

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

October 21, 2015

The Honorable Loretta E. Lynch  
Attorney General  
United States Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Attorney General Lynch:

We write regarding an issue of tremendous importance to the communities of color we represent – gun violence. As you know, the Republican leadership in Congress continues to block consideration of common sense legislation that could meaningfully address the devastating impact of gun crime in America. However, despite this dangerous obstructionism, we believe more can and must be done to reduce the overwhelming number of injuries and deaths caused by guns. We therefore respectfully request a meeting with you to discuss alternative approaches to this grave national challenge.

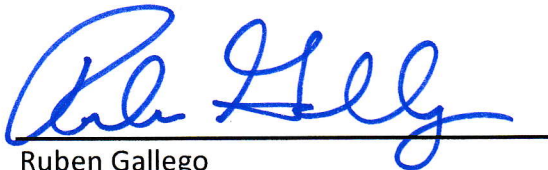
In June, as you know, nine worshippers at Charleston's historic Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church were tragically murdered. While this heartbreaking event rightfully captured the nation's attention, deaths involving guns remain frustratingly common across the country, especially in communities of color. Most of these acts of gun violence go unnoticed by the national media. African Americans represent 13 percent of the U.S. population but constitute fully 55 percent of all gun homicide victims. Similarly, even though Latinos are less likely than whites or African Americans to own guns, they are nevertheless disproportionately likely to be victimized in gun-related crimes.

These troubling statistics and the human toll they represent are unacceptable. That's why we continue to press Republicans in Congress to close critical gaps in our gun laws that make it easier for criminals to purchase firearms. We also believe the Administration, working with its state and local partners, should examine new policies to reduce gun violence that can be implemented without the need for legislative action. Specifically, we strongly encourage your Department to consider stronger enforcement efforts directed at the relatively small number of dishonest dealers who sell the vast majority of firearms used in crimes.

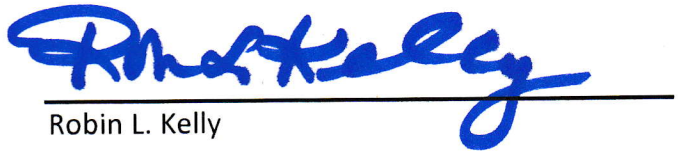
President Obama recently cited Congress' failure to reform America's gun laws as his greatest disappointment in office. We share his deep sense of frustration. In light of the shameful refusal of Republicans in Congress to even consider new legislation, we look forward to meeting with you to discuss the need for alternative policies—including initiatives aimed at combating irresponsible gun sellers—to address the epidemic of gun violence that continues to profoundly impact communities of color across the country.

Thank you for your attention to this request.

Sincerely,



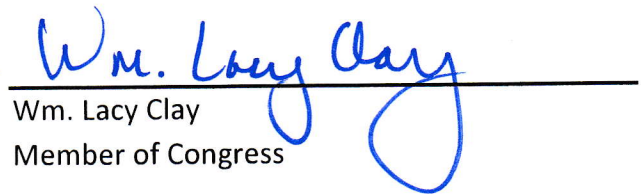
Ruben Gallego  
Member of Congress




Robin L. Kelly  
Member of Congress



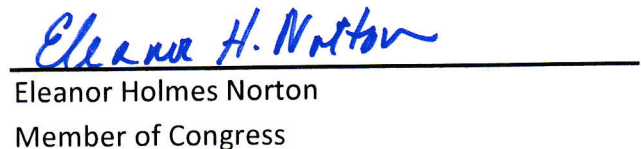
Tammy Duckworth  
Member of Congress



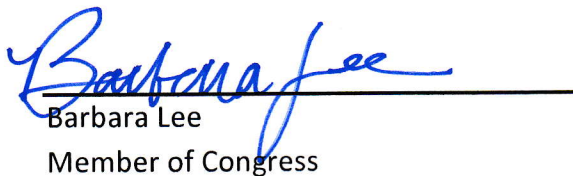
Wm. Lacy Clay  
Member of Congress



Grace F. Napolitano  
Member of Congress



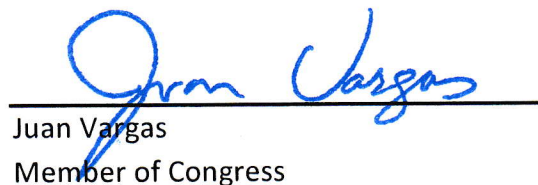
Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress



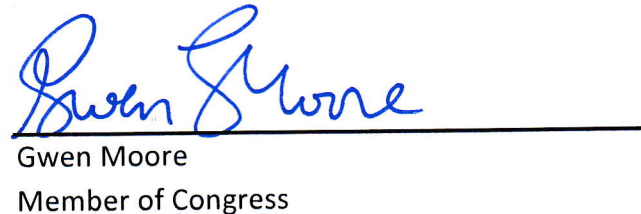
Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress



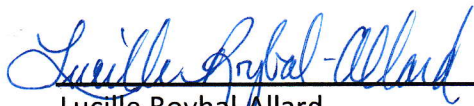
Michael M. Honda  
Member of Congress



Juan Vargas  
Member of Congress



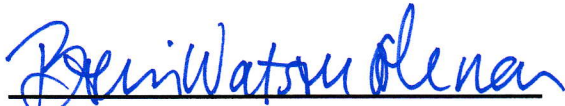
Gwen Moore  
Member of Congress



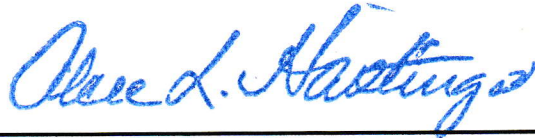
Lucille Roybal-Allard  
Member of Congress



