



**FAITHS UNITED**  
TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE

July 12, 2022

Dear Senator,

Religious communities in the United States understand that gun violence in our country is an attack on human dignity. We have seen our houses of worship targeted in mass shootings, we have grieved with our members who mourn those lost to homicides and suicides, and we have expressed dismay at how easily conflicts turn deadly due to easy access to guns. We need principled leaders to address gun violence and that is why we write today to express our strong support for the nomination of Steve Dettelbach as Director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF). Dettelbach's experience as a prosecutor makes him eminently qualified for this position, and we believe he should be confirmed quickly.

Dettelbach's long history of protecting vulnerable communities, including religious communities, exemplifies how he would lead an agency tasked with the investigation and prevention of federal crimes such as the unlawful use, manufacture, and possession of firearms and explosives as well as acts of arson and bombings. Faith communities can trust him because he has built a reputation as a smart, honest, and principled voice with a track record to prove it. We believe that Steve Dettelbach's leadership at ATF will help bring about a more just society where everyone is free to pursue their God-given potential.

We at Faiths United have placed our collective strength behind a vision of violence-free communities that is deeply rooted in our diverse religious traditions. Our faiths call us to create a safer world where we can participate in everyday activities like going to school, attending a concert, or praying in our houses of worship without the fear of violent death. We should not have to take it for granted that violence will erupt in our public spaces and communities. For too long, gun violence in our communities has been ignored and Congress has turned a deaf ear to the many voices clamoring for change. We believe it is a moral crisis when, in the midst of the continuous and tragic Covid-19 epidemic, our policy leaders are slow to act, if they act at all. Our faith traditions call us to a different vision. As people of faith, we are called by God to offer an alternative to the resigned acceptance of gun violence that is a symptom of a larger, societal culture of death that accepts violence as the norm and relies solely on guns for security.

We deeply feel the urgency of this moment and the pain of every life lost to gun violence. We believe Dettelbach is eminently qualified to lead ATF and this is a uniquely important time for the U.S. Senate to confirm him to this position. ATF is the only federal agency charged both with enforcing federal gun laws and providing regulatory oversight of the gun industry, but has been relying on acting leadership since 2015 and only had one Senate-confirmed director since 2003. We need Senate-confirmed leadership at ATF and our faith communities are watching, praying, and taking action to see it happen.

Sincerely,  
Jewish Women International  
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd  
African American Ministers In Action



National Council of Jewish Women  
Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, U.S. Provinces  
Advocacy for Victims of Abuse, Love Mercy Do Justice, The Covenant Church  
United Church of Christ, Justice and Local Church Ministries  
Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR-USA)