

Office of the Village Manager 100 Dayton Street Yellow Springs, OH 45387 (937) 767-7202 www.yso.com

August 19, 2019

The Honorable Governor Mike DeWine Riffe Center, 30th Floor 77 South High Street Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Governor DeWine,

We are deeply concerned about the recent tragedy in Dayton, Ohio that left nine dead, 37 injured and countless others living in fear of becoming another victim of gun violence. As a community, we implore you to address this epidemic plaguing our nation and destroying our communities.

We are in full support of your recent proposals for 11 legislative reforms addressing gun violence. We strongly believe your proposal for enhanced background checks, safety protection orders, access to behavioral health services and increased penalties for violations of gun ownership will be a dramatic step forward in the protection of our fellow citizens.

However, we believe these 11 legislative reforms fall short of addressing the commonalities of mass shootings in which the vast majority of the weapons used are legally acquired by the shooter(s) or their family members and consist of military-style weapons with war-ready ammunition magazines that hold 100 rounds of bullets. Did you know that Navy Seals go onto the battlefield with M16s that hold 20-round magazines? These types of weapons have no place in the Heartland of America.

As your constituents, we applaud you for your effort to keep guns from slipping through dangerous loopholes in our existing laws and into the hands of violent convicted felons, domestic abusers and those whose mental illness may make them a danger to themselves or others. Please keep in mind your commitment to "local control" as you continue to advocate for common sense gun control policies, recognizing that Ohio's communities have differing needs necessitating that state law revert back to facilitating "home rule" to improve effectiveness in addressing gun violence. And, we encourage you to be bold and take action that will truly move the needle on gun violence. In your words, "this is the right thing to do and the right time to do it."

Thank you for your dedicated service.

Respectfully,

Brian Housh

Council President

Josue Salmeron

Village Manager

Brian Carlson

Chief of Police