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February 11, 2019

Committee on the Judiciary
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative:

On behalf of our three million members and the 50 million students they serve, we urge you to VOTE YES on the Bipartisan Background Checks Act of 2019 (H.R. 8), which would require a background check for every gun sold, as well as most transfers. Votes associated with this issue may be included in NEA's Report Card for the 116th Congress.

NEA supports universal background checks because:

- We need fewer guns in schools, not more.
- [Everytown for Gun Safety](#) reports that we have had nearly 400 school shootings since 2013.
- NEA members overwhelmingly support universal background checks — as do most Americans.
- In the March 2018 [Monmouth University Poll](#), 83 percent of respondents supported comprehensive background checks for all gun sales, including 69 percent of NRA members and 78 percent of gun owners who are not NRA members.

We also urge you to support the Enhanced Background Checks Act of 2019 (H.R. 1112), which would strengthen procedures for transferring a firearm from someone who is a federal firearms licensee to someone who is not such a licensee.

But background checks are only a first step. We also need to expand the focus on mental health, establish more school-based health centers, and increase funding for educators' professional development in bullying, mental and behavioral health, and related areas. In addition, Congress should provide funding for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to research gun violence as a public health issue.

To help keep our students safe, we urge you to VOTE YES on H.R. 8.

Sincerely,

Marc Egan
Director of Government Relations
National Education Association