

Honorable John Cornyn
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20515

11/22/17

Dear Senator Cornyn:

Please accept this letter as the Texas Council on Family Violence's **wholehearted support for the Fix NICS Act**. Your Senate colleagues with your leadership clearly see the significant need for addressing the federal government's approach to recording domestic violence convictions for the purpose of prohibiting possession by those offenders.

As you know, violence at home too often erupts into neighborhoods, workplaces and indeed places of worship. These heartbreaking domestic violence related murders in our own Texas community tear at the very fabric of our state. Points of fact: In an analysis of mass shootings nationally between 2009 and 2015 perpetrators killed intimate partners or other family members in 57% of the cases. In 15% of the cases, the perpetrator had a prior domestic violence charge. Moreover, in Texas in the last year, 146 women lost their lives at the hands of a male intimate partner, an additional 24 children and adults were killed in those 146 incidents. In 2016, Texas experienced eight incidents of familicide and firearms were used in 68% of the 146 incidents. With 15 military bases in Texas alone, your leadership with the Fix NICS Act comes at that perfect time and is simply **the right thing to do**.

As we continue our efforts to address violence, we must work to avoid underestimating the reach and devastation of domestic violence, seeing it only as a microcosm, as something that happens privately between two people. Yet domestic violence thrives in the silence and obliviousness we give it. Only when we confront the very conditions which allow domestic violence to exist will our homes, public spaces and places of worship be truly safe.

We stand ready to help in these efforts and lend our hand in swift passage of this legislation.

Sincerely,



Gloria Terry
TCFV CEO



Leigh Fry
TCFV Board Chair



Jaime Esparza
TCFV Incoming Board Chair