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Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator:

On behalf of our 3 million members and the 50 million students they serve, we thank the Senate Judiciary Committee for holding the “Red Flag Laws: Examining Guidelines for State Action” hearing, scheduled for tomorrow.

Red Flag Laws are a crucial aspect of a comprehensive approach to gun violence prevention because:

- Red Flag Laws allow loved ones and law enforcement—often the first to see signs that someone is in crisis and poses a threat—to seek help from a court to remove guns from dangerous situations.
- These laws allow immediate family members and law enforcement to petition a court for an Extreme Risk Protection Order, sometimes called a Gun Violence Restraining Order.
- If a court finds that someone poses a significant danger of injuring themselves or others with a firearm, the court can temporarily prohibit that person from purchasing and possessing guns and require that any guns be turned over while the order is in effect.

NEA members want schools to be safe places for learning—not places of fear. For this reason, we also support universal background checks for every gun sold and most transfers; an expanded focus on mental health; additional school-based health centers; more funding for educators’ professional development in bullying prevention, mental and behavioral health, and other issues; and Centers for Disease Control research on gun violence as a public health issue.

Once again, we thank the committee for bringing attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Marc Egan
Director of Government Relations
National Education Association