



# Press Release

## **For Immediate Release**

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Contact:

Kanaka Sathasivan  
Texas Nurses Association  
[ksathasivan@texasnurses.org](mailto:ksathasivan@texasnurses.org)  
512.452.0648 x 130

## **Nurses Take Action on Gun Violence**

Texas Nurses Association is planning a nurse dialogue forum in late September on the topic of gun violence in Texas, to be followed by an open discussion on Facebook Live in October.

Following the tragic events that occurred in El Paso on Aug. 8, TNA heard from nurses statewide, through social media, emails and phone calls. Nurses wanted action, and they wanted to prevent this tragedy from happening again. Not even a month later, on Aug. 31, another shooting occurred in Midland and Odessa.

“When tragedy strikes a community, nurses are always intimately affected,” says TNA President Jeff Watson. “During any event with widespread injuries and fatalities, nurses are more than just medical staff. They treat the wounds of their neighbors. They become a shoulder for family to lean on.”

Nurses see the effects of gun violence regularly. A fact they wish to change.

“TNA’s dialogue forum on gun violence started as a response to the messages we received after El Paso,” says Ellen Martin, TNA Director of Practice. “In August, we started by reaching out to TNA members, but following Midland-Odessa, we realized this issue needed to be discussed by a diverse group of nurses across the state.”

TNA plans to host the forum at the state offices in Austin, but nurses can join from across the state through a webcast. Following the forum, TNA will present the group’s thoughts on Facebook Live to gather more feedback from Texans across the state.

Many nurses are frustrated by a lack of legislative action on the topic of gun violence. “The goal of the forum is to establish ways that individual nurses can reduce gun violence,” says Martin. “We know that not all nurses agree with gun control, but no nurse wants to see preventable injuries due to firearms.”

In addition to the forum, TNA is also speaking with nurses who cared for those affected by the shootings in order to better prepare members in the future and better support nurses through similar tragedies.

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## **About Texas Nurses Association**

The Texas Nurses Association (TNA) is a statewide membership-based professional association of registered nurses. Our vision is to empower Texas Nurses to advance the profession. Founded in 1907, TNA is the oldest and largest nursing association in Texas.

Contact us at [tna@texasnurses.org](mailto:tna@texasnurses.org) to be included in the forum. Follow TNA on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) for updates.

[Statement on El Paso](#)

[Statement on Midland-Odessa](#)