

March 3, 2021

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Republican Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Majority Leader McConnell, Leader Schumer, Speaker Pelosi, and Leader McCarthy,

I am writing today as the Founder and President of Grandparents Against Gun Violence, a local, all volunteer organization of interested, interesting people who support gun safety. We began in 2013 after the tragedy at Sandy Hook in 2012 and following the complete lack of action in 2013 regarding common ground gun legislation in spite of pleas from the bereaved families. When we began, we focused solely on gaining passage of gun legislation that was so sorely need – particularly background checks, overwhelmingly favored by the public. In the face of total lack of action on the part of both our KS and MO legislatures, as well as the intransigence of Congress, we have since expanded our activities to community education and the distribution of free gun locks to the community through our Lock It for Love project. However, passing sensible gun regulations remains a priority.

Since 1993, the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) has conducted firearm background checks on gun purchasers. Federally licensed dealers must run a check through NICS to determine whether a potential buyer is prohibited from purchasing firearms. If information in NICS shows that a person is indeed prohibited, the dealer must deny the sale.

However, there is a loophole in federal law and no background check is required for sales at gun shows, through online marketplaces, or between private individuals. Individuals who would otherwise be prohibited from purchasing or possessing a gun can easily buy guns through such unregulated sales. And the frequency of these unregulated sales is concerning: recent studies indicate that approximately [22 percent of firearms are purchased without a background check](#), and up to 80% of firearms used in crimes are obtained without a background check.

H.R.8 / Bipartisan Background Checks Act and the complementary S.529/ Background Check Expansion Act would require a background check on every sale, ensuring that people prohibited from purchasing firearms cannot exploit loopholes and purchase guns through an unregulated sale at a gun show, online, or from an unlicensed seller. In addition, individuals would no longer be able to cross state lines solely to purchase a firearm in a state with less stringent background checks. Closing these background check loopholes is critical to reducing gun violence throughout the United States.

As I stated in the beginning of this letter – our Grandparents Against Gun Violence organization has long supported background checks and are doing so again today. We are advocates for gun safety and this bill will help eliminate guns being in the hands of people who should not have them.

We urge you to pass H.R. 8 / the Bipartisan Background Checks Act and the complementary Senate Bill. as soon as possible.

Sincerely,