

Members of the 116th Congress:

We, the undersigned organizations, strongly urge you to cosponsor and quickly pass H.R. 8, the Bipartisan Background Check Act, and S. 42, the Background Check Expansion Act, to require Brady background checks for all firearm transfers.

In the 25 years since the Brady Law was enacted, more than 3 million prohibited firearm purchases have been prevented. In 2015 alone, an average of 619 individuals per day were deemed by law to be too dangerous to possess a gun and were blocked by this system.

Background checks are conclusively effective and have saved countless lives. However, because only federally licensed firearms dealers are required to conduct these checks, an estimated one in five gun sales or transfers - those conducted by private sellers, including sales online and at gun shows - are completed without a background check. Felons, domestic abusers and other dangerous people have long exploited these gaps in the law, often with deadly consequences.

H.R. 8 and S. 42 will make us all safer by requiring a background check for virtually every firearm sale and transfer. The bills include narrow, reasonable exceptions like transfers among close family members and short-term gun loans among hunters and sport shooters. The legislation does nothing to impede lawful gun purchases, while closing off a wide and well-known avenue for illegal transactions by prohibited, and often dangerous, buyers. And it enjoys the support of 97% of Americans, including large majorities of gun owners and NRA members.

We urge you to act quickly to pass this life-saving legislation.

Sincerely,

The Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence  
American Federation of Teachers (AFT)  
League of Women Voters of the US  
Children's Defense Fund  
The United States Conference of Mayors  
Major Cities Chiefs Association  
National PTA

National Education Association (NEA)  
American Public Health Association  
Color of Change  
Indivisible  
National Association of Social Workers (NASW)  
Hispanic American Police Commanders Association (HAPCOA)  
VoteVets  
MomsRising  
People for the American Way  
New York Professional Nurses Union  
Doctors for America  
Nurses Against Gun Violence  
Bishops United Against Gun Violence  
Docs Demand Action  
This Is Our Lane  
American Medical Student Association  
Equality Florida  
Grandmothers for Peace International  
Friends Committee on National Legislation  
Union for Reform Judaism  
National Physicians Alliance  
Joint Action Committee  
Newtown Action Alliance  
Sandy Hook Promise  
Amnesty International