

Position Paper on Common-Sense Gun Regulations

On June 3, 2018, members of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie (UUCE) approved the following statement and its distribution to regional faith communities, elected officials representing residents of Erie and Crawford Counties, and to local media.

Because Unitarian Universalists affirm the inherent worth and dignity of every person, we approve and advocate just laws and regulations that protect people from harm.

Because the Unitarian Universalist Association, on behalf of its member congregations, has a long history of position statements related to gun violence (taken in 1972, 1976 and 1991) the UUCE follows in this tradition.

Because, as people of faith, the UUCE has a tradition of speaking out on public policy issues involving moral and ethical matters, we choose to speak out on the need for common-sense gun regulations.

Whereas most citizens agree with having common-sense gun regulations;

Whereas the United States has the largest number of mass murders using assault style weapons than any other democratic country;

Whereas the Congress of the United States has failed, over several administrations, to take any meaningful action to reduce the use of assault style weapons and the number of mass murders.

Therefore, the Unitarian Universalist Congregation has a responsibility to take a position and actions to work toward common-sense gun regulations.

These regulations include, but are not limited to:

- Background checks on everyone purchasing a gun, including criminal, protection from abuse, civilian and military mental health checks
- Gun use certification or license through required professional training
- Gun registration
- Ban assault style weapons with high capacity magazines
- Ban all accessories that enable a weapon to fire like an assault style weapon (i.e. bump stocks)
- Ban suppressors (silencers)
- Ban open-carry
- Repeal laws that prevent lawsuits against firearm manufacturers or sellers (i.e. Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act 2005)
- Child Access Protection

To push for common-sense gun regulations, **the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie** has the opportunity to work with such state and national organizations as:

State organizations:

1. Unitarian Universalist Pennsylvania Legislative Advocacy Network (UUPLAN)
2. CeasefirePA

National organizations:

1. Sandy Hook Promise
2. Giffords

All of these organizations offer education and legislative advocacy.

Other references:

1. Unitarian Universalist Association position on Gun Violence Prevention
2. Gov. Tom Wolf's Urban Gun Violence Prevention Program
3. What does Gun Violence Really Cost?
4. Gun Violence in America Fact Sheet Average 2003-2013

See page 3 for useful website links to the above organizations/references and to some of the data and common-sense regulations cited on page 1.

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References

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