

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

March 3, 2025

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, SW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump:

As members of the Gun Violence Prevention Task Force, we write to you with grave concerns about the elevation of Kash Patel to the position of Acting Director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF).

As you are aware, ATF is the lead law enforcement agency responsible for addressing the gun violence epidemic in our country. At a time when gun violence is the leading cause of death for children and teenagers in the United States, it is unconscionable that someone without experience fighting crime, responding to mass shootings or confronting domestic terrorism has been named as ATF's Acting Director.

During your first Administration, gun homicides rose by 34 percent. Since the passage of the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act in June 2022, we have seen an historic reduction in gun violence, violent crime hit an almost 50-year low, and we've seen the single largest homicide rate drop in recent history. Cracking down on gun traffickers and irresponsible gun dealers, expanding background checks for 18–20-year-olds, and expanding extreme risk protection orders is saving lives. These laws are overwhelmingly supported by Americans.

ATF plays a critical role in supporting State and local law enforcement by tracing guns used in crimes, helping with criminal investigations, and providing training on a variety of topics, such as detecting machinegun conversion devices. We need to ensure that this partnership with State and local law enforcement is strengthened and not undermined by weak leadership and partisan staffing purges.

Running ATF is a deadly serious job. Naming an unqualified partisan to oversee our federal gun violence prevention laws is a disservice to the American people and offensive to every American child who has grown up fearful of gun violence in their schools and communities. We urge you to name a qualified director at ATF who will faithfully administer laws that keep Americans safe.

Sincerely,



Mike Thompson
Member of Congress



Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress



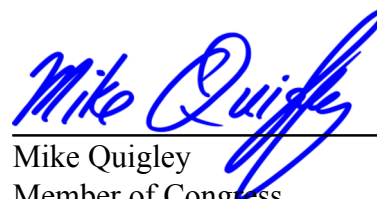
Dan Goldman
Member of Congress



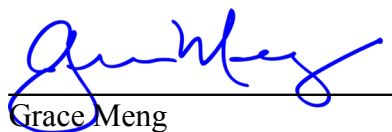
Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



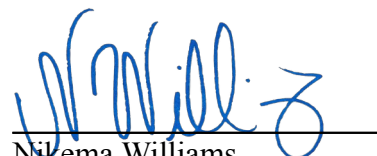
Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress



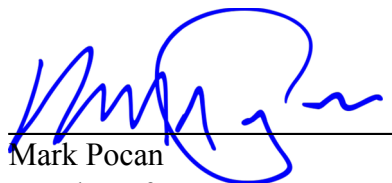
Mike Quigley
Member of Congress



Grace Meng
Member of Congress



Nikema Williams
Member of Congress



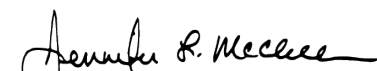
Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



Emanuel Cleaver, II
Member of Congress



Gwen S. Moore
Member of Congress



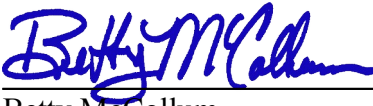
Jennifer L. McClellan
Member of Congress



Haley M. Stevens
Member of Congress



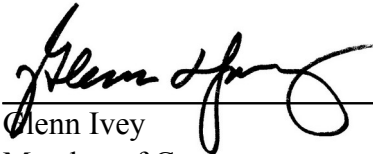
Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress



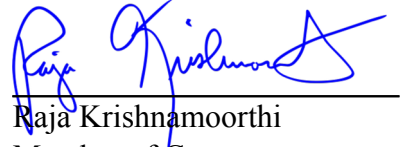
Betty McCollum
Member of Congress



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



Glenn Ivey
Member of Congress



Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress



Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress



Gerald E. Connolly
Ranking Member
House Committee on
Oversight and Government
Reform



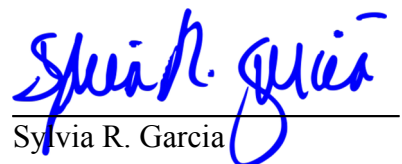
Jason Crow
Member of Congress



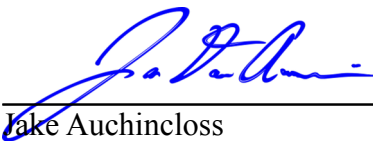
Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress



Seth Moulton
Member of Congress



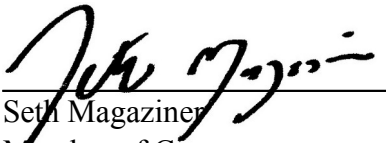
Sylvia R. Garcia
Member of Congress




Jake Auchincloss
Member of Congress



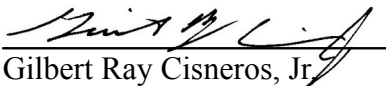
Shontel M. Brown
Member of Congress



Seth Magaziner
Member of Congress




Dwight Evans
Member of Congress



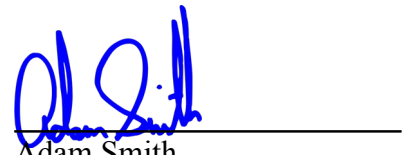
Gilbert Ray Cisneros, Jr.
Member of Congress



Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress




Brittany Pettersen
Member of Congress




Adam Smith
Member of Congress



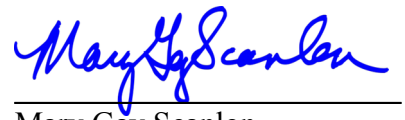
Jim Tokuda
Member of Congress



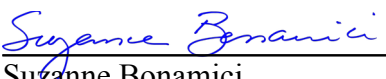
Dina Titus
Member of Congress




Bradley Scott Schneider
Member of Congress



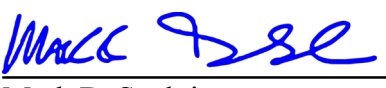
Mary Gay Scanlon
Member of Congress




Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



Scott H. Peters
Member of Congress



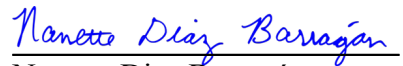
Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



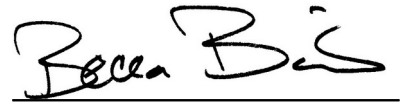
Diana DeGette
Member of Congress



Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



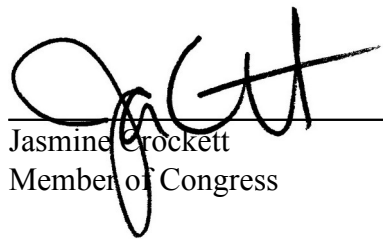
Becca Balint
Member of Congress



Morgan McGarvey
Member of Congress



Valerie P. Foushee
Member of Congress



Jasmine Crockett
Member of Congress



Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



Delia C. Ramirez
Member of Congress



Ritchie Torres
Member of Congress



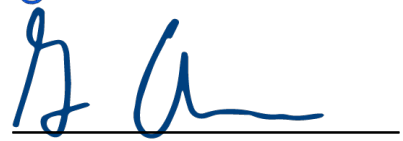
Lucy McBath
Member of Congress



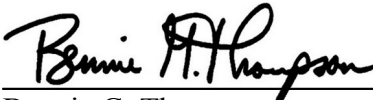
John B. Larson
Member of Congress



Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress



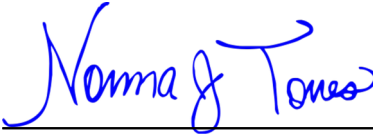
Gabe Amo
Member of Congress



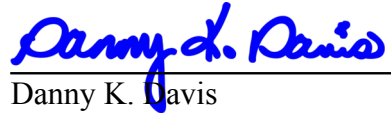
Bennie G. Thompson
Member of Congress



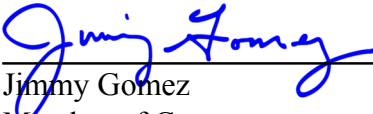
André Carson
Member of Congress



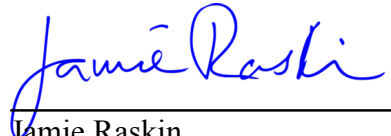
Norma J. Torres
Member of Congress



Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



Jimmy Gomez
Member of Congress



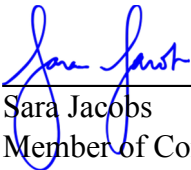
Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress



Andrea Salinas
Member of Congress



Mikie Sherrill
Member of Congress



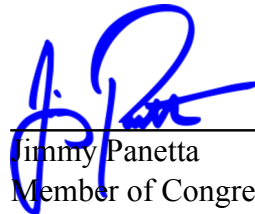
Sara Jacobs
Member of Congress



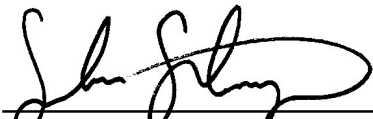
Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



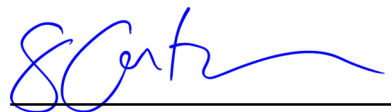
Doris Matsui
Member of Congress



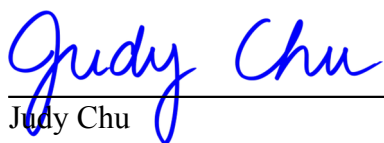
Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress



Suhas Subramanyam
Member of Congress



Sean Casten
Member of Congress



Judy Chu
Member of Congress



MARK TAKANO
Member of Congress



Robert J. Menendez
Member of Congress



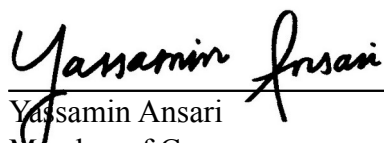
Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress



Brad Sherman
Member of Congress



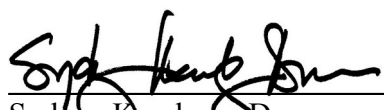
Madeleine Dean
Member of Congress



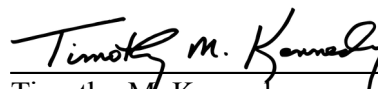
Yassamin Ansari
Member of Congress



Maxwell Alejandro Frost
Member of Congress



Sydney Kamlager-Dove
Member of Congress



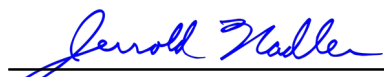
Timothy M. Kennedy
Member of Congress



Robert Garcia
Member of Congress



Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress



Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress

