

FIREARM SUICIDE PREVENTION DAY



Letter to The Editor Template

PLEASE CUSTOMIZE

Date (Month Day, Year)

To: Letters Editor, Publication Name

Subject: Re: "Title of Article," Date (Month Day, Year)

To the Editor:

I was saddened to learn about [insert details of story] ("Title of article," publication date). This story is heartbreaking, and unfortunately, not uncommon.

Firearm suicide is a growing public health crisis in America, with CDC data showing these tragedies reached an all time high for the third time in a row in 2023. Guns account for more than half of all suicide deaths. That's 74 people we're losing to firearm suicide every single day — which is more than are lost to firearm homicides and unintentional shootings combined.

Part of what's fueling this devastating epidemic is unsecured firearms. Firearm suicide is a type of family fire, or a shooting that results from someone misusing an unsecured firearm from the home. Unlocked and unsecured firearms are far more likely to be used in a suicide attempt than firearms that are safely stored. And the tragic reality is that 90% of suicide attempts with a firearm are fatal.

With firearm suicide rates on the rise, including youth suicide rates which have risen 57% over the last decade, and President Trump and his congressional allies in Washington, D.C., cutting funding for mental health services and passing legislation that'll rip health care away from millions, it is essential that we have conversations with family and friends about secure firearm storage so we can mitigate these tragedies. Brady's End Family Fire public education program (endfamilyfire.org) has the resources for anyone to start these conversations in their communities so we can protect ourselves and the people we love.

This September, we can honor Suicide Prevention Month and Firearm Suicide Prevention Day, which is on September 9, by addressing the risks of unsecured guns and the importance of safe storage. Together we can reduce the number of family fire-related injuries and deaths.

Sincerely,

Your Name

Address

Phone Number