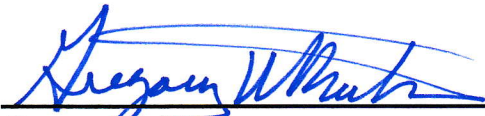
Tony Cárdenas  
Member of Congress



Bonnie Watson Coleman  
Member of Congress



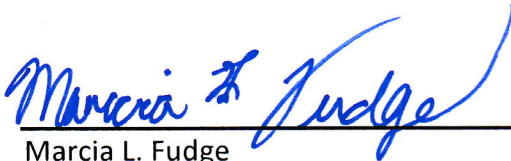
Alcee L. Hastings  
Member of Congress



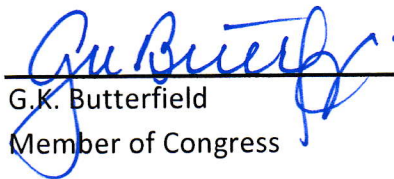
Gregory W. Meeks  
Member of Congress



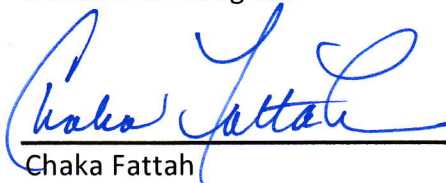
Ted Lieu  
Member of Congress



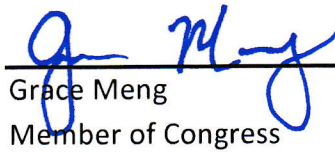
Marcia L. Fudge  
Member of Congress



G.K. Butterfield  
Member of Congress




Chaka Fattah  
Member of Congress



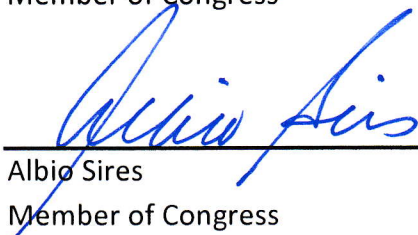
Grace Meng  
Member of Congress



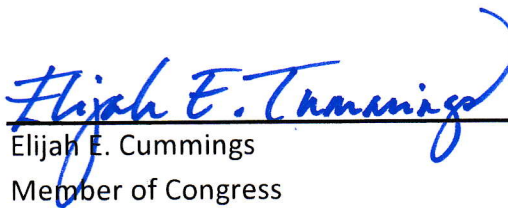
Keith Ellison  
Member of Congress



Luis V. Gutiérrez  
Member of Congress

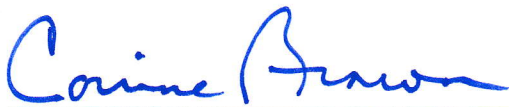


Albio Sires  
Member of Congress



Elijah E. Cummings  
Member of Congress

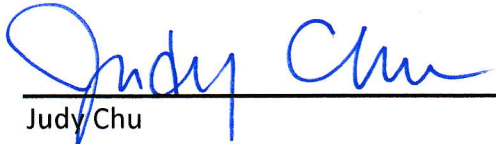




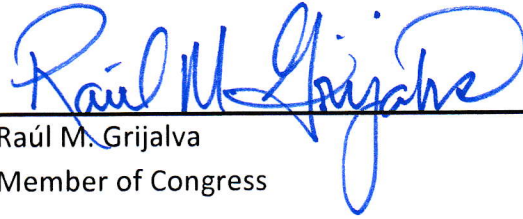
Corrine Brown  
Member of Congress



Michelle Lujan Grisham  
Member of Congress



Judy Chu  
Member of Congress



Raúl M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress



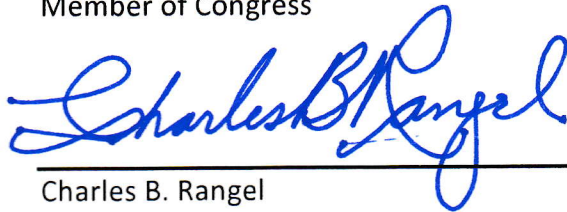
Brenda L. Lawrence  
Member of Congress



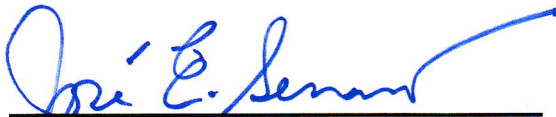
Donna F. Edwards  
Member of Congress



Alma S. Adams  
Member of Congress



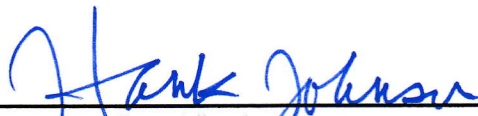
Charles B. Rangel  
Member of Congress



José E. Serrano  
Member of Congress



Shelia Jackson Lee  
Member of Congress



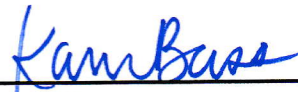
Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.  
Member of Congress



Bennie G. Thompson  
Member of Congress



Doris O. Matsui  
Member of Congress



Karen Bass  
Member of Congress

André Carson  
Member of Congress

Donald M. Payne, Jr.  
Member of Congress

Cedric L. Richmond  
Member of Congress