



MAJOR CITIES CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

February 8, 2019

The Honorable Jerrold Nadler
Committee on the Judiciary
Chairman
2132 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Doug Collins
Committee on the Judiciary
Ranking Member
1504 Longworth HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Nadler and Ranking Member Collins,

The Major Cities Chiefs Association, representing the Nation's largest metropolitan law enforcement agencies, commends the Committee on the Judiciary for their efforts to advance H.R. 8: *Bipartisan Background Checks Act of 2019*. Gun violence is a tragic and never-ending epidemic in our country that demands that we take steps to ensure background checks for all gun sales and transfers. This is the established policy of Major Cities Chiefs, approved by a vote of our membership.

Your hearing on February 6, 2019, showed how many murders have taken place because guns were obtained by serious criminals, disturbed persons and violent predators who should never have been permitted to purchase a firearm.

The lack of a background check for private sales and gun shows completely contradicts the purpose for which NICS was established – to keep guns out of the hands of those who do harm. Our thanks to Representative Thompson and the many cosponsors who have heard our call for action.

We applaud the Committee for the introduction of this Bill, and we look forward to Congress passing this Act as it leads the way in protecting our Nation from more acts of gun violence that could have otherwise been averted. Law enforcement officials and victims of gun violence have asked you for leadership and you have answered us. Please know you will have our strong support.

Sincerely,

Art Acevedo
President, Major Cities Chiefs Association
Chief, Houston Police Department

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