



TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: Michelle Greene, City Manager

CONTACT: Deborah Lopez, City Clerk

SUBJECT: Mayors Letter to Senate on Gun Safety Legislation

RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize the Mayor to sign a letter to the Senate Majority and Democratic Leaders, urging them to immediately call the Senate back to Washington to take up legislation that would strengthen the background check system (Attachment 1).

BACKGROUND:

For over five decades, the United States Conference of Mayors (Conference) has advocated for policies to combat gun violence, consistent with its support of the Second Amendment. At its 87th Annual Conference, mayors passed a series of resolutions to address this crisis.

Subsequently, Mayor Perotte was contacted by the Conference when call to action was issued. Because gun safety legislation is not covered in the City's Legislative Platform, Mayor Perotte requested that staff bring this item to the City Council for consideration. Councilmember Kyriaco supported the Mayor's request.

DISCUSSION:

Over 214 mayors have responded the call to action by signing the United States Conference of Mayors bipartisan letter to the Senate Majority and Democratic Leaders, urging them to immediately call the Senate back to Washington to take up legislation that would strengthen the background check system. A copy of the call to action is provided in Attachment 1.

The letter urges the Senate to consider two bipartisan bills that previously passed the U.S. House of Representatives: H.R. 8, the Bipartisan Background Check Act of 2019; and, H.R. 1112, the Enhanced Background Checks Act of 2019. H.R. 8 would close loopholes in the nation's background check system for gun purchases, and H.R. 1112

would lengthen the background check review period deadline. Both bills passed the House in February and have been with the Senate since.

A draft letter for Mayor Perotte's signature is provided in Attachment 2 for Council consideration and potential authorization.

FISCAL IMPACTS:

There are no fiscal impacts associated with this action.

ALTERNATIVES:

The City Council can choose not to authorize the Mayor send the letter or authorize the Mayor to send some alternative recommendation to Congress.


Reviewed By:

Legal Review By:

Approved By:


Kristine Schmidt
Deputy City Manager


Michael Jenkins
City Attorney


Michelle Greene
City Manager

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Mayors Letter to Senate Urging them to act Now on Gun Safety Legislation
2. Letter from Tom Cochran, CEO, the United Conference of Mayors

Attachment 1

Mayors Letter to Senate Urging them to act Now on Gun Safety Legislation



August 20, 2019

CITY COUNCIL

Paula Perotte
Mayor

Kyle Richards
Mayor Pro Tempore

Roger S. Aceves
Councilmember

Stuart Kasdin
Councilmember

James Kyriaco
Councilmember

CITY MANAGER
Michelle Greene

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Democratic Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 201510

Dear Leader McConnell and Leader Schumer:

RE: Senate Action Needed NOW on Gun Safety Legislation

On behalf of The United States Conference of Mayors, we urge you to immediately call the Senate back to Washington to take action on bipartisan gun safety legislation.

Already in 2019, there have been over 250 mass shootings. The tragic recent events in Gilroy, El Paso and Dayton are just the latest reminders that our nation can no longer wait for our federal government to take the actions necessary to prevent people who should not have access to firearms from being able to purchase them.

In late February, the House of Representatives passed two bills that would greatly strengthen the background check system:

- H.R. 8, the Bipartisan Background Check Act of 2019
- H.R. 1112, the Enhanced Background Checks Act of 2019

H.R. 8 passed the House on February 27 on a bipartisan vote of 240-190. It would close serious loopholes in the background check system by:

- Requiring all firearm purchases to undergo a NICS background check;
- Helping to prevent dangerous individuals from obtaining deadly weapons by circumventing the laws on the books;
- Prohibiting unlicensed transfers of guns through unregulated

- secondary sales; and
- Increasing law enforcement's ability to trace crime guns.

H.R. 1112 passed the House on February 28 on a bipartisan vote of 228-198. If this bill had been law in 2015, the terrible tragedy that occurred at the Emanuel AME Church in Charleston might have been avoided. The bill would extend the background check review period deadline from three to 10 business days, to help ensure that background checks are completed before weapons are sold and that dangerous individuals who should not have them are unable to purchase them.

H.R. 8 and H.R. 1112 are bipartisan, sensible gun safety bills that would make our cities and our people safer, and would in no way compromise gun owners' rights.

We urge you to call the Senate back to session now to take up and pass these bills to help reduce gun violence and the terrible toll it takes in our cities and our nation.

