



June 13, 2022

Dear Senator,

On behalf of the 43,000 members of the American School Counselor Association, I urge you to take immediate action to protect our nation's children. The American School Counselor Association supports the **Age 21 Act**, which raises the minimum age to purchase certain military-style assault weapons and high-capacity magazines from a federally licensed gun dealer to age 21, the same age required to purchase a handgun.

Although a number of additional common-sense laws are needed, such as thorough background checks, the Age 21 Act is a vital first step. This bill alone has the potential to prevent the next Uvalde, Parkland or Newtown school massacre, where the shooters were 18, 19 and 20 years old.

ASCA applauds Senator Feinstein's leadership and all who support the bill including Senators Blumenthal, Casey and Klobuchar. You must act now to prevent the next mass shooting with a military-style assault weapon by someone much too young to access it. As the Age 21 Act states, the "discrepancy between certain military-style assault weapons and handguns is nonsensical and dangerous."

Today, gun violence is the leading cause of death among children and teens. This year alone, 27 school shootings have injured or killed students and staff in what should be safe spaces to learn and grow—places parents aren't afraid to send their children, places educators aren't afraid to work.

If the price of unfettered gun access is the lives of our school children, we have lost ourselves as a nation. I urge the Senate to take action and pass the Age 21 Act.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jill Cook".

Jill Cook, ASCA Executive Director

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