

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

August 14, 2019

President Donald Trump  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Mr. President:

The dual scourges of gun violence and white supremacist extremism are a public health, law enforcement and national security crisis in America. Doctors, police chiefs and public health experts have long urged the federal government to invest in sound research to inform effective solutions to our nation's gun violence epidemic. In addition, just last week, the director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation informed members of Congress that more resources are needed to protect Americans from the rising threat of domestic terror posed by white nationalists. Nowhere in our country should our people have to live through what El Paso, Dayton and countless other communities have experienced. The American people demand and deserve action.

Therefore, in addition to continuing to urge Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell to put the House-passed bipartisan universal background checks legislation on the Senate floor for a vote immediately, we write to urge that you fully withdraw your budget request within the Department of Homeland Security for \$5 billion for an ineffective border wall. As you know, the Congress has come together in a bipartisan fashion to fund other, more effective methods of securing our border through the use of technology, appropriately trained personnel and modern infrastructure. Instead, we urge you to support spending funds you have requested for the border wall, on other pressing needs such as proven initiatives that will address the threats of gun violence and white supremacist extremism in America. Specifically, we ask you to consider supporting counter-violent extremism programs, domestic terrorism investigations at the FBI, gun violence research at the Centers for Disease Control and support services in schools and communities, such as school counselors.

We note that your request for border wall funding is essentially identical to the request that a Republican-controlled Congress rejected last year and resulted in the longest shutdown in American history. You did not have the support in Congress for an expensive and ineffective border wall then and you do not have it now. Instead, we urge you to unite the country and the Congress behind effective solutions to the problems of gun violence and white supremacist extremism, starting with the fiscal year 2020 Appropriations process.

We are willing to work in a bipartisan fashion to achieve meaningful reforms to address the crises of gun violence and white supremacist extremism in America. This funding is not a substitute for passing the House-passed bipartisan universal background checks legislation, but it is a meaningful component of our national effort to protect the safety of our citizens.

We look forward to your immediate response to this letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Charles E. Schumer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Charles E. Schumer  
United States Senator

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Patrick Leahy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Patrick Leahy  
United States Senator