

June 20, 2016

United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators:

We, the undersigned 204 national, state and local organizations, write to urge you to keep guns out of the hands of dangerous people by supporting Senator Christopher Murphy's amendment, S.Amdt. 4750, to the Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations Bill (S.2837) and rejecting an alternative proposal offered by Senator Charles Grassley that would roll back current federal law and allow those adjudicated mentally ill to buy guns.

Senator Murphy's amendment is based on a bill recently introduced by Senator Charles Schumer (S.2934) to expand Brady background checks to all gun sales. We strongly support this amendment, which is also sponsored by Senators Schumer and Cory Booker. If enacted, this measure will dramatically reduce America's current public health epidemic of gun violence that claims the lives of 91 people, and injures more than 200 people, each and every day. In the wake of the biggest mass shooting in U.S. history – an act of hate and domestic terrorism perpetrated against our brothers and sisters in Orlando just last week – we have had **ENOUGH**. It is far past time that Congress act to **DISARM HATE** by passing this proposal.

The amendment expands Brady background checks to all gun sales including sales initiated online and at gun shows, and it will help to keep guns out of the hands of dangerous and prohibited people like felons, fugitives and domestic abusers. The amendment will also improve reporting of prohibited purchasers to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS), by requiring federal agencies to certify that they have provided appropriate records to NICS. Finally, it increases responsibility for individual gun owners to report their lost or stolen firearm(s) to law enforcement within 48 hours to assure that law enforcement is able to deter, detect and apprehend gun traffickers.

Most recently, based on research released by Harvard University in 2015, we know that as many as 40 percent of guns sold today in the U.S. are sold by unlicensed sellers, including at gun shows and online where Brady background checks are not required by federal law. For example, Armslist.com hosts upwards of 70,000 gun advertisements at any given time and many of the guns can be purchased without a background check. We know that Brady Background checks keep guns out of the hands of dangerous people like felons, domestic abusers, and those adjudicated mentally ill. According to FBI data, the Brady Law has blocked more than 2.6 million gun sales to prohibited people since it went into effect in 1994. We also know that Brady background checks for unlicensed sales save lives. According to Everytown for Gun Safety research, in states with expanded background checks, 48 percent fewer law enforcement officers are killed with handguns; 46 percent fewer women are shot to death by intimate partners; and there are 48 percent fewer gun suicides. Finally, we know that more than 90 percent of the American people overwhelmingly support expanding Brady background checks to all gun sales.

Therefore, we the undersigned organizations strongly support its passage by Congress as a top priority to dramatically reduce America's current public health epidemic of gun injuries and deaths.

We also strongly oppose S.Amdt. 4751 to the Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations Bill (S.2837) filed by Senator Grassley. Senator Grassley's amendment would repeal longstanding law and make it legal for previously prohibited people to buy guns. Specifically, this proposal would allow people who have been involuntarily committed due to severe mental illness to buy a gun immediately after leaving a psychiatric hospital and enable veterans who suffer from severe mental illness, and who are at risk of suicide, to legally buy guns. Furthermore, it would invalidate hundreds of thousands of mental health records already in the NICS background check system.

Senator Murphy's amendment would keep guns out of the hands of dangerous people by requiring criminal background checks on all gun sales. Meanwhile, Senator Grassley's proposal leaves the background check loophole wide open, and actually makes it easier for previously prohibited and adjudicated mentally ill to buy guns. We support Murphy's amendment and oppose Grassley's and urge all Members of Congress to vote accordingly.

Sincerely,

Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence united with Million Mom March (MMM)  
Academic Consortium for Integrative Medicine and Health  
American College of Emergency Physicians  
American College of Physicians  
American Federation of Teachers  
Americans for Democratic Action (ADA)  
American Medical Women's Association  
American Psychological Association  
American State Legislators for Gun Violence Prevention Steering Committee  
Arizonans for Gun Safety  
Art= Ammo Artists Against Gun Violence  
Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, AFL-CIO (APALA)  
BattleBorn Nevada  
Brave New Films  
Bridgeport, CT Child Advocacy Coalition  
Campaign To Unload  
Ceasefire Oregon  
CeaseFire Pennsylvania  
Center for American Progress  
Children's Defense Fund  
Coalition Against Gun Violence  
CODEPINK Women for Peace  
Committee of Interns and Residents/SEIU Healthcare  
Connecticut Against Gun Violence  
Colorado Ceasefire Legislative Action  
David Clark, Chair of the ABA's Standing Committee on Gun Violence  
Delaware Coalition Against Gun Violence  
Doctors Council SEIU

Doctors for America  
End the Madness  
Every Child Matters  
Everytown for Gun Safety  
Faith United Against Gun Violence  
Fairfax County (VA) Citizens Against Gun Violence  
Fuse Washington  
Generation Lockdown  
Generation Progress Action  
Georgians for Gun Safety  
Goods Not Guns  
Grandparents Against Gun Violence (MO)  
Greenwich (CT) Council Against Gun Violence  
Gun Owners for Responsible Ownership Political Action Committee (Oregon)  
Gun Sense South Carolina  
Gun Sense Vermont  
Gun Violence Prevention Center of Utah  
Hawaii Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence  
Hawaii Public Health Association  
Hoosiers Concerned About Gun Violence  
Illinois Council against Handgun Violence  
Iowans for Gun Safety  
Joint Action Committee (JAC)  
Maine Gun Safety Coalition  
MALDEF: The Latino Legal Voice for Civil Rights in America  
Marylanders to Prevent Gun Violence  
Mi Familia Vota  
Michigan Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence  
Minority Health Institute  
Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America  
MomsRising.org  
MoveOn.org  
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd  
National Association of State Head Injury Administrators  
National Cathedral Gun Violence Prevention Group  
National Council of Jewish Women  
National Education Association  
National Medical Council on Gun Violence  
National Network of Public Health Institutes  
National Physicians Alliance  
Nebraskans Against Gun Violence  
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice  
Newtown Action Alliance  
New Mexicans To Prevent Gun Violence  
New Yorkers Against Gun Violence  
North Carolinians Against Gun Violence  
Ohio Coalition Against Gun Violence  
OK GunSense

