STATEMENT BY CHIEF JIM JOHNSON, CHAIR, NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT PARTNERSHIP TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE, ON THE SHOOTING RAMPAGE IN COLORADO SPRINGS, CO.

Members of the National Law Enforcement Partnership to Prevent Gun Violence (the Partnership) mourn the tragic losses of Jennifer Markovsky, 35; Ke’Arre Stewart, 29; and University of Colorado at Colorado Springs (UCCS) Officer Garrett Swasey, 44, who were killed on Friday in the shooting rampage at the Planned Parenthood clinic in Colorado Springs, Colorado. We offer our deepest condolences to their loved ones, and we wish full and speedy recoveries to the nine who were wounded in this despicable attack, including five police officers who bravely rushed to the scene, putting their own lives at risk to protect others.

America lost a true hero in Officer Swasey, who made it his life’s work to help others, and who made the ultimate sacrifice as he selflessly ran toward grave danger to shield others from harm. We owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to the dedicated men and women in law enforcement, who each day don their uniforms not knowing what perils they will face during their workdays.

As gun violence devastates community after community, and active shooter incidents occur again and again with greater frequency, it is imperative that we address this problem now. We must do much more to keep guns from those intent on doing harm. While we cannot bring back Officer Swasey, Jennifer Markovsky or Ke’Arre Stewart, we can prevent others from suffering the same fate.