

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 3, 2016

Thomas E. Brandon
Director
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives
99 New York Ave, NE
Washington, DC 20226

Dear Mr. Brandon,

Gun violence is one of the most pressing crises facing our nation. Every day, 30 people are killed and 150 people are injured as a result of gun violence. These crimes are perpetrated, in many cases, by individuals who manipulate the system in order to obtain a firearm through theft, straw purchases, corrupt Federal firearms licensees, or other nefarious means.

In 2000, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) published a report titled "Following the Gun," which examined where and how criminals obtain their firearms. At the time, this influential report shed light on the state of gun violence in this country, but this information is now almost two decades old. In the absence of new data, Congressional offices and research organizations continue to regularly cite possibly outdated statistics from the report such as that in their speeches and websites. Therefore, we request that the ATF publish an updated report in light of recent mass shootings that have unfortunately become more and more commonplace. It is our duty to do everything we can to ensure that our loved ones and neighbors are not the next victims of gun violence.

In his foreword of the "Following the Gun" report, then-ATF Director Bradley Buckles noted that "the case analysis presented here will help us develop the most effective possible enforcement strategies. This report demonstrates the effectiveness of State and local law enforcement agencies and prosecutors joining ATF in 'following the crime gun' to the gun's illegal supplier, and targeting that supplier and others in the chain of illegal transfers." These words were true in 2000, but they are even more accurate and urgent today.

Gun violence is largely preventable if the right measures are taken. Weeding out bad actors within the firearm supply chain is imperative to maintaining the safety of our children and communities. One crucial way to ensure that weak points in the chain are identified and eliminated is crime gun tracing. Tracing allows law enforcement to pinpoint where a firearm originated, when it was sold and by whom, if the firearm was stolen, and other useful information that can be used to prosecute gun violence perpetrators in court.

We recognize that this report was compiled over the span of 18 months and required tremendous manpower as well as close law enforcement collaboration, but given the grave state of affairs we

currently find ourselves in, an updated report is more necessary than ever. We thank you for taking the time to consider our request to provide valuable information that will potentially save the lives of several Americans and assist in keeping our communities safer for all.

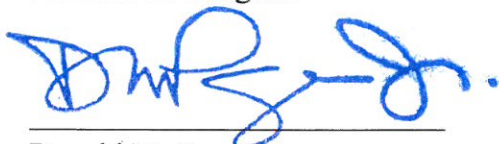
Sincerely,



Mike Quigley
Member of Congress



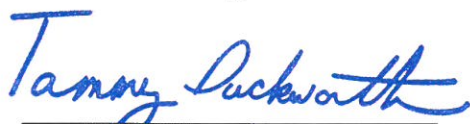
Mike Thompson
Member of Congress



Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Member of Congress



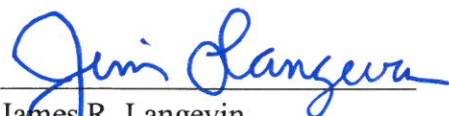
Joseph P. Kennedy III
Member of Congress



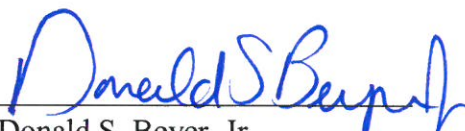
Tammy Duckworth
Member of Congress



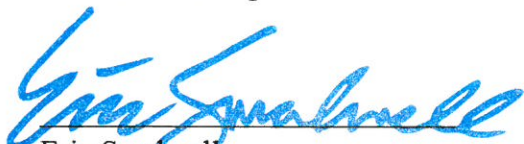
Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress



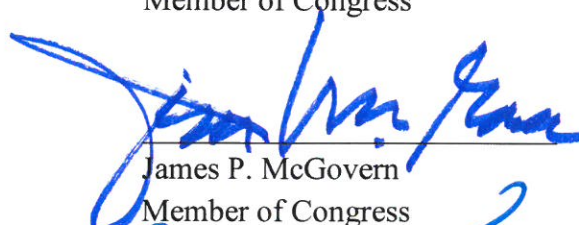
James R. Langevin
Member of Congress



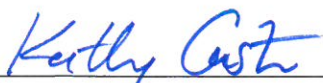
Donald S. Beyer, Jr.
Member of Congress



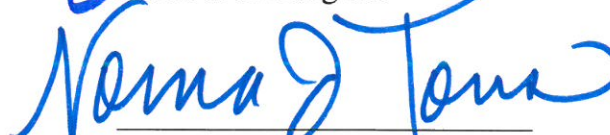
Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress



