

**September 24, 2019**

**ATTORNEY GENERAL RAOUL CALLS ON CONGRESS TO CLOSE AMMUNITION SALES LOOPHOLE**

***Jaime's Law Would Extend Background Check Requirements to Include Ammunition Sales***

**Chicago** — Attorney General Kwame Raoul, along with a coalition of 20 attorneys general, sent a letter to Congressional leadership urging their support of legislation that extends existing background check requirements on firearm sales to also include ammunition sales. [In the letter](#), Raoul and the coalition argue these background checks would decrease gun violence by stopping individuals who are prohibited from purchasing a gun from also obtaining ammunition.

"Gun violence is a public safety and public health crisis across the country. From my home in Chicago, to Peoria, Rockford, East St. Louis, Danville, and every community in between, gun violence impacts all of Illinois," Raoul said. "I am committed to advocating for policies that will protect residents from gun violence. I urge Congress to support Jaime's Law to close one of the many loopholes that can be exploited by individuals who are prohibited from owning firearms."

Jaime's Law is named after Jaime Guttenberg, who was 14-years-old when she was one of 17 students and teachers killed in a mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla. The bill would make it illegal for individuals who are already "prohibited purchasers" under federal law—including convicted felons, domestic abusers, and individuals with serious mental health conditions— to purchase or possess ammunition.

To enforce this requirement, individuals would either have to be licensed to own a firearm or undergo a background check to purchase ammunition. Federal law already places these requirements on firearms sales; extending those same requirements to ammunition can reduce gun violence and suicide.

Jaime's Law is currently pending with the House Judiciary Committee. Raoul and the coalition are asking the committee to support the measure, and urging Congress to ensure the bill is passed to help law enforcement keep communities safe.

Joining Raoul in the sending the letter are the attorneys general of California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Hawaii, Iowa, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, and Washington.



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JOSH SHAPIRO  
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September 23, 2019

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-232, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-204, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
S-230, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Minority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
S-221, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jerrold Naler  
Chairman  
House Judiciary Committee  
2132 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Doug Collins  
Ranking Member  
House Judiciary Committee  
Longworth House Office Bldg, 1504  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Lindsey Graham  
Chairman  
Senate Judiciary Committee  
Russell Senate Office Building  
290 Constitution Ave NE  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein  
Ranking Member  
Senate Judiciary Committee  
331 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Congressional Leaders,

Gun violence is a public safety and public health crisis in the United States, affecting all of our communities. As the Attorneys General of our respective states, we are asking for your help in preventing further gun violence by supporting Jaime's Law (H.R. 1705, S. 1924) to require background checks for ammunition purchases, building on current federal requirements for background checks on firearms purchases.

Over the past several weeks, America has been subjected to a rash of mass shootings, among them:

- Odessa, Texas – 7 people were killed and another 22 injured during a shooting spree following a routine traffic stop;

- Mobile, Alabama – 10 youth between the ages of 15 and 18 were wounded in a shooting at a high school football game;
- Philadelphia, Pennsylvania – 6 police officers were wounded by a single gunman in an hours-long standoff;
- Dayton, Ohio – 9 people were killed and 27 wounded on a crowded street by a gunman with an AR-15-style assault rifle; and
- El Paso, Texas – 22 were killed and 26 injured in a race-motivated shooting at a Wal-Mart.

While mass shootings garner the most media attention, they represent only a fraction of the American lives lost to guns and gun violence. Over 14,000 Americans are killed with firearms every year. Another 100,000 are injured. And 23,000 more commit suicide using guns. This everyday gun violence impacts American communities and families in urban, rural, and suburban areas.

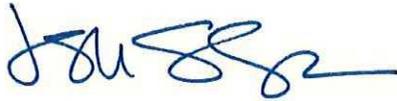
As Attorneys General, each of us swore an oath to uphold the Constitution and the rights of law-abiding citizens to possess firearms. But we take seriously our responsibility to do our part to stop gun violence in our communities, and we need additional tools to do our jobs more effectively and better protect the people we serve. Existing federal law has too many loopholes that can be exploited by individuals who are prohibited from owning firearms. We must close these loopholes, starting with ammunition sales.

Jaime's Law is named after Jaime Guttenberg, who was 14 years old when she was one of 17 students and teachers killed in a mass shooting at her school in Parkland, Florida. This bill would make it illegal for individuals who are already "prohibited purchasers" under federal law—including convicted felons, domestic abusers, and individuals with serious mental health conditions—from purchasing or possessing ammunition. To enforce this requirement, individuals would either have to be licensed to own a firearm or undergo a background check to purchase ammunition. Federal law already places these requirements on firearms sales; we believe that extending those same requirements to ammunition will reduce gun violence and suicide, making our communities safer.

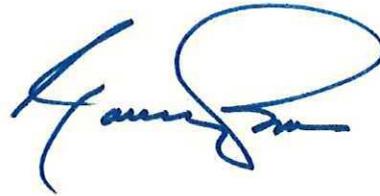
There is no reason for a convicted felon or anyone else who is not legally permitted to purchase a firearm to be able to purchase ammunition. Importantly, Jaime's Law adds these protections without infringing on law-abiding citizens' rights to own firearms, nor on states' rights to regulate firearms as they see fit.

We applaud the sponsors and cosponsors of Jaime's Law and thank them for their leadership. We are pleased to hear that this bill will be considered by the House Judiciary Committee this fall. We ask that committee to give this bill due consideration, and we urge the House and the Senate to ensure this important bill is passed so that we in law enforcement can stop individuals who are prohibited from possessing a gun from also obtaining ammunition.

Sincerely,



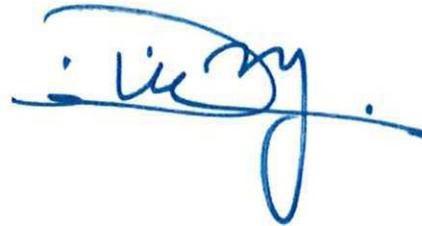
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XAVIER BECERRA  
Attorney General of California



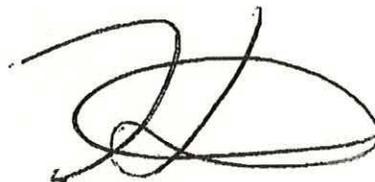
PHIL WEISER  
Attorney General of Colorado



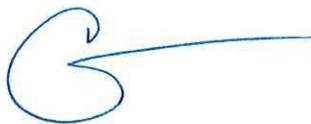
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LETITIA JAMES  
Attorney General of New York

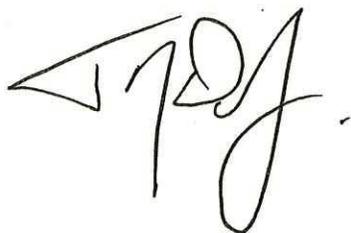
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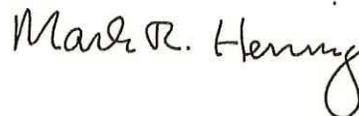
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