

VOICES
FOR A
SAFER
TENNESSEE

Dear Governor Bill Lee, Lieutenant Governor Randy McNally, Speaker Cameron Sexton and members of the Tennessee General Assembly,

As leaders in education from across Tennessee, we urge you, our elected leaders, to take steps that will help protect both our children and the rights afforded to all Americans by the Second Amendment. United, we support a reasonable response to the violence in our state; guns are now the first leading cause of death of children in Tennessee.

Specifically, we ask legislators to take these steps during the 2023 legislative session to keep guns away from those who are a risk to themselves or others:

1. Allow authorities to temporarily remove guns from those who pose a risk to themselves or others by implementing Extreme Risk Protection legislation.
2. Adopt additional measures to keep guns away from dangerous people by requiring background checks on all purchases and closing the background check loophole on unlicensed sellers.
3. Stop firearms from falling into the wrong hands by requiring gun owners to provide safe storage and report lost and stolen guns.

Governor Lee's commitment to improving school infrastructure safety and access to mental health resources are steps in the right direction. We believe more must be done in order to protect our children and educators inside their classrooms and on their campuses. In the last three mass shootings in Nashville, there was knowledge of the assailant's threat to themselves and others prior to their crime. Taking the above steps this legislative session, will help to prevent tragedies like this from happening in the future while also protecting the right to bear arms. Offering our collective public support will help us all do the next right thing as we heal together. Together, we can build a safer Tennessee.

We stand with other Education Leaders for a Safer Tennessee.

Respectfully,



VOICES FOR A SAFER TENNESSEE

Brooke Allen
Executive Director
Diverse Learners Cooperative
Davidson County

Elizabeth Ayton
Director
Belmont Weekday School
Davidson County

Chris Barbic
Board Chair
TN Charter School Center
Davidson County

Jill Black
Board Member
Hamilton County
School Board
Hamilton County

Erin O'Hara Block
Board Member
MNPS Board of Education
Davidson County

Darrell Cobbins
Vice Chair (2017 - 2023)
Tennessee State
Board of Education
Shelby County

Kathy Conlin
Head of School
Cool Springs Montessori
Williamson County

Sean Corcoran
Head of School
Brainerd Baptist School
Hamilton County

Katie Cour
President and CEO
Nashville Public Education
Foundation
Davidson County

Nick Darnell
Member (2018 - 2023)
Tennessee State Board of
Education
Hamblen County

Paul Davis
President
Father Ryan High School
Davidson County

Todd Dickson
Founder & CEO
Valor Collegiate Academies
Davidson County

Rodger Dinwiddie
CEO STARS Nashville
Davidson County

Randy Dowell
Founder & Executive Director
KIPP Nashville
Davidson County

Bob Eby
Chair (2018 - current)
TN State Board of Education
Oak Ridge, TN

Rachael Anne Elrod
Board Chair
MNPS Board of Education
Davidson County

Charlie Friedman
Founder & Executive Director
Nashville Classical
Charter Schools
Davidson County

Sarah Giblin
Chief of Schools
Valor Collegiate Academies
Davidson County

Brad Gioia
Headmaster
Montgomery Bell Academy
Davidson County

Lillian Hartgrove
Chair Emeritus (2014 - current)
TN State Board of Education
Putnam County

Cameron Hill
Board Member
Tennessee Interscholastic Athletic
Administrators Association (TIAAA)
Davidson

Jess Hill
Head of School
Harpeth Hall
Davidson County

Daniel Hoffman & Alene Arnold
Co-Heads of School
Jewish Middle School of Nashville
Davidson County

Ryan Holt
Member (2022 - current)
TN State Board of Education
Davidson County

Kevin Huffman
CEO, Accelerate and
Former Commissioner,
Tennessee Department of Education
Davidson County

Larry Jensen
Member (2019 - current)
TN State Board of Education
Shelby County

Karitsa M. Jones
Board Member
Hamilton County School Board
Hamilton County

James Jordan
Head of School
Episcopal School of Nashville
Davidson County

Jim Leckrone
Founder & School Director
East End Preparatory School
Davidson County

Logan Lyman
Director
Westminster School for
Young Children
Davidson County

Robert McGehee
Head of School
St. Nicholas School
Hamilton County

Rhonda L. McKay
Executive Director
Children's House of Nashville
Davidson County

Jeffery L. Mitchell, Ph.D.
Head of School
Currey Ingram Academy
Williamson County

Natalie Morosi
Founder & Executive Director
Aventura Community School
Davidson County

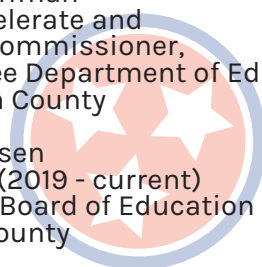
Will Norton
Head of School
St. Paul Christian Academy
Davidson County

Freda Player
Vice Chair
MNPS Board of Education
Davidson County

Daniella Pressner
Head of School
Akiva School
Davidson County

Gini Pupo-Walker
Executive Director
The Education Trust - Tennessee
Davidson County

Amani Reed
Director
University School of Nashville
Nashville, TN



VOICES FOR A SAFER TENNESSEE

Kimberly Richardson
Head of School
Linden Waldorf School
Davidson County

Kate Riley
Head of School
Holy Trinity Montessori
Davidson County

Kristen Ring
President & Head of School
Hutchison School
Shelby County

Tiffanie Robinson
Board Chair
Hamilton County School Board
Hamilton County

Abigail Rockey
CEO
Intrepid College Prep
Davidson County

Hart Roper
Head of School
Oak Hill School
Davidson County

Tara Scarlett
President & CEO
Scarlett Family Foundation
Middle Tennessee

Gary Shorb
Executive Director
Urban Child Institute
Shelby County

David Skeen
Head of School
Harding Academy
Davidson County

Teresa Sloyan
President
Hyde Family Foundation
Memphis, TN

Mary K. Smith
Director
Nature's Way
Montessori School
Knoxville TN

Prentice Stabler
Head of School
Ensworth School
Davidson County

Albert L. Throckmorton
Head of School
St. Mary's Episcopal School
Shelby County

Leigh Toomey
Head of School
St. Bernard Academy
Davidson County

Wendy Tucker
Commissioner,
TN Public Charter
Schools Commission
Former board member,
TN State Board of Education
(2014-2019)
Williamson County

Abigail Tylor
Board Member
MNPS Board of Education
Davidson County

Roblin Webb
Founder & CEO
Freedom Prep Charter Schools
Shelby County

Jacqueline Wolfe
Interim Head of School
Montessori Academy Brentwood
Davidson County

Jaime Yeager
Head of School,
Amare Montessori and
Executive Director,
Montessori Alliance of Tennessee
Montgomery County

Dr. Maya Bugg
President & CEO
TN Charter Center
Davidson County

Indira Dammu
Education Advisor to
former Mayor Briley
Davidson County

Cameron Gish
Executive Principal
Explore! Community School
Davidson County

Terry L. Morris
Executive Director
Ironwood Academy
Williamson County

Dr. R. Kirk Walker, Jr.
Former Headmaster
McCallie School
Hamilton County

