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September 23, 2019

House Committee on the Judiciary
Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security
United States House
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative:

On behalf of our 3 million members who live and work in 14,000 communities, we thank the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security for holding this timely and important hearing, “Community Responses to Gun Violence in our Cities.”

By now, we are all familiar with the awful consequences of gun violence, whether we live in major cities, small towns, suburbs, or rural communities. Wherever it occurs, it affects us all. Mass shootings command most of the nation’s sustained attention because they are such a blatant attack on society, and tend to target schools and other public spaces that we all share. The painful reality, however, is that no community—regardless of how “safe” its residents believe they are—is immune from gun violence.

Your hearing will yield valuable witness testimony and conversation that will continue to help us move from anger to action. Educators—who strive to safeguard students and give them a sense of security—are grateful for this subcommittee’s commitment to confronting gun violence, and we appreciate this opportunity to offer our comments.

Sincerely,

Marc Egan
Director of Government Relations
National Education Association