



April 15, 2021

RE: DPSFV Supports House Bill 8 – The Bipartisan Background Check Act

Representatives of the Honorable San Fernando Valley Delegation:

On behalf of the Democratic Party of the San Fernando Valley (DPSFV), we are pleased to report that our Executive Board voted to support HR 8, the Bipartisan Background Check Act. This bill establishes new background check requirements for firearm transfers between private parties (i.e., unlicensed individuals). Specifically, it prohibits a firearm transfer between private parties unless a licensed gun dealer, manufacturer, or importer first takes possession of the firearm to conduct a background check.

We urge you to please support this important piece of legislation.

DPSFV was founded in 1978 and is chartered by the Los Angeles County Democratic Central Committee. Our organization is the coordinating body for a coalition of twenty-one Democratic Clubs located in the six Assembly Districts (38, 39, 43, 45, 46, and 50) which are wholly or partially in the San Fernando Valley.

The DPSFV Political Action Committee met last month to discuss HR 8 and voted to recommend that the DPSFV Executive Board support this vital piece of legislation. The committee noted that 93 percent of Americans, including 64 percent of Republicans, are in favor of background checks on all gun sales. Evidence shows that requiring background checks on all gun sales saves lives and makes American communities safer. State laws requiring background checks for all handgun sales—by point-of-sale check and/or permit—are associated with lower firearm homicide rates, lower firearm suicide rates and lower firearm trafficking. State laws requiring background checks for all handgun sales are associated with 48 percent lower rates of gun trafficking in cities and 29 percent lower rates of gun trafficking across state lines.

A loophole in federal law enables domestic abusers, fugitives from justice, and people prohibited from possessing guns due to mental illness to buy guns with no background checks. The law does not cover sales by unlicensed sellers, enabling prohibited people to buy guns from unlicensed sellers with no background checks.

H.R. 8 would block prohibited people from buying guns by requiring background checks for all gun sales. No one should be able to avoid a background check simply by purchasing a gun from an unlicensed seller. Under this bill, unlicensed sellers would meet their buyers at a licensed gun dealer, who would run a background check using the same process already used for sales from their own inventory.

We urge you to support HR 8.

Please note that DPSFV will be tracking this bill as it travels through Congress. Your voting record will be noted and may be considered should you ever seek our endorsement. Your office is always welcome to contact DPSFV if you have any questions.

Sincerely and respectfully,

Chair Sean M. Rivas
Democratic Party of the San Fernando Valley

cc: U.S. Representative Mike Thompson

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