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September 23, 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 hearing, “Protecting America from Assault Weapons.”

Murderers have used assault weapons 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, Calif., El Paso and Odessa, Texas, and Dayton, Ohio. 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 support a ban on civilian use of and access to assault weapons. These are instruments of war, manufactured specifically to enable combat soldiers to kill as many people as quickly as possible. Clearly, assault weapons serve no purpose in our communities.

In particular, NEA supports legislation that would:

- Make it a crime to knowingly import, sell, manufacture, transfer, or possess a semiautomatic assault weapon or large-capacity ammunition feeding device;
- Require a licensed gun dealer to conduct a background check prior to the sale or transfer of any grandfathered assault weapon between private parties;
- Prohibit the sale or transfer of any grandfathered large-capacity ammunition feeding device (LCAFD);
- Require law enforcement agencies to be notified when a prohibited person attempts to purchase a grandfathered assault weapon;

Gun violence destabilizes us all. No one—least of all children—should have to endure it. We urge you to continue to move legislation that will ban assault weapons and help us safeguard America’s schools and communities.

Sincerely,

Marc Egan
Director of Government Relations
National Education Association