



National Union of Hospital and Health Care Employees, AFSCME, AFL-CIO
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Friday, August 9, 2019

Letter from Chris Woods on Mass Shootings in El Paso, Texas and Dayton, Ohio

I am writing to you today to express sympathy and solidarity from the National Union of Hospital and Health Care Workers to the victims of senseless violence in El Paso, Texas and Dayton, Ohio. The increase in mass shootings, many motivated by white supremacist ideology, is truly horrifying. The labor movement is based on the idea that all human beings should be treated with dignity and respect. These recent tragedies require not just words, but action from our union.

Of course, we know that our members are already far too familiar with the impact of gun violence. We have seen shootings in our own communities with a regularity that is unacceptable. Healthcare workers, especially those in large urban hospitals, are regularly on the frontlines of helping treat the victims of shooting as they come into emergency rooms. The secondary trauma of such incidents is well-known to our members across the nation.

We need more than thoughts and prayers. We need a change in policy. The shooter in Dayton, Ohio was able to kill more than half a dozen people in just 30 seconds. There is no legitimate reason for weapons of war to be on our streets. We must ban assault-style weapons and strengthen background checks to try to reduce the likelihood of this type of violence. That's why NUHHCE will work with AFSCME International, the AFL-CIO, and all other labor unions to fight for meaningful gun safety legislation at the federal level.

Unfortunately, we cannot count on President Trump and Republicans in Congress to do that right thing. We must also look to our state and local governments to pass gun safety legislation throughout the country. Only by pushing for action at all levels will we see the kinds of changes that are necessary to protect our communities.

Please stay tuned for more information from NUHHCE on how you can help win this fight.

Sincerely,

Chris Woods

Executive Director of the National Union of Hospital and Health Care Workers

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