

The Network of Texas IAF Organizations

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BISHOPS AND FAITH LEADERS CALL ON LT. GOVERNOR/SENATE TO REJECT HB1927 DROPPING LICENSE & TRAINING REQUIREMENTS TO CARRY GUNS

Texas IAF Press Conference – Wednesday, April 21, 4:00pm

ZOOM LINK: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3380224716>

Meeting ID: 338 022 4716 | Dial in: 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Bishops and faith leaders across Texas, along with the Network of Texas IAF Organizations, will hold a Zoom press conference on Wednesday April 21st at 4pm to oppose HB1927 “Unlicensed Carry” Legislation which is headed to the Senate. *Faith leaders participating will include Bishop Mark J. Seitz of the Catholic Diocese of El Paso, Bishop Erik Gronberg of Northern Texas-Louisiana Synod of the ELCA, Rabbi David Lyon of Congregation Beth Israel in Houston, Bishop Gregory Kelly of the Catholic Diocese of Dallas, and Rabbi Alan Freedman of Temple Beth Shalom in Austin, among other Texas IAF clergy.*

“Our communities have still not healed from the El Paso and Odessa shootings in 2019 where 31 people were killed and 46 injured, and more recent shootings in Houston, Bryan, and Austin,” said Rabbi David Lyon of Congregation Beth Israel and TMO in Houston. “We call on the Lt. Governor to protect Texans from these types of tragedies by rejecting the House attempts to strip away training and ‘License to Carry’ requirements for gun carriers.”

According to Texas Gun Sense:

- States which have enacted similar laws have seen an 11% increase in homicide rates and an 11-13% increase in violent crime rates.
- The over 6000 gun owners who had their licenses denied, revoked, or suspend would immediately be able to carry a handgun if HB1927 becomes law.
- 146 of the 147 convictions for deadly conduct by discharge of a firearm in 2020 did not have a License to Carry (LTC).

“Our faith tradition teaches us to protect life,” Said Bishop Suffragan Kathryn M. Ryan of the Episcopal Diocese of Texas. “You cannot protect life if people carrying deadly weapons aren’t properly trained and licensed.”

The Network of Texas IAF organizations urge Lt. Governor Patrick to maintain his 2017 opposition to “unlicensed carry” legislation, then explaining it would protect citizens and law enforcement from potential violence. The Texas Police Chiefs Association, The Texas Municipal Police Association, the Dallas Police Association, and the Houston Police Officers

Association have all come out against “unlicensed carry” bills this session.

**The Network of Texas IAF Organizations are non partisan, institutionally based community organizations whose purpose is to train leaders to organize families around issues which affect their quality of life. The network includes Communities Organized for Public Service and The Metro Alliance in San Antonio, The Border Organization, Valley Interfaith in the Rio Grande Valley; TMO in Houston; EPISO and Border Interfaith In El Paso; Austin Interfaith; ACT in Fort Worth; Dallas Area Interfaith; AMOS- Arlington , The West Texas Organizing Strategy; and Beaumont, Port Arthur and Orange.*

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Houston

Valley
Interfaith,
Rio Grande
Valley

EPISO and
Border
Interfaith,
El Paso

Central
Texas
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The West
Texas
Organizing
Strategy

The Border
Organization,
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