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February 25, 2019

United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative:

On behalf of our 3 million members and the 50 million students they serve, we urge you to VOTE YES on the Bipartisan Background Checks Act of 2019 (H.R. 8), which requires a background check for every gun sold as well as most transfers, and the Enhanced Background Checks Act of 2019 (H.R. 1112), which extends the initial background check review period from 3 to 10 days. Votes associated with these issues may be included in NEA's Report Card for the 116th Congress.

NEA supports this legislation because:

- [Everytown for Gun Safety](#) reports that we have had more than 400 school shootings since 2013.
- Firearms are the leading cause of death for African American children, and the second leading cause of death for all American children.
- NEA members overwhelmingly support universal background checks — as do most Americans.
- In the March 2018 [Monmouth University Poll](#), 83 percent of respondents supported comprehensive background checks for all gun sales, including 69 percent of NRA members and 78 percent of gun owners who are not NRA members.
- We must narrow the “Charleston loophole” in current law that allows gun ownership to be transferred after 3 days even if the background check is incomplete.

But background checks are only a first step. We also need to expand the focus on mental health, establish more school-based health centers, and increase funding for educators' professional development with programs to combat bullying, foster mental and behavioral health, and address related areas. In addition, Congress should provide funding for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to research gun violence as a public health issue.

To help keep our students safe, we urge you to VOTE YES on H.R. 8 and H.R. 1112.

Sincerely,

Marc Egan  
Director of Government Relations  
National Education Association