

U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on the Judiciary
Washington, DC 20515-6216
One Hundred Fifteenth Congress

November 6, 2017

Chairman Bob Goodlatte
Committee on the Judiciary
2138 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman,

We write to follow up on the letter that all of our Democratic Members of the Committee wrote to you on November 2 to request that you convene hearings on firearms violence issues. You have scheduled a one-hour, closed briefing on bump stocks to be conducted for Members by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives on the afternoon of Wednesday, November 8. Although we appreciate the opportunity to hear from the ATF on this issue at the Member level, this and other important firearms issues that implicate public safety should be conducted in public.

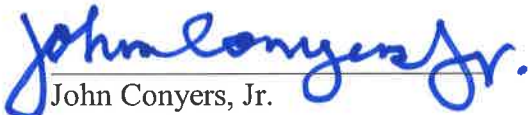
In addition to the critical issues related to bump stocks, which were instrumental in the killing of 58 and wounding of 500 more people in Las Vegas last month, we should investigate issues concerning yet another mass shooting – the killing of 26 individuals at the a church in the San Antonio area yesterday. The shooter, Devin Kelley, was reportedly discharged from the Air Force after being court martialed for assaulting his wife and child. As you know, even a conviction at the misdemeanor level for domestic violence is a prohibitor under federal law for firearms purchasing and possession. However, Kelley was still able to obtain the firearms that allowed him to shoot so many victims at the First Baptist Church of Sutherland Springs.

It appears that at least one of the firearms was purchased from a federally licensed gun dealer, who presumably conducted the required background check on Kelley. Our Committee should know whether his conviction was appropriately classified as a domestic violence conviction and reported to the appropriate databases to be included in the NICS and whether the check was run by the FFL(s) from which the firearms were purchased. If there are dangerous gaps in the law or the system implementing the law, all of us – including the public, off course – must know this in order to respond.

The President has reportedly said that this isn't "a guns situation," but clearly we should quickly examine whether there are also dangerous defects in the firearms background check databases and systems of implementation. Accordingly, we ask that you include appropriate

officials from the FBI in the discussion to take place on Wednesday, and that it be conducted as a hearing open to the public.

Sincerely,



John Conyers, Jr.
Ranking Member
House Committee on the Judiciary



Sheila Jackson Lee
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism,
Homeland Security, and Investigations

Cc: Representative Jim Sensenbrenner, Chairman, Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism,
Homeland Security, and Investigations