



Dear Friend,

My name is Mariam and I live in Texas with my husband, not far from where I grew up.

Like you, there are brief moments that have defined the course of my life. **For me, no day had a greater impact than June 15, 2012—the day my father attacked my family and me with a gun.**

All of us had a feeling something violent was going to happen. But, he slashed the tires of our cars so we couldn't get away. When he broke into the house, we hid in the bathroom. Somehow, we all survived—but not without a cost. I was shot in the hand and in the neck. My husband and my mother were shot, too.

While many who thought they knew my father were shocked at his actions, we weren't shocked at all. Because my mother, my sisters, and I had lived through years of domestic violence and abuse before my mother ended the marriage.

There should have been no way for my father to have a gun. He had abused us for years. He was under a restraining order. But, he easily got his hands on three guns, and had access to all of them when he came to our house that night.

There is no state law in Texas requiring background checks on all gun sales—making guns easy to acquire with no background check and no questions asked. As a survivor, I know background checks are the difference between life and death. We can change this, but we have to vote.

Yet politicians like Jacey Jetton collect massive donations from the gun lobby and refuse to support common-sense gun safety laws, like background checks on all gun sales and banning domestic abusers from possessing a gun.

Together, we can use our power and vote against politicians like Jacey Jetton for Texas state House, replacing them with legislators who will make us safe.

I am a survivor of gun violence. But, gun violence affects everyone in the community where it happens. We all have a stake in this fight. So please, vote early (from October 13 to October 30) or on Election Day (November 3) for leaders who will take action and save lives.

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