February 27, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Democratic Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Leader McConnell and Leader Schumer:

On February 27, 2019 – one year ago today – the U.S. House of Representatives passed H.R. 8, the Bipartisan Background Check Act of 2019, on a bipartisan vote of 240-190. That bill would close serious loopholes in the background check system. The next day the House passed H.R. 1112, the Enhanced Background Checks Act of 2019, on a bipartisan vote of 228-198. Both of these life-saving bills have been awaiting action in the Senate ever since.

H.R. 8 and H.R. 1112 are sensible gun safety bills that will make our cities safer, in no way compromise gun owners’ rights, and are supported by more than 90 percent of Americans. As the bipartisan leadership of the United States Conference of Mayors, we urge you to take up these bills now!

On August 7, 2019, immediately following the mass shootings in El Paso and Dayton, 214 bipartisan mayors from across the country sent a letter to you urging the Senate to take action on bipartisan gun safety legislation. The letter was signed by Republican and Democratic mayors, including Mayor Dee Margo of El Paso and Mayor Nan Whaley of Dayton. By August 14 the number of bipartisan mayors who signed the letter grew to more than 250. Today it stands at 279.

On October 28, 2019, the Presidents of the U.S. Conference of Mayors and the Major Cities Chiefs Association co-signed a letter urging the Senate to consider immediate legislation that would establish a strong system for background checks that will cover all firearms purchases.

America’s mayors are about getting things done. When we are confronted with a problem in our cities and there is something we can do to alleviate it, we do it. We expect no less of our elected leaders in Washington. H.R. 8 and H.R. 1112 will help to reduce gun violence in our country. The Senate should take action on them now.
Sincerely,

Bryan K. Barnett  
Mayor of Rochester Hills, MI  
President

Greg Fischer  
Mayor of Louisville  
Vice President

Nan Whaley  
Mayor of Dayton  
Second Vice President

Steve Benjamin  
Mayor of Columbia, SC  
Past President

Elizabeth Kautz  
Mayor of Burnsville  
Past President

Tom Cochran  
CEO and Executive Director

cc. Members of the U.S. Senate