

May 14, 2021

Majority Leader Chuck Schumer
Chairman Dick Durbin
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Minority Leader Mitch McConnell
Ranking Member Chuck Grassley

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader McConnell, Chairman Durbin, and Ranking Member Grassley,

The undersigned gun violence prevention and allied organizations write today to express our strong support for the nomination of David Chipman as Director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF). At a time when gun violence is devastating far too many of our nation's communities, it is urgent that we have strong leadership at ATF to help stem the tide of this violence. As a decorated law enforcement professional, veteran ATF special agent, and gun safety expert, Chipman is uniquely qualified for this position and should be quickly confirmed.

More than 100 people are killed with guns in this country every day as a result of homicides, suicides, unintentional shootings, and interpersonal conflicts that become fatal due to easy access to guns. This past year has only further exemplified the country's need to address this public health crisis as shootings increased in many cities around the country, incidents of domestic violence increased, and there was an alarming surge in gun sales, all during a global pandemic. Now more than ever, this country is eager for effective leadership to address the gun violence devastating this country.

As the only federal agency dedicated to enforcing federal gun laws and providing regulatory oversight of the gun industry, ATF plays a significant role in addressing the nation's gun violence crisis. Despite the importance of the agency's mission, ATF has only had one Senate-confirmed Director since 2003 and has been relying on acting leadership since 2015. At this crucial moment in our nation's history, ATF needs a strong, experienced, and principled Director to lead the agency's vital work. David Chipman's decades of experience as a law enforcement professional and gun safety expert make him an ideal candidate for this position.

Throughout his 25-year career at ATF, Chipman worked on all aspects of the agency's mission, from investigating some of the most serious incidents of terrorism of the 1990s, including the

World Trade Center Bombing in 1993 and Oklahoma City Bombing in 1995, to investigating a series of racially motivated arsons that destroyed a number of predominantly Black houses of worship in Alabama, to managing complex interstate firearms trafficking cases. Chipman also has experience in leadership positions at ATF, including as Division Chief of the Office of Public and Governmental Affairs. In his supervisory roles, Chipman managed hundreds of agents, partnered with dozens of communities and was responsible for execution of ATF's operational budget in all 25 field divisions and an annual budget in excess of \$150 million.

More recently, Chipman has brought his extensive knowledge and experience to bear helping educate policymakers, advocates, community leaders, and the general public on a broad range of gun violence issues. He is a trusted national expert and has built a reputation as a smart, honest, and principled voice working to ensure that everyone in this country has the right to live in a community free from gun violence. His past experience and qualifications render him uniquely well-suited to lead ATF during this important time.

The undersigned organizations express our strong support for Chipman's nomination to serve as Director of ATF and urge his swift confirmation. Our country eagerly awaits the commitment, experience, and leadership that Chipman will bring to the agency.

Signed,

Alliance For Gun Responsibility
American Federation of Teachers
Arizonans for Gun Safety
Battle Born Progress
BPFNA-Bautistas por la Paz
Brady
Brighter Days for Justice
Bucks County Women's Advocacy Coalition
CeaseFirePA
Center for American Progress
Chi-Town GVP Summit
Coalition to Stop Gun Violence
Colorado Ceasefire
CommonSpirit Health
Community Justice Action Fund
CT Against Gun Violence
Delaware Coalition Against Gun Violence
Everytown for Gun Safety
Gettysburg for Gun Sense

Giffords
GPEC-ICHV
Gun Violence Prevention PAC
Guns Down America
Gunsense Vermont
Gun Sense Vermont Board
GunSenseUs
Honor with Action Coalition
Indivisible Northern Nevada
Indivisible West Suburban Action League, Illinois
Indivisible-EG and surrounding communities
Joint Action Committee
Junior Newtown Action Alliance
Lawrence County Action
Lehigh Valley Friends of CeaseFirePA
Maine Gun Safety Coalition
Marylanders to Prevent Gun Violence
Mothers Against Gun Violence
National Coalition Against Domestic Violence
National Council of Jewish Women
National Education Association
Newtown Action Alliance
North Carolinians Against Gun Violence
Not My Generation
Orange Ribbons For Gun Safety
People for a Safer Society
Protect Minnesota
Sandy Hook Promise
Squirrel Hill Stands Against Gun Violence
States United to Prevent Gun Violence
States United to Prevent Gun Violence Board
Stop Handgun Violence
Survivors Empowered
Sustain Equity Group
Temple Sinai (DC) Gun Violence Prevention Group
The Campaign to Keep Guns Off Campus
The ENOUGH Campaign
The United States Conference of Mayors
UUJusticePA
Violence Policy Center
WAVE Educational Fund
Woman's National Democratic Club (WNDC)