

PROTECT MINNESOTA

THE CONCERT
ACROSS AMERICA™
TO END GUN VIOLENCE

9.25.16



August 24, 2016

Dear Faith Leader,

Every day in America 300 people are shot; 48 are children. Every day in America 90 people die from gunfire; seven are children. Gun violence is the second leading cause of death among young people in our country; soon it will be the first. More American children and youth die from guns every three days than died in the Sandy Hook massacre.

As faith leaders, we know that these victims were made in the image of God and that their deaths represent an incalculable loss—not just to their families and friends, but also to our Creator and the whole community. We also know that people of faith, when organized and motivated, are capable of leading powerful social change to end suffering and bring justice. Ending gun violence is an issue that calls us to prophetic engagement. That's why Protect Minnesota is inviting congregations, faith-based organizations and individual believers to join the Interfaith Alliance for Gun Safety and work together to end gun violence in Minnesota.

The first way you or your congregation can get involved is to support, promote and attend Protect Minnesota's *The Concert Across America to End Gun Violence*, one of a series of live concerts from coast to coast on September 25 sponsored by independent gun violence prevention organizations. The goal is to raise awareness about the epidemic of gun violence and what we as Americans can do to prevent it. A flyer with more information about this affordable, family-friendly event is enclosed.

Here's how you and your faith community can support *The Concert Across America to End Gun Violence*:

- Hang a poster.
- Promote the event in your worship service bulletin, newsletter, or on your website.
- Encourage your choir director and choir to sing at the Concert or participate in our song contest.
- Purchase tickets and attend the event yourself, and encourage your group members to join you.
- Become an organizational sponsor. For \$250 your organization will receive 5 free tickets and be listed in the event program. For \$500 you'll received 10 free tickets, listing in the event program, and exhibit space so you can promote your organization and its programing.

Go to www.protectmn.org/events to learn all about the event, sign up to be a sponsor, and download promotional materials, including a flyer, poster, bulletin insert, song contest information and letter for your choir director. You can also email the Rev. Margy Mattlin at interfaithalliance@protectmn.org with questions.

If you want to **DO SOMETHING** about gun violence, here's a start. Together we can give Minnesotans the opportunity to join the chorus of Americans calling for sensible gun laws and more peaceful communities.

Peace,

The Rev. Nancy Nord Bence
Executive Director, Protect Minnesota

The Rev. Margy Mattlin
Chair, Interfaith Alliance for Gun Safety

PROTECT MINNESOTA – Minnesotans working together to prevent gun violence

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