

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Senate Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

August 12, 2019

Dear Senate Majority Leader McConnell and Senate Minority Leader Schumer:

We, the 154 undersigned local, state, and national organizations in the areas of immigration, civil rights, human rights, gun violence prevention, labor, faith, LGBTQ rights, and education, urge you to swiftly pass gun violence prevention legislation such as the Bipartisan Background Checks Act of 2019 (H.R. 8)¹ which would provide much-needed regulation to gun sales and protect all of our communities from everyday gun violence and the violence of white supremacy, without the inclusion of any amendments or provisions that would harm our communities, including immigrants. This includes any specific targeting of undocumented immigrants such as the motion to recommit (MTR) measure attached to H.R. 8 that requires all gun vendors, including private and gun show vendors, to flag undocumented prospective gun buyers to federal immigration authorities, as well as any additional funding or resources under the guise of national security for U.S. Immigration Customs and Enforcement and U.S. Customs Border Protection or any additional discretionary power to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services or the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to enable identification, detention and deportation of members of our community.

Legislation expanding background checks is an important step forward in our fight for sensible gun violence prevention legislation in the United States, but only the first. We urge Congress to reject any attempts to discriminate against and terrorize migrant communities. Gun violence prevention legislation should not single out one community, but rather should work to protect all people, no matter where they were born. This bill would represent a breakthrough in Congress, and we must not let racism and xenophobia besmirch such a momentous occasion. Congress

¹ Bipartisan Background Checks Act of 2019 (HR8) passed the House of the 116th Congress on 2/27/2019.

must take swift action to stop hate-fueled violence, dismantle systems of white supremacy and enact violence intervention measures to keep our communities safe and fight this public health epidemic. Unnecessarily adding an anti-immigrant policy component to gun legislation Congress would further entangle the criminal justice system with the immigration system, both of which are inequitable and exacerbate each other in their flaws and negative and life-threatening consequences. We urge you to support an expeditious Senate floor vote on S.42 The Background Checks Expansion Act and final passage by Congress, which would represent the first time Congress enacted legislation that provides gun violence prevention in over 25 years.² We remain committed to the protection of our communities, including undocumented immigrants, and maintain that it is the duty of Congress to uphold the safety of all by defending the integrity of the bill. Consequently, we urge you to strip or prevent any anti-immigrant MTRs or amendments to any gun violence prevention bills. It is well past time for Congress to provide relief from gun violence to all of our communities with no accompanying poison pills.

Sincerely,

National

50 Miles More

Alliance for Justice

American Federation of Teachers

Amnesty International USA

Asian Americans Advancing Justice - AAJC

Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF)

Brady Campaign

Center For Popular Democracy

Change the Ref

Church World Service

Coalition on Human Needs

Coalition to Stop Gun Violence

Community Justice Action Fund

Council on American-Islamic Relations

CREDO

Emgage Action

Faith in Public Life

² The last time Congress passed legislation to control gun sales and use was in 1994 in the Public Safety and Recreational Firearms Use Protection Act which banned assault weapons and expired in 2004.

Gray, Sarah. April 30, 2019 "Here's a Timeline of the Major Gun Control Laws in America".

<https://time.com/5169210/us-gun-control-laws-history-timeline/>

Lopez, German. Aug 5, 2019. "Democrats have been discussing the same ideas on guns for 25 years. It's time to change that."

