

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

January 19, 2022

The United States Conference of Mayors  
1620 Eye St. NW  
Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear Mayor Suarez, Mayor Schieve, Mayor Lucas, and Mr. Cochran,

We commend you on the efforts of the United States Conference of Mayors (USCM) to prevent gun violence in our nation's cities. We write today to request your consideration in addressing the challenge of ghost guns, the fastest growing gun safety threat facing the nation. Mayors on the front lines of gun violence prevention should take action to pass local measures to prohibit ghost guns—a critically needed measure to address the existing supply of ghost guns in our communities.

Ghost guns are firearms that are built with parts that can be acquired without a background check and require only common tools and minimal time to be converted into a functioning and deadly weapon. The finished firearm does not have a serial number and is untraceable by law enforcement seeking to understand how that firearm ended up being used in crime.

These attributes have made ghost guns a desirable tool for those who seek to evade the law. As detailed in a recent National Police Foundation report, law enforcement agencies across the country are growing increasingly concerned about the threat that ghost guns pose to the safety of their communities.<sup>1</sup> According to a report on California gun crimes in the *New York Times*, “[g]host guns have accounted for 25 to 50 percent of the firearms recovered at crime scenes” in California.<sup>2</sup>

The Biden-Harris Administration has proposed important action to stop the proliferation of these untraceable weapons by regulating the companies that make and sell the core parts for ghost guns. We believe shutting off the supply of ghost guns is essential, but we also need a strong local response to address the existing supply of ghost guns.

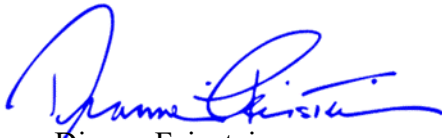
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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2021/08/06/police-lack-training-data-when-comes-untraceable-ghost-guns/5495487001/?gnt-cfr=1>; Taniguchi, T., Hoogesteyn, K., Renouard, E., & Esserman, D. (2021). *The proliferation of ghost guns: Regulation gaps and challenges for law enforcement*. National Police Foundation. <https://www.policefoundation.org/publication/the-proliferation-of-ghost-guns-regulation-gaps-and-challenges-for-law-enforcement/>


<sup>2</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/11/14/us/ghost-guns-homemade-firearms.html>

Cities across the country have begun to pass ordinances that prohibit the possession, purchase, sale, receipt, and transportation of ghost guns in order to give local law enforcement the tools they need to keep our communities safe. We respectfully request that USCM consider encouraging all of its members to pass the strongest local ordinances possible to address the problem of ghost guns already in circulation as we work to save lives and prevent gun violence.

Respectfully,



Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senator



Mike Thompson  
Member of Congress



Edward J. Markey  
United States Senator



Adriano Espaillat  
Member of Congress



Richard J. Durbin  
United States Senator



Grace F. Napolitano  
Member of Congress



Richard Blumenthal  
United States Senator



Jake Auchincloss  
Member of Congress

Cory A. Booker  
United States Senator

Carolyn B. Maloney  
Member of Congress

Elizabeth Warren  
United States Senator

/s/

André Carson  
Member of Congress

Mazie K. Hirono  
United States Senator

Dwight Evans  
Member of Congress

Tammy Duckworth  
United States Senator

Scott H. Peters  
Member of Congress

Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senator

Bradley S. Schneider  
Member of Congress



Alex Padilla  
United States Senator



Mary Gay Scanlon  
Member of Congress



Sheldon Whitehouse  
United States Senator



David N. Cicilline  
Member of Congress



Chris S. Murphy  
United States Senator



John Garamendi  
Member of Congress



Jared Huffman  
Member of Congress



Danny K. Davis  
Member of Congress



Daniel T. Kildee  
Member of Congress



Madeleine Dean  
Member of Congress



Joe Neguse  
Member of Congress



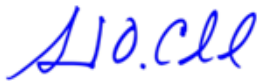
Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.  
Member of Congress

/s/

Robert C. "Bobby" Scott  
Member of Congress

/s/

Sheila Jackson Lee  
Member of Congress



Salud Carbajal  
Member of Congress

/s/

Debbie Dingell  
Member of Congress

/s/

Ed Perlmutter  
Member of Congress



Grace Meng  
Member of Congress



Jerrold Nadler  
Member of Congress



Mark DeSaulnier  
Member of Congress



Kathleen M. Rice  
Member of Congress

/s/

Jason Crow  
Member of Congress



Bonnie Watson Coleman  
Member of Congress