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Dear Representative,

I'm writing on behalf of the 90,000 members and supporters of the National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) to urge your support for HR 8, the Bipartisan Background Checks Act of 2019. This bill is a critical step to ensure the safety of our communities.

HR 8 would require a background check on every gun sale or transfer, with exceptions for gifts to family members, hunting, target shooting, and self-defense. Federal law already requires licensed gun dealers to conduct background checks on gun purchasers and transferees. HR 8 would require unlicensed gun sellers to utilize this same system by requiring them to sell or transfer firearms only through licensed dealers.

Under current federal law, unlicensed sellers can sell guns at gun shows, online, and person-to-person without conducting any background check on the purchaser. This loophole can have dangerous consequences. When unlicensed sellers don't run background checks, individuals looking to commit violence can easily obtain guns, often with deadly consequences. Data shows that gun offenders overwhelmingly obtain their guns through private sales.

When background checks are required and enforced, they help keep guns out of dangerous hands. Background checks are easy, convenient, and inflict no burden on law-abiding gun purchasers. According to Giffords: Courage to Fight Gun Violence, 97% of the American public supports laws requiring background checks on all firearm purchases.

NCJW has long worked for gun safety measures in Washington, DC and in states across the US. No one should have to worry about being shot at school, while worshiping, going to the movies, or living their daily lives. Passing HR 8 would go a long way towards prioritizing ending gun violence in this country.

Sincerely,



Nancy K. Kaufman  
CEO  
National Council of Jewish Women