

County of Monterey



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

LUIS A. ALEJO, Chair, District 1
GLENN CHURCH, Vice Chair, District 2
CHRIS M. LOPEZ, District 3
WENDY ROOT ASKEW, District 4
MARY L. ADAMS, District 5

May 15, 2023

The Honorable Jimmy Panetta
304 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Zoe Lofgren
1401 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: H.R. 715, the Bipartisan Background Checks Act – SUPPORT

Dear Congressman Panetta and Congresswoman Lofgren:

On behalf of the County of Monterey Board of Supervisors, I write to express our support for H.R. 715, the Bipartisan Background Checks Act. This important bill would establish background check requirements for gun sales between private parties, prohibiting transfers unless a licensed gun dealer, manufacturer or importer first takes possession of the firearm to conduct a background check.

Monterey County residents are adversely impacted by gun violence that results in an average of fifty deaths every year, half of whom are youth homicide victims aged 10-24 years old, and over a hundred life threatening gunshot injuries that require trauma-level hospital care. The County is committed to supporting efforts to close gaps in the current patchwork of regulation, including those gaps that enable felons, people convicted of domestic violence, children, those found to be a danger to themselves or others, and other prohibited persons to access firearms and ammunition, and those that allow the trafficking of illegal guns.

The Bipartisan Background Checks Act of 2023 would ensure that individuals prohibited from gun possession under federal law are not able to obtain firearms. The bill would require a background check for every gun sale or transfer, with exceptions such as gifts to family members and temporary transfers for purposes such as hunting, target shooting, and self-defense. Federal law already requires licensed gun dealers to conduct background checks on gun purchasers or transferees. This bill extends the requirement of background checks to unlicensed gun sellers. Under this bill, unlicensed gun sellers would meet their buyers at a licensed gun dealer, who would run a background check using the same process already used for sales from their own inventory.

We appreciate your support of the County of Monterey, and thank you both for cosponsoring H.R. 715, the Bipartisan Background Checks Act.

Sincerely,

Luis A. Alejo, Chair
Board of Supervisors