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Operation LIPSTICK is a program of Citizens for Safety, a 501(c)3 nonprofit

May 12, 2021

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Majority Leader
US Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
US Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader Schumer and Minority Leader McConnell:

I am writing to state our unequivocal support of David Chipman to serve as Director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives. I have worked closely with David for two decades as the founder and managing director of Citizens for Safety (CFS), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to reducing firearms trafficking without impeding the rights of law-abiding gun owners.

As a member of CFS' Board of Directors, David identified strategic opportunities to disrupt the flow of crime guns into America's cities. David was the chief architect of our groundbreaking Operation LIPSTICK, Ladies Involved in Putting a Stop to Inner-City Killing. LIPSTICK addresses a significant yet often overlooked source of crime guns—women straw purchasers. Operation LIPSTICK gives women the education, leadership training, and tools to refuse to be used to put guns in the wrong hands. LIPSTICK is a testament to David's results-oriented focus. Former Boston District Attorney Dan Conley credits LIPSTICK with a 30% reduction in gun crimes by women.

David consistently contributed his time, expertise and network to expand LIPSTICK's education, intervention and prevention model. In 2016, he helped secure the support of Congresswoman Jackie Speier to bring LIPSTICK to California, where the program was translated into Spanish. At the California launch, David introduced one of the most popular and eye-opening segments of the curriculum—interactive role plays between "unsuspecting female straw purchasers" and interrogating ATF agents. In Philadelphia, where LIPSTICK was successfully deployed in alliance with Attorney General Josh Shapiro, 94% of workshop participants showed an increased awareness of straw purchasing as a felony, and 100% signed pledges vowing not to straw purchase, smuggle or hide guns for people who can't get guns legally. Through his media connections, David sounded the alarm about straw purchasing and reframed the national discourse about gun violence solutions to include practical strategies aimed at women. In 2018, David amassed a diverse coalition that included 1000+ LIPSTICK youth from Boston and Harlem to support the March for Our Lives in Washington, DC.

David has a longstanding legacy of developing and supporting systems to reduce the number of crime guns on our streets. With David at the helm of the ATF, those of us living and working in communities impacted by gun trafficking will experience, perhaps for the first time in a generation, a new era of community safety resulting from smart, effective gun violence prevention policy. We urge the Senate to confirm David Chipman. Thank you.

Nancy Robinson
Managing Director
Operation LIPSTICK