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MICHAEL A. BLAKE  
Assemblymember  
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I wholeheartedly commend President Obama on his executive actions announced today aimed at saving American lives from the scourge of gun violence in the United States. Tragedies related to gun violence have become all too common, especially on our streets, right here in The Bronx. These executive actions will help change that unfortunate reality.

As I watched President Obama deliver a soul reflecting address on why and how he is taking action to #StopGunViolence, I became more convinced that we must do more to protect and save lives. I kept looking at the faces of those who stood behind him. I kept thinking about Lloyd Morgan's family from our district in The Bronx. I kept thinking that we all should be mad, have tears and get more emotional that Congress won't do more to stop this senseless violence.

Too many of us have lost someone we love resulting from a reckless lack of gun regulations. These executive actions will keep guns out of the wrong hands through improvements to The National Instant Criminal Background Check System, increased mental health treatment and reporting to the background check system and by working with the Department of Defense to shape the future of gun safety technology.

These actions will provide needed updates to our current system, put more agents and examiners on the street and ensure that it is known across the nation that it doesn't matter where you conduct your business—from a store, at gun shows, or over the Internet: If you're in the business of selling firearms, you must get a license and conduct background checks.

We can no longer afford to wait for Congress to act. There are too many names to mention who should be living out their dreams. These actions will save lives and save dreams. I will continue to work diligently at the state level to keep firearms out of the wrong hands, and our communities safe.

As public servants, we are elected to transform lives for the better not sit idly by and do nothing. The President is right that we should not debate the past tragedy but prevent the next one. As a Co-Chair for the NY Legislative Black, Puerto Rican, Hispanic and Asian Caucus' Criminal Justice taskforce, I have a even greater sense of the fierce urgency of Justice now through legislation and advocacy by supporting those organizations in our communities working to reduce young people being killed senselessly in our streets. I stand with our President to #StopGunViolence now.

Yours in Service,

Michael A. Blake

Member of Assembly 79th District-The Bronx