

STATEMENT BY RABBI JOEL MOSBACHER, CO-CHAIR OF
METRO IAF'S *DO NOT STAND IDLY BY* CAMPAIGN

Today the White House reached out to Metro IAF and presumably many other groups asking for ideas by COB today. Metro IAF has given ours for the last two years. We propose that the President:

-- Call gun CEOs to the White House and press them for answers on safety. In doing so, he would join law enforcement and public officials from 80 cities, counties and states across the US that are already seeking responses from major gun manufacturers.

-- Involve multiple federal agencies in coordination with cities and states across the US in launching a Race to the Top for gun safety, using a variety of Executive Branch tools including procurement and R&D.

For two years, the White House has declined to do this. To us, this indicates a lack of seriousness. Trying to curb gun deaths in America without confronting the gun manufacturers makes no more sense than trying to curb cigarette smoking without confronting the tobacco companies. Or health care reform without attention to hospitals and drug companies.

Now, under growing pressure, the President is considering "all options" -- including "bold" options that will invite litigation.

What we don't need is another late-game punt to the courts by this President. This was the outcome of his long-delayed executive action on immigration. Now progress in that area is frozen, where it will likely remain through the end of his term.

On guns, the President needs to look for results, not an exit strategy.

No one questions the legal ability of the leader of the executive branch to press for answers from the gun manufacturers we purchase firearms from. This is the right place to start, even at this late date.

Mr. President, you are the largest customer of many of the world's largest gun companies. We believe the CEOs of these companies will talk. What are you waiting for?

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