One Wisconsin Now  
Oregon Alliance for Gun Safety  
Parents Against Gun Crime  
People For the American Way  
Physicians for Prevention of Gun Violence  
Progress Florida  
ProgressNow  
Progress Now Colorado  
Protect Minnesota  
Protest Easy Guns  
Rabbis Against Gun Violence  
Rhode Island Coalition Against Gun Violence  
Safe Tennessee Project  
Sandy Hook Promise  
States United to Prevent Gun Violence  
Stop Handgun Violence (MA)  
Texas Gun Sense  
The Campaign to Keep Guns off Campus  
The Courage Campaign (CA)  
The Koop Institute  
The Northwest Corner Committee for Gun Violence Prevention (Salisbury, Ct.)  
The United States Conference of Mayors  
The Virginia GVP Coalition  
The Virginia Center for Public Safety  
20 Children  
UltraViolet  
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax (VA)  
Union for Reform Judaism  
United Physicians of Newtown  
Violence Policy Center  
Voices for Progress  
Washington Alliance for Gun Responsibility  
Washington Ceasefire  
Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA)  
Wisconsin Anti-Violence Effort (WAVE) Educational Fund  
Women Against Gun Violence (California)  
Women's Law Project  
Women's Voices Raised for Social Justice, St. Louis, MO

**Brady and MMM Chapters**

Central Arkansas Brady Chapter  
Greater Phoenix, AZ MMM Chapter  
Antelope Valley, CA Brady Chapter  
Contra Costa County, CA Brady Chapter  
Long Beach, CA Brady Chapter  
Los Angeles Brady Chapter  
Marin County, CA Brady Chapter  
Napa County, CA Brady Chapter

Nevada-Placer, CA Brady Chapter  
Oakland/Alameda County, CA Brady Chapter  
Orange County, CA Brady Chapter  
Pomona Valley, CA Brady Chapter  
Riverside County, CA Brady Chapter  
Sacramento Valley, CA Brady Chapter  
San Diego, CA Brady Chapter  
San Fernando Valley, CA Brady Chapter  
San Francisco, CA Brady Chapter  
San Joaquin Valley, CA Brady Chapter  
San Luis Obispo, CA Brady Chapter  
San Mateo County, CA Brady Chapter  
Santa Barbara, CA Brady Chapter  
Santa Clara County, CA Brady Chapter  
Santa Cruz County, CA Brady Chapter  
Solano County, CA Brady Chapter  
Sonoma County, CA Brady Chapter  
South Bay Los Angeles, CA Brady Chapter  
Tri-City Alameda County, CA Brady Chapter  
Ventura County, CA Brady Chapter  
Yolo County, CA Brady Chapter  
Denver, CO Brady Chapter  
Eastern Connecticut Brady Chapter  
Greater Danbury, CT Brady Chapter  
Southwestern Connecticut Brady Chapter  
Warren, CT Brady Chapter  
District of Columbia Brady Chapter  
Delaware MMM Chapter  
Central Florida Brady Chapter  
Sarasota County, Florida Brady Chapter  
Metro Atlanta, GA MMM Chapter  
Savannah, Georgia Brady Chapter  
Hawaii Brady Chapter  
Greater Chicagoland Brady Chapter  
Western Illinois Brady Chapter  
Latah County, Idaho Brady Chapter  
Northeast Kansas Brady Chapter  
Lexington and Central Kentucky MMM Chapter  
New Orleans, LA Brady Chapter  
Massachusetts Brady Chapter  
Brady Boston, MA Chapter  
Montgomery County, MD Brady Chapter  
Michigan MMM Chapter  
Northland Minnesota MMM Chapter  
Brady Twin Cities, MN Chapter  
Metro St. Louis, MO Brady Chapter  
St. Charles, MO Brady Chapter  
Eastern North Carolina Brady Chapter

Brady Triangle Area Chapter, North Carolina  
Brady Bergen County, New Jersey Chapter  
Essex County, New Jersey MMM Chapter  
Mercer County, New Jersey MMM Chapter  
Brady/MMM Middlesex County New Jersey Chapter  
Monmouth/Ocean County, New Jersey MMM Chapter  
Warren New Jersey MMM Chapter  
Sussex County, NJ MMM Chapter  
North Central New Mexico Brady  
Southern Nevada Brady Chapter  
Northern Westchester County, NY MMM Chapter  
Northern Westchester County, NY MMM Chapter  
Greater Rochester, NY Brady/MMM Chapter  
New York City, NY Brady Chapter  
Brady Dayton, Ohio Chapter  
Central Ohio Brady/MMM Chapter  
Central Oklahoma Brady Chapter  
Lane County (Eugene, Oregon) MMM Chapter  
Portland, Oregon MMM Chapter  
Brady/MMM Greater Pittsburgh Area, PA Chapter  
Brady South Central PA Chapter  
Rhode Island Brady Chapter  
Georgetown County, SC Brady  
Grand Strand, SC Brady Chapter  
Charleston, SC Brady Chapter  
Brady Barnwell County, SC Chapter  
Central Texas Brady Chapter  
North Texas Brady Chapter  
Hampton Roads, VA MMM Chapter  
Richmond, VA MMM Chapter  
Northern Virginia MMM Chapter  
Seattle, WA Brady Chapter  
Clark County (Vancouver), WA MMM Chapter  
Brady Monongalia County, WV Chapter