



NNEDV
NATIONAL NETWORK
TO END DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE

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The Honorable John Cornyn
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Cornyn:

On behalf of the National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV), our 56 member state and territorial coalitions, their more than 2,000 local programs, and the millions of victims they serve, I am writing to commend your leadership in introducing the Fix NICS Act.

Your bipartisan bill would help to avert future tragedies by ensuring that domestic violence records are submitted into the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) thoroughly and accurately. As you know, the background check system is broken. Inconsistent implementation of current law leaves domestic violence victims dangerously vulnerable. This legislation will save lives by keeping firearms out of the hands of people with a history of domestic abuse.

The deadly connection between domestic violence fatalities and an abuser's ability to access firearms is clear. Too many unacceptable gaps in the background check system have allowed dangerous perpetrators easy access to deadly weapons. The Domestic Abuse and Violence Prevention Initiative in this legislation provides states with adequate funding and resources to share prohibitory information with NICS. This bill also requires federal and state agencies to submit NICS implementation plans that outline how they will upload all prohibitory information into the background check system. Additionally, it provides incentives to states to comply with their NICS implementation plan and holds agencies accountable for failure to submit relevant records.

NNEDV looks forward to working with you to urge Congress to move with a sense of urgency to disarm domestic abusers and pass the Fix NICS Act. Again, thank you for your leadership on this bipartisan effort to fix the broken background check system and to save lives. As you continue to work on these important issues, please feel free to contact Michelle Mitchell, Director of Government Relations, at mmitchell@nnedv.org should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

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