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Dear Supporter:

In the last few weeks, we have been inundated with news of heartbreaking acts of gun violence in our own city as well as nationally. A 4-year old Phoenix girl shoots her 2-year old cousin in the face after she finds a gun at their uncle's house. An ASU football player with a history of violence shoots and kills a well-respected former football player just outside a Scottsdale night club. A high school student in Red Lake, Minn., kills his grandfather and eight other students and teachers in his school before turning the gun on himself. A man shoots his ex-wife and a bystander outside a courthouse in Tyler, Texas. A rape defendant in Atlanta overpowers a police officer, seizes her guns, and shoots three people to death. A disappointed litigant in a malpractice case kills a federal judge's husband and mother in Chicago. A man walks into a church service at a hotel near Wilwaukee and shoots 12 people, killing eight.

We are both saddened by these events and ready to take action. The gun lobby meanwhile, is pushing the same old notion -- that we can just shoot our way out of trouble. The NRA is backing a variety of state-level legislation designed to roll back restrictions on guns in places such as bars, churches, and schools and offer easier access to concealed carry permits. Here in Arizona, our legislature is close to passing legislation that would allow people to carry guns into bars and restaurants, despite a statewide poll indicating an overwhelming 78 percent of voters do not want firearms in places where alcohol is being consumed. Most Arizona residents seem to understand what the legislators do not -- that **alcohol and guns don't mix**.

So, what can you do to get involved and participate in gun violence prevention? Here are two actions you can take today:

1. Call your Representative in the Arizona legislature and encourage him/her to vote against SB1363 – the proposal allowing people to carry guns into bars and restaurants. Tell the legislator that guns and alcohol do not mix and that the public is overwhelmingly against the bill. The proposal has already passed the Arizona Senate and the House is poised to vote any day. You can identify your Representative by going to www.asleg.state.az.us and clicking on "How do I find my Legislators."
2. Join Arizonans for Gun Safety and support our efforts to prevent gun violence. In the last few months, we have hosted a community forum on public health approaches to preventing gun violence featuring nationally renowned speakers and researchers in the field of violence prevention. We have worked behind the scenes encouraging opposition to the proposed guns in bars bill. We have been at local public safety fairs educating parents on gun safety and giving out triggerlocks. And we have been to classrooms discussing with school kids how to stop violence before it occurs. To expand these efforts and develop more programs, we need your support. Become an AzGS member by filling out the attached form and sending your donation today.

Together, we can make a difference.
Thank you.

Arizonans for Gun Safety