

Adams Joins Rally Against Gun Violence



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Congresswoman spoke at “March for Our Lives” rally on Sunday in Charlotte

CHARLOTTE – This morning, **Congresswoman Alma Adams (NC-12)** joined March for Our Lives and hundreds of gun violence prevention advocates at a rally in **First Ward Park** in **Uptown Charlotte**. An excerpt from Adams’ remarks is below.

An Excerpt from Rep. Adams’ Remarks Today (as Prepared) at the March for Our Lives Rally at First Ward Park in Charlotte:

I’d like to start off today by sharing a number with you: 665.

It's the number of children, 11 years old and under, who have lost their lives to gun violence in the United States just this year. 665 children who will never get to go to college, travel the world, fall in love, get married, have kids, and grow old, leaving behind thousands of heartbroken parents, grandparents, siblings, and friends. It includes the 19 school children we lost Uvalde, Texas.

*Unfortunately, I have another number for you: **33**.*

There have been 33 mass shootings in the United States since the shooting in Uvalde, Texas as of June 6th according to ABC World News. Mass shootings, however, are a small percentage of the gun deaths in our country.

*So my final number is **110**. And I think many of you know this one. Firearms claim approximately 110 lives and wound hundreds more in the United States every single day. In 2018, that was a total of 38,390 deaths by firearm.*

*Folks, I am tired of having to reduce our family, friends, neighbors – and **children** – to numbers*

That's why we're here today. That's why inaction is no longer an option for any of us. Because our lives and our loved ones are more than statistics.

It's an honor to be here among so many students from our local Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools. History reminds us students have always paved the way for progress in our country, from students like the late John Lewis and the members of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee or SNCC, to the A&T Four and all of their classmates who led the civil rights sit-in movement in North Carolina. So today I am delighted to be among students like Lora Henley, Tiffany Jones, and Maya Wells.

*March For Our Lives began because of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School shooting in 2018, but since then students from UNC Charlotte to Uvalde have experienced horrors like Parkland because legislators, from state legislatures to Congress, refuse to act. Well, these young leaders are giving us a clear message: **enough is enough**.*

I was an educator for 40 years, and I never felt the fear and apprehension that our teachers feel today – especially after losing two educators in Texas just over two weeks ago. I can't imagine how teachers and students balance those concerns with every other challenge they face.

We've reached a point in our country where people have legitimate concerns about making it home at the end of the day, and it's not only teachers. The racially motivated attack at a Buffalo supermarket earlier

last month is only the most recent in a long list of hate crimes involving a gun. Specifically, a legally obtained AR-15-style rifle.

We must make changes to our gun laws that value our 330 million fellow Americans more than our 400 million guns. That's why I cast a vote in Congress this week for comprehensive gun reform, including raising the age to purchase assault weapons. That's why in every Congress since you sent me to Washington, I've cosponsored the Assault Weapons Ban Act; and that's why on Thursday, my colleagues and I passed a bill to nationalize "red flag" laws that seek to keep guns away from individuals deemed a threat to themselves and others— including domestic abusers.

*Still more needs to be done! I believe in the students with us today. **Listen to them.** They will help us get the job done if we let them lead.*

I urge my friends in the Senate to join me in voting for freedom: the freedom to go to school without fear. Freedom from active shooter drills. Freedom from the anxiety of being in a public space. Freedom from worrying about our loved ones and our little ones. Freedom from a violent death. Freedom from weapons of war.

Background

Earlier this week, Adams voted to protect our communities and schools with a strong legislative package to address gun violence. The Protecting Our Kids Act includes common-sense gun safety measures that will crack down on illegal gun trafficking, keep weapons of war out of the hands of teenagers, strengthen safe gun storage, restrict access to untraceable "ghost guns" and more.

Additionally, Adams voted for additional legislation to empower communities to prevent incidents of gun violence before they occur. The Federal Extreme Risk Protection Order Act empowers family members and law enforcement to seek a federal court order to temporarily remove access to guns from those who pose a danger to themselves or others, while incentivizing states to adopt their own so-called "red flag laws."

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