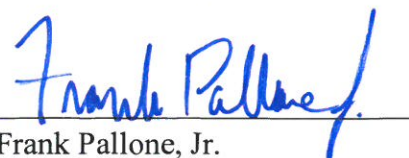
James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



Kathy Castor
Member of Congress



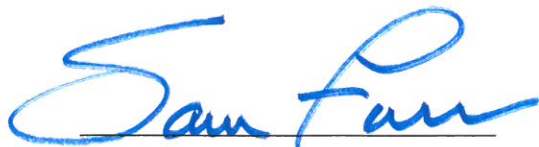
Norma J. Torres
Member of Congress



Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress



Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



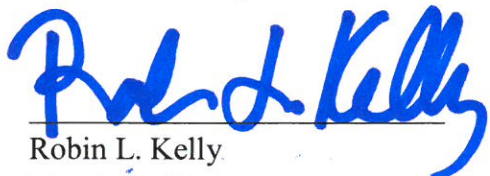
Sam Farr

Member of Congress



Brenda L. Lawrence

Member of Congress



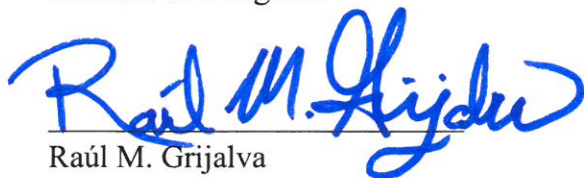
Robin L. Kelly

Member of Congress



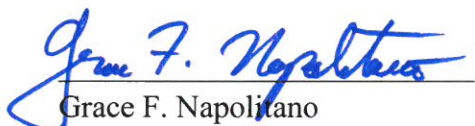
Kathleen M. Rice

Member of Congress



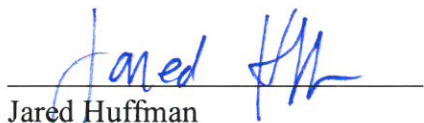
Raúl M. Grijalva

Member of Congress



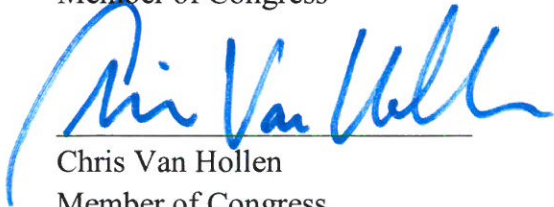
Grace F. Napolitano

Member of Congress



Jared Huffman

Member of Congress



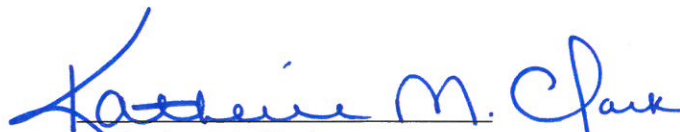
Chris Van Hollen

Member of Congress



Michael M. Honda

Member of Congress



Katherine M. Clark

Member of Congress



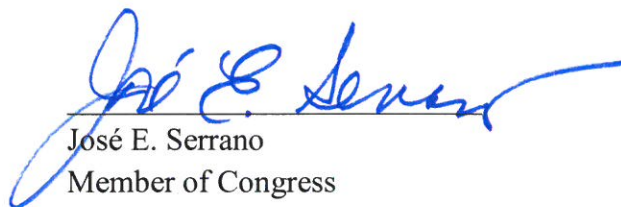
Jerrold Nadler

Member of Congress



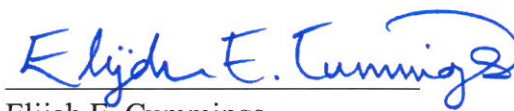
Eleanor Holmes Norton

Member of Congress



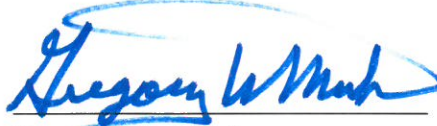
José E. Serrano

Member of Congress



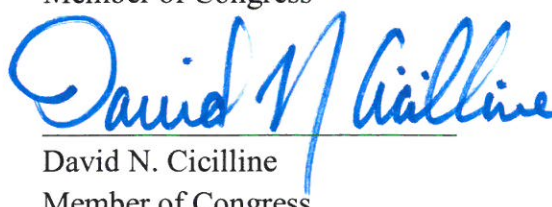
Elijah E. Cummings

Member of Congress




Gregory W. Meeks

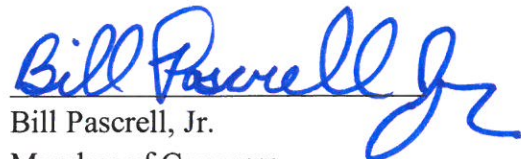
