



# CITY OF HOUSTON

**Sylvester Turner**

Mayor

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Dear Members of the Houston Congressional Delegation:

I am writing to urgently express my support for legislation that would close gaping loopholes in our federal background check system for gun purchases. HR 8, the Bipartisan Background Check Act of 2019, is badly needed to make our system work, as intended. It's the kind of sensible gun legislation that doesn't threaten the rights of law-abiding citizens. The only people who are worried about not passing a background check are people that we don't want having access to firearms.

Language from the bill itself, makes it simple: "The purpose of this Act is to utilize the current background checks process in the United States to ensure individuals prohibited from gun possession are not able to obtain firearms." This is the kind of common-sense gun legislation everyone should get behind. The legislation explicitly states that it does not authorize "the establishment, directly or indirectly, of a national firearms registry."

HR 8 would require that all firearm purchases undergo a NICS background check. Currently, dangerous individuals can circumvent the system through unlicensed and unregulated sales. It would also increase law enforcement's ability to trace guns that have been used in a crime. The bill currently has 232 co-sponsors, five of whom are Republicans.

Universal background checks enjoy overwhelming public support. They consistently poll over 80 percent, including with majority support among Republicans and gun owners — it's not just good policy, it's good politics. While this bill is expected to pass, a strong, bipartisan show of support would help ensure its full consideration in the Senate. HR 8 would go a long way in making our citizens safer without infringing on anyone's rights. I urge you to give it your full support.

Sincerely,

Sylvester Turner  
Mayor