

## WRITING TO ELECTED OFFICIALS

- Keep letters to one page.
- Sign letters and include your name, address including zip code, and possibly your e-mail address. State that you are a constituent.
- A hand-written letter is more personal than a typed letter and therefore has more impact.
- The content should be factual but should include a personal angle – that’s more powerful. For example, someone you know has been killed or wounded by a gun, or someone you know is suffering from mental illness and would be in danger if he/she had access to a gun.
- Letters to Congressional offices on Capitol Hill have to go through security which causes considerable delay. To avoid this delay, you can fax your letter to the D.C. office and mail the hard copy subsequently. Letters addressed to a Congressional District office tend to have much shorter delays.

The United Methodist Church urges “congregations to advocate at the local and national level for laws that prevent or reduce gun violence.” Some of those measures include:

- Universal background checks on all gun purchases;
- Ratification of the Arms Trade Treaty;
- Ensuring all guns are sold through licensed gun retailers;
- Prohibiting all individuals under restraining order due to threat of violence from purchasing a gun;
- Prohibiting persons with serious mental illness, who pose a danger to themselves and their communities, from purchasing a gun;
- Ensuring greater access to services for those who have mental illness;
- Establishing a minimum age of 21 years for a gun purchase or possession;
- Banning large capacity ammunition magazines and weapons designed to fire multiple rounds each time the trigger is pulled;
- Promoting new technologies to aid law-enforcement agencies to trace crime guns and promote public safety. ([Book of Resolutions, 3428](#))

MISSISSIPPI'S SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVES IN CONGRESS

<b>Senator Roger Wicker</b>	<b>Congressman Trent Kelly</b>
Washington Office:	Washington Office:
555 Dirksen Senate Office Building	1721 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510	Washington, D.C. 20515
Main: (202) 224-6253	Phone: (202) 225-4306
Fax: (202) 228-0378	Fax: (202) 225-3549
Jackson Office:	Columbus Office:
U.S. Federal Courthouse	318 North 7 <sup>th</sup> Street, Suite D
501 East Court Street, Suite 3-500	Columbus, MS 3901
Jackson, MS 39201	Phone: (662) 327-0748
Main: (601) 965-4644	Fax: (662) 328-5982
Fax: (601) 965-4007	
<b>Senator Thad Cochran</b>	<b>Congressman Bennie Thompson</b>
Washington Office:	Washington Office:
113 Dirksen Senate Office Building	2466 Rayborn HOB
Washington, D.C. 20510	Washington, D.C. 20515
Phone: (202) 224-5054	Phone: (202) 225-5876
	Fax: (202) 225-5898
Jackson Office:	Jackson Office:
190 East Capitol Street, Suite 550	3607 Medgar Evers Blvd.
Jackson, MS 39201	Jackson, MS 39213
Phone: (601)	Phone: (601) 946-9003
	Fax: (601) 982-5337
<b>Congressman Greg Harper</b>	<b>Congressman Steven Palazzo</b>
Washington Office:	Washington Office:
2227 Rayburn HOB	2349 Rayburn House Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515	Washington, D.C. 20515
Phone: (202) 225-5031	Phone: (202) 225-5772
Fax: (202) 225-5797	Fax: (202)
Meridian Office:	Biloxi Office:
Rosenbaum Building, 2214 5 <sup>th</sup> St.	970 Tommy Munro Dr., Suite D
Meridian, MS 39301	Biloxi, MS 39532
Phone: (601) 693-6681	Phone: (228) 864-7670
Fax: (601) 693-1801	Fax: (228) 864-3099

FINDING CONTACT INFORMATION FOR OTHER ELECTED OFFICIALS  
(CITY/COUNTY/STATE/US): [www.usa.gov](http://www.usa.gov)

## PARENTS: PLEDGE TO ALWAYS ASK ABOUT GUNS IN THE HOME

- Lump together all safety questions in a straightforward, matter-of-fact way. "Jack can't wait to come over. Before I bring him – can you let me know if you [have any pets](#), if there is a pool and if you have any guns in your home?"
- If children are coming to your house, volunteer the information without being asked. Tell parents: "FYI, I have no pool, I have a small, friendly dog and we don't have any firearms in our house." Parents will usually respond by giving the same information back: "No dog, but otherwise, same here!"
- Acknowledge how difficult it is to ask about guns. After I ask, I usually offer the following sheepish disclaimer: "I know it sounds weird to ask about guns, but I took a pledge and promised myself I would ask before every single play date – so I'm asking!"
- Ask via text message or email. As we all know, when it comes to difficult conversations, it's easier to type the words than say them.
- Remember that you're asking about the *storage* of guns. On the two occasions that I've asked a parent and been told that yes, they do own guns, I followed up by asking: "Can you tell me how they're stored?" In both instances, the parents offered such detailed, thorough descriptions of their safe storage practices that I felt comfortable with the play date proceeding.