Member of Congress

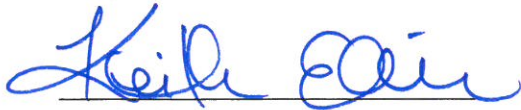


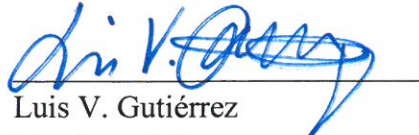
David N. Cicilline

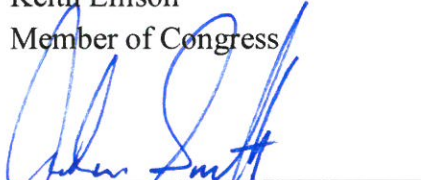
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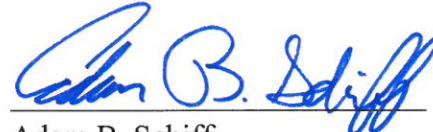

Betty McCollum
Member of Congress



Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress

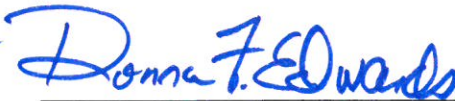

Keith Ellison
Member of Congress



Luis V. Gutiérrez
Member of Congress



Adam Smith
Member of Congress

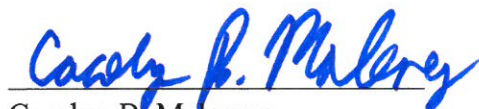

Adam B. Schiff
Member of Congress

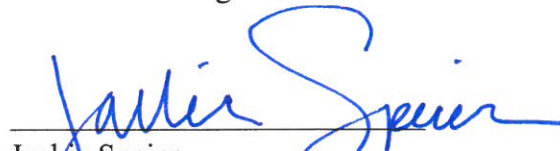

Jerry McNerney
Member of Congress

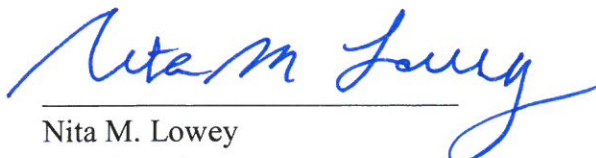

Donna F. Edwards
Member of Congress

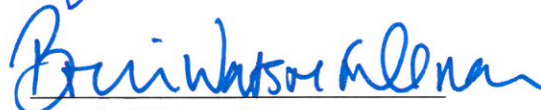

Barbara Lee
Member of Congress

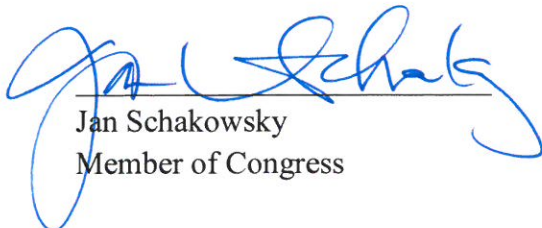

Steve Israel
Member of Congress

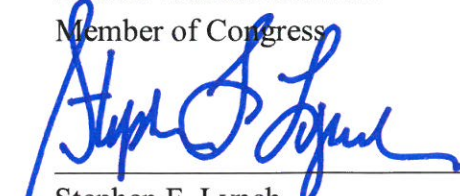

Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress


Jackie Speier
Member of Congress


Nita M. Lowey
Member of Congress

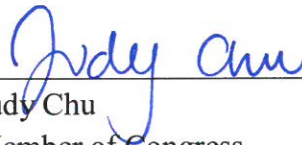

Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress


Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress


Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress



William R. Keating
Member of Congress



Judy Chu
Member of Congress