Quick passage of these bills is a critical step to reducing gun violence in our country. The United States Conference of Mayors stands ready to work with Congress, the Administration and others to develop holistic remedies to the scourge of gun violence. America has proven time and again that we can rise to our most difficult challenges. We look forward to working with you to find a way forward to protect our citizens from this senseless carnage.

Sincerely,

Paula Perotte
Mayor

cc:
City Council

Attachment 2

Letter from Tom Cochran, CEO, the United Conference of Mayors

[View this email in your browser](#)



THE UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF MAYORS

1630 EYE STREET NORTHWEST
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006
TELEPHONE: (202) 293-7330
FAX: (202) 293-2352
URL: www.usmayors.org

TO: The Mayor

FROM: Tom Cochran, CEO and Executive Director

Under the leadership of Conference of Mayors President Rochester Hills, MI Mayor Bryan K. Barnett, 214 mayors responded to our call to action in 48 hours by signing onto our bipartisan letter to the Senate Majority and Democratic Leaders, urging them to immediately call the Senate back to Washington to take up legislation that would greatly strengthen the background check system. HR 8 and HR 1112 passed the House in February and have been languishing in the Senate.

This action originated from a USCM Executive Committee call led by Mayor Barnett on Monday where our top leaders heard from Mayor Dee Margo of El Paso and Mayor Nan Whaley of Dayton. It was in this call that the letter and strategy was approved, and the Executive Committee may be considering additional actions needed to push this priority forward.

This response demonstrates the impact that the horrific mass shootings in El Paso and Dayton have had on mayors and the nation, and how important it is to act now to reduce gun violence in this country.

This letter has now been sent to all members of the Senate, and we have issued a press release. Since the letter is now public, we encourage you to distribute it to your local media and to highlight it through social media.

Next Steps You Can Take Now:

I am including some sample social media content for you, along with some asks to help us spread the word:

1. Issue a press release about signing on to the letter, and let us know about it!
2. Push out social content on your networks promoting your participation, using these images and the hashtag #MayorsDemandAction
3. Thank other mayors and/or share and retweet their content to amplify each other
4. Consider tweeting to your Senators, from both parties, respectfully encouraging action on this issue

Suggested Tweets

Already in 2019, there have been over 250 mass shootings. The tragic events in #ElPaso & #Dayton are just the latest reminders that we need Washington to act. The Senate needs to return to Washington & take immediate action on bipartisan gun safety legislation.
#MayorsDemandAction

I'm joining with @usmayors and a group of 214 mayors from across the country calling on the Senate to take immediate action on bipartisan gun safety legislation. [@SenatorHandle] and [@SenatorHandle] the people of [city] need you to get this done. #MayorsDemandAction

We have to work together to make our cities and our country safer. That's why I've joined @usmayors to be one of 214 mayors to call on the Senate to return to Washington and take immediate action on bipartisan gun safety legislation. #MayorsDemandAction

Suggested Facebook Posts

Already in 2019, there have been over 250 mass shootings. The tragic events in #ElPaso & #Dayton are just the latest reminders that we need Washington to act. The Senate needs to return to Washington & take immediate action on bipartisan gun safety legislation.
#MayorsDemandAction

I'm joining with the United States Conference of Mayors [tag @usmayors Facebook Page] and a group of 214 mayors from across the country calling on the Senate to take immediate action on bipartisan gun safety legislation. [@SenatorHandle] and [@SenatorHandle] the people of [city] need you to

get this done. #MayorsDemandAction

We have to work together to make our cities and our country safer. That's why I've joined the United States Conference of Mayors [tag @usmayors Facebook Page] to be one of 214 mayors to call on the Senate to return to Washington and take immediate action on bipartisan gun safety legislation. #MayorsDemandAction

Share Graphics

Here are some optional graphics to include with your social media posts:

- https://www.usmayors.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/08-SenateReturn_gun-safety.png
- https://www.usmayors.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/08-SenateReturn_gun-safety_count.png

Want to Sign On and Haven't Done So Yet?

If you missed the deadline but would still like to add your name to this effort, you can do so by [clicking here](#). We will be posting updates to our website.

If you need any technical assistance in accessing USCM Community, please contact support@usmayors.org.

If you have any other questions, please contact me at tcochran@usmayors.org or 202-744-9110 or my Director of Public Safety Laura DeKoven Waxman at lwaxman@usmayors.org or 202-489-7534.

On behalf of President Barnett, our officers, and especially Dayton Mayor Nan Whaley and El Paso Mayor Dee Margo, thank you for your continued support and commitment to our U.S. Conference of Mayors.



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