



September 3, 2019

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Mayor

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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 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. Additionally, we urge the Senate to take action to eliminate or reduce the availability of assault weapons, high capacity magazines and bump-stocks, and perhaps even to take up legislation similar to that of the State of California.

Quick passage of these bills is a critical first 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:
Goleta City Council
United States Conference of Mayors (USCM)