

Writing a letter to the editor:

Writing a letter to the editor of your local paper is a GREAT way to advocate for legislation you care about. It gets information about your chosen bill into the public discourse, and legislators take notice when their constituents care enough to submit such letters. You can help stop gun violence by submitting one. Please submit your letter to your local paper AND your legislator's office to maximize your impact, and send a copy to us at macopgv@gmail.com! While the Coalition has three bills that we support, we recommend you pick ONE to focus your letter on.

Below are five simple steps to help you write your letter and contacts for several MA papers.

How to write a letter:

1) Start with a statement that identifies what bill (by name and number) you are writing about and your commitment to seeing this bill become law. Be clear from the beginning as to the purpose of your letter. ("I am writing to urge the state legislature to pass H.2045/S.1388 - the Crime Gun Data Reporting and Analysis Bill")

2) Follow with some facts about the prevalence of gun violence in Massachusetts. This sets the stage for why this bill is important. Some suggestions for this include:

Despite our state's strong gun laws and low gun death rate, hundreds of Massachusetts residents are killed or wounded by a gun each year. Lawmakers should continue to enact gun safety proactive laws and policies.

Or

According to Giffords, someone is killed with a gun every 38 hours in Massachusetts. That's 231 people per year. From 2008 to 2017, 587 people under age 25 were killed with a gun in Massachusetts.

3) Then give some information about how your identified bill is key to addressing gun violence.

Here are some talking points:

The Crime Gun Data Analysis Bill seeks to decrease the flow of guns into our communities by identifying where the guns are coming from. The bill compels the state to thoroughly analyze the trace data collected from crime guns on a biannual basis, so we know where the guns used to commit crimes are originating. This analysis will allow us to develop data-informed policies and practices to address gun trafficking.

An Act to Promote Public Safety and Better Outcomes for Young Adults, also known as Raise the Age, moves 18-20-year-olds into the juvenile justice system. This affords them all of the services and supports that are a part of that system, including educational programs, behavioral health services, re-entry support, and more contact with family. Holding young people accountable while providing comprehensive, trauma-informed programming reduces recidivism. Lower rates of re-offending by definition translate into less gun violence.

The expansion of Victim Rights Law, allows more families to receive supports and benefits in the aftermath of violent crime. This mitigates the trauma of gun violence and other crimes by ensuring that our systems respond with support and care. We recognize that many people who will be charged with gun-related crimes have themselves been victims of similar crimes in the past. Responding appropriately to that trauma is key to preventing more violence.

4) Next, if you can provide a story or personal example that's a great way to humanize the issue for readers.

5) Finally, Be sure to include the action step you are hoping readers will take, in this case it will likely be calling their local politicians to advocate on behalf of a bill. Be sure to include your contact information, including name, phone number, and address as many papers won't publish without that.

Paper Contacts:

Boston Globe - 200 words or fewer

- Email - letter@globe.com
- Mail - Letters to the Editor, The Boston Globe, 1 Exchange Pl, Ste 201, Boston, MA 02109-2132
- Fax - 617-929-2098

Boston Herald

- Submit online at following link: <https://www.bostonherald.com/submit-letter/>

Daily Hampshire Gazette - 350 words

- <https://www.gazettenet.com/Opinion/Submit-a-Letter>

Cape Cod Times - 250 words

- Email - letters@capecodonline.com
- Mail - Letters, Cape Cod Times, 319 Main St., Hyannis, MA 02601.

Worcester Telegram - 250 words

- Email - letters@telegram.com
- Mail - Telegram & Gazette Attn: Letters to the Editor 100 Front Street, Floor 5 Worcester, MA 01608

Berkshire Eagle - 400 words

- https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSebsleaANReD7JSKRQ_UZaBy8p6LM0bDwZr-All8qg6XtY_w/viewform

Gloucester Times - 250 words

- https://www.gloucestertimes.com/site/forms/online_services/letter/

Patriot Ledger - 250 words

- <http://plus.allforms.mailjol.net/u/f9b1b450.php>

Fitchburg Sentinel - 250 words

- letters@sentinelandenterprise.com

MassLive/The Republican - 250 words

- letters@repub.com
- Fax: 413-788-1301

Enterprise

- <https://www.enterpriseneews.com/article/20130115/NEWS/301159592>

Sun Chronicle - 250 words

- https://www.thesunchronicle.com/site/forms/online_services/letter/

Cambridge Day

- forpublication@cambridgeday.com

Lowell Sun

- <https://www.lowellsun.com/send-letter-to-the-editor/>

Salem Gazette

- salem@wickedlocal.com

South Coast Today - 250 words

- jspillane@s-t.com
- Form - <https://www.southcoasttoday.com/article/99999999/SPORTS/399999983>

Haverhill Gazette - 250 words

- https://www.hgazette.com/site/forms/online_services/letter/letter_editor/

Eagle Tribune - 250 words

- https://www.eagletribune.com/site/forms/online_services/letter/

Holyoke Enterprise

- <https://www.holyokeenterprise.com/letter-editor>