



American Federation  
of Teachers, AFL-CIO

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AFT Teachers  
AFT PSRP  
AFT Higher Education  
AFT Public Employees  
AFT Nurses and Health  
Professionals

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June 13, 2022

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Feinstein:

On behalf of the 1.7 million members of the American Federation of Teachers, including 200,000 healthcare professionals, school resource officers, counselors, social workers and other school staff, I write in strong support of S. 4278, the Age 21 Act. This important bill would raise the age for buying semi-automatic rifles from 18 to 21 years old.

In the past weeks, we watched as Black grocery shoppers in Buffalo, N.Y., and fourth graders in Uvalde, Texas, were massacred by 18-year-olds armed with AR-15s. Once again, lives were senselessly lost and communities torn apart, and our country is trying to make sense of why we continue to be plagued by preventable gun violence.

Teachers, paraprofessionals and other school employees should not have to put themselves in harm's way to protect their students, and they should not have to—time and time again—comfort students who have been traumatized by tragedy. And nurses and health professionals are exhausted from treating the victims of violence in their emergency and operating rooms and being fearful of the violence that can often follow victims of gun violence into hospitals. These AFT members are not alone. The overwhelming majority of Americans want action on commonsense gun safety, like the Age 21 Act, and they want it now.

Gun violence like this is a uniquely American problem. In the aftermath of Scotland's school shooting and Australia's Port Arthur mass shooting, both countries passed commonsense gun violence prevention policies to keep people safe. We cannot continue to do nothing, shooting after senseless shooting.

We are still mourning the students and AFT members murdered in Newtown, Conn., in Parkland, Fla., in Buffalo, N.Y., and across the country in the more than 330 school shootings since Columbine. Gun violence isn't inevitable. We have the power to change this. The AFT is currently working with parents and students

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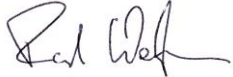
The **American Federation of Teachers** is a union of professionals that champions fairness; democracy; economic opportunity; and high-quality public education, healthcare and public services for our students, their families and our communities. We are committed to advancing these principles through community engagement, organizing, collective bargaining and political activism, and especially through the work our members do.



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across the country to press the Senate to take action on the commonsense gun violence prevention proposals that the majority of the nation wants. We are organizing vigils and conversations outside Senate offices in numerous states to implore senators to take action to keep students safe. The AFT stands ready to support you in making the Age 21 Act become law.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Randi Weingarten". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "R" and a long, sweeping underline.

Randi Weingarten  
President, American Federation of Teachers

RW : emc opeiu #2 afl-cio