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September 9, 2019

House Committee on the Judiciary
United States House
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the 3 million members of the National Education Association who work in 14,000 communities across the nation, thank you for holding this markup of gun-violence prevention legislation. Before your work this year to address gun violence, no such action had been taken since 1993. NEA members strongly urge you to SUPPORT the Keep Americans Safe Act (H.R. 1186), the Extreme Risk Protection Order Act (H.R. 1236), and the Federal Extreme Risk Protection Order Act (H.R. 3076). Votes on this issue may be included in NEA's Report Card for the 116th Congress.

NEA members support the Keep Americans Safe Act because it would:

- Make importing, selling, manufacturing, transferring, or possessing high-capacity magazines illegal and prohibit their future manufacture for civilian use; and
- Clearly mark magazines for law enforcement with a serial number, similar to firearms themselves.

Murderers used high-capacity magazines in the nation's deadliest shootings, including those at Sandy Hook Elementary School and Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, and most recently, in mass shootings in Gilroy, El Paso, Dayton, and Odessa. High-capacity magazines transform guns from dangerous weapons into weapons of mass murder. These acts are horrific in and of themselves—and when we consider the gun violence that disproportionately affects communities of color and other marginalized groups, it is clear that we must deal with this epidemic of gun violence.

NEA members also support Extreme Risk Protection Order legislation that would:

- Empower family members and law enforcement to intervene when a person sends warning signals that they pose a danger to themselves or others; and
- Create a national system to ensure that emergency action can be taken in every state to intervene before a suicide, mass shooting, or other tragic event.
- Provide minimum standards for state laws that temporarily prohibit people from buying or possessing firearms, and/or require the removal of firearms, from people who demonstrate behavioral risk factors for harming themselves or others; and
- Make grants available to state governments that have enacted extreme risk laws, for the purpose of developing and implementing training and guidance on how to apply the laws, and for public awareness campaigns to increase knowledge of them.

Regulating high-capacity magazines and enacting ERPO laws are crucial in safeguarding the public square, from places of learning to places of worship. Mass shootings destabilize us all; no one—least of all children—should have to endure them. We must do all we can to stop the next tragic shooting from happening. We urge you to VOTE YES on H.R. 1186, H.R. 1236, and H.R. 3076.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Marc Egan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Marc Egan
Director of Government Relations
National Education Association