



THE UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF MAYORS

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CEO and Executive Director
TOM COCHRAN

November 17, 2017

The Honorable John Cornyn
United States Senate
517 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Christopher Murphy
United States Senate
136 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Cornyn and Murphy,

I write you on behalf of the nation's mayors to commend you for introducing the Fix NICS Act (S. 2135) and to register our strong support for it. The horrific mass shooting in Sutherland Springs is just another reminder of the tragic consequences that occur when people who should be prohibited from purchasing firearms through our background check system are able to do so because their records have not been submitted to it. It is critical that federal agencies and states comply with the law and upload all critical records to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System. Your bill will help to make this happen and help to prevent criminals and domestic abusers from obtaining firearms.

Your bill would require federal agencies and states to produce NICS implementation plans, hold federal agencies accountable if they fail to upload relevant records, provide incentives to states that comply with their NICS implementation plans, reauthorize and improve law enforcement programs that help state governments share relevant criminal record information with NICS, and create a Domestic Abuse and Violence Prevention Initiative to ensure that states have adequate resources and incentives to share all relevant information with NICS.

As a bipartisan organization, we are especially glad to see a bipartisan approach to strengthening our background check system and reducing gun violence in our nation. The U.S. Conference of Mayors stands ready to work with you to see this important legislation enacted into law as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

Tom Cochran
CEO and Executive Director