

## A Statement from Senator Favola on the Recent Tragedy in Uvalde, Texas

“I am heartbroken over the shooting at the Robb Elementary school in Uvalde, Texas. The parents of those young children are suffering unimaginable loss. The soul of the Uvalde community has been forever pierced. Yet, those who have the power to prevent such tragedies in the future are afraid to put even the slightest limits on someone's right to carry an AR15.

National action is needed to pass universal background checks and to take automatic weapons off our streets. The federal lawmakers not willing to take these steps must be held accountable. Something as horrific as what happened at Robb Elementary School, Sandy Hook, Columbine, Marjory Stoneman Douglas, Santa Fe, and Virginia Tech is a crisis and inaction can no longer be tolerated.

When the Democrats controlled the Virginia General Assembly in the 2020 and 2021 sessions and Dr. Northam was Governor, we passed landmark gun safety laws that have helped protect Virginians from senseless death and suffering. The law that has had the most impact is a Red Flag law that enables judges to remove a firearm from an individual who may be a danger to himself or others. The 18-year-old Texas shooter showed signs of aggression and posted on Facebook his intention to kill his grandmother and to shoot up an elementary school. Where were the safety valves like Red Flag laws, and why did he have access to an AR15?

If you feel strongly, as I do, that federal action must be taken please sign this petition from Everytown for Gun Safety to urge the U.S. Senate to take action on this issue.

Thank you for joining this important fight.”