first-ever White House Office of Gun Violence Prevention. But more is needed. Congress must pass commonsense gun safety laws: universal background checks; a national "red flag" law; a ban on assault weapons and high-capacity magazines.

We can never accept senseless violence that traumatizes children, their families, and tears entire communities apart.

NOTE: The statement referred to DeForest, WI, resident Erin M. West, teacher, and Madison, WI, resident Rubi Patricia Vergara, student, Abundant Life Christian School, who were killed in the shooting.

Categories: Statements by the President : Wisconsin, shooting at Abundant Life Christian School in Madison.

Names: Biden, Jill T.; Vergara, Rubi P.; West, Erin M.

Subjects: Gun control efforts; Gun violence, prevention efforts; Wisconsin, shooting in Madison.

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