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Chicago Headquarters

633 N. Saint Clair Street
Chicago, IL