<https://www.vox.com/policy-and-politics/2019/7/1/18683860/democrats-2020-gun-control-mass-shootings>

Freedom for Immigrants
Friends Committee on National Legislation
Hispanic Federation
Indivisible
Intercommunity Peace & Justice Center
Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility
Lawyers for Good Government
March For Our Lives
MoveOn
MPower Change
Muslim Public Affairs Council (MPAC)
National Network for Arab American Communities
National Center for Transgender Equality
National Coalition Against Domestic Violence
National Council of Jewish Women
National Domestic Violence Hotline
National Education Association
National Equality Action Team (NEAT)
National Immigration Law Center
National Korean American Service & Education Consortium (NAKASEC)
National LGBTQ Task Force Action Fund
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice
New American Leaders
Newtown Action Alliance
Northwest Coalition for Responsible Investment
Oxfam America
Sisters of Charity of Nazareth
Sisters of the Holy Cross
Southern Border Communities Coalition
States United to Prevent Gun Violence
Stories Untold US
Survivors Empowered Action Fund
Team Enough
This Is Our Lane
Tri-State Coalition for Responsible Investment
Union for Reform Judaism
Unitarian Universalist Service Committee
United We Dream Network
Veterans for American Ideals

Voto Latino
Win Without War
Woman's National Democratic Club
Women's March Foundation
Women's March Sister Network
Women's March, Inc

State/Local

A2D2 Ann Arbor inDivisible for Democracy
Albuquerque Center for Peace and Justice
Arizonans for Gun Safety
Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Asian Law Caucus
Asian Americans Advancing Justice-Atlanta
Asian Americans Advancing Justice-LA
Athens Anti-Discrimination Movement
CASA
CeaseFire Pennsylvania
Coalicion de Derechos Humanos
Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA)
Conference for Corporate Responsibility Indiana and Michigan
CT Against Gun Violence
CT Students for a DREAM
Families Rights Network
Family Action Network Movement (FANM)
Georgia Indivisible 12
GunSense Vermont
Immigration Working Group, Sisters of St. Francis, Rochester, MN
Indivisible District #12 Statesboro, GA
Indivisible GA-04
Indivisible Harlem
Indivisible Hawaii
Indivisible Illinois
Indivisible Marching Buddies of Atlanta
Indivisible Ocean Hills
Indivisible Roswell West
Indivisible San Francisco
Indivisible49
Jewish Center for Justice

La Union del Pueblo Entero
LP-Indivisible
Maine Gun Safety Coalition
Mainers for Accountable Leadership
March For Our Lives Downers Grove, IL
March For Our Lives - MetroWest
March for Our Lives Aurora
March for Our Lives Bel Air, MD
March for Our Lives Bloomington High School North
March For Our Lives Chicago
March for Our Lives Cleveland
March for Our Lives Columbia, Missouri
March For Our Lives Connecticut
March For Our Lives Delaware
March for Our Lives DC
March For Our Lives Fargo, North Dakota
March for Our Lives FAU
March For Our Lives Florida
March For Our Lives Gainesville, Florida
March For Our Lives Geneva
March for Our Lives Illinois
March For Our Lives Indiana
March For Our Lives Maryland
March For Our Lives Minnesota
March For Our Lives Naperville, Illinois
March For Our Lives Naples
March For Our Lives New Jersey
March For Our Lives North Carolina
March For Our Lives Ocala
March for Our Lives OCSA
March for Our Lives Orlando, Illinois
March For Our Lives Parkland, Florida
March for Our Lives Scarborough, Maine
March For Our Lives Tallahassee, Florida
March for our Lives Tampa, Florida
March For Our Lives Terre Haute, IN
March for Our Lives Texas
March for Our Lives UPenn
March For Our Lives USF

March for Our Lives Ventura County, California
March For Our Lives West Palm Beach, Florida
March For Our Lives: Emerson College
Midwest Coalition for Responsible Investment
New Mexico Dream Team
North Carolinians Against Gun Violence
NYCD16-Indivisible
OPAL
Region VI Coalition for Responsible Investment
Santa Cruz Women's March
Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia
Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Aberdeen, South Dakota
Stop Handgun Violence
The Children's Partnership
UPenn Democrats
WAVE Educational Fund
Woman's National Democratic Club
Women's March Inland Empire
Women's March San Jose
Women's March Monterey Bay
Women's March Napa Valley
Women's March San Diego
Women's March San Francisco