



CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS

455 NORTH REXFORD DRIVE ▪ BEVERLY HILLS, CALIFORNIA 90210

Robert Wunderlich, Mayor

July 1, 2021

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Support H.R. 1446 – The Enhanced Background Checks Act of 2021

Dear Senator Feinstein:

On behalf of the City of Beverly Hills, I respectfully urge you to SUPPORT H.R. 1446, the Enhanced Background Checks Act of 2021, as passed by the House. The bill, sponsored by House Majority Whip James Clyburn of South Carolina, is aimed at closing the “Charleston loophole.”

Under current law, a licensed dealer may finalize a gun sale after three business days, even though the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) hasn’t been completed. This loophole was used by the shooter in the 2015 mass shooting at the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.) Church in Charleston, South Carolina where nine worshippers were killed. The shooter was ineligible to buy a gun but NICS results did not come back to the gun shop within three business days, so the sale was completed.

H.R. 1446 extends the initial background check review period from three business days to 10 business days. To avoid indefinite delays in processing background checks, if a background check has not been completed in 10 business days, the bill grants a purchaser the right to request an expedited review from the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI). In such a case, a purchaser may petition online or by mail, and must certify that they are not prohibited from purchasing or possessing a firearm. The FBI then would have 10 additional business days from the date the petition was filed to complete the background check before the sale may proceed.

With the enactment of H.R. 1446, events that occurred in Charleston may be prevented from happening again. The bill will help keep guns from the hands of convicted felons, domestic abusers, fugitives from justice and anyone else who is legally prohibited from purchasing a firearm.

According to gun control advocates, the majority of background checks initiated by NICS produce an almost instant result. While 96 percent of background checks are processed within three business days, hundreds of thousands enter default status every year. That equates to hundreds of thousands of guns sold without completed background checks. Over 35,000 guns were transferred to prohibited purchasers between 2008 and 2017 because of the three-day rule. This dangerous loophole must be closed.

For these reasons, we are respectfully your support for H.R. 1446. Thank you in advance for your review and consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert Wunderlich".

Robert Wunderlich

Mayor, City of Beverly Hills