



Dear Dreamers,

Yesterday, another senseless act of gun violence in Uvalde, Texas, took the lives of at least 21 people, mostly children. This tragedy, and the racist grocery store shooting just days ago in Buffalo, New York, are the latest examples of the mass casualties caused by gun violence—now the leading cause of death for children and teens ages 1-19 in the U.S. and considered a national public health epidemic by the American Academy of Pediatrics.

This should not be the case. Children should not need to have active shooter trainings at school. We should not have to hold active shooter trainings for the staff at the Museum. This is a time for all of us to stand in solidarity with learners, their educators, and their families. If recent events have triggered trauma or anxiety for you and your child, you can find information on the [Museum's website](#) to help approach discussions about violence, cope with difficult emotions, and identify professional services.

At National Children's Museum, our mission is to inspire children to care about and change the world. We truly believe that children can affect lasting change. Throughout history, children have been at the forefront of progress, and they are valued citizens who have inspired action. We encourage you to empower the young learners in your life to make their voices heard.

I am a mother of an eight-year-old boy and one-year-old girl. My daughter is not yet in school, but it is my greatest hope that by the time she is, we will have made real progress toward stopping these senseless acts of violence. To make his voice heard, my son is sending this picture to a member of Congress. If your child would also like to send a note or picture to Congress, you can find your elected officials' mailing addresses [here](#). I hope you will join Preston and me, and the team at National Children's Museum, in advocating for the safety of our children.

Thank you for your support and dedication to the next generation of little Dreamers.



*Crystal R. Bowyer*

President + CEO of National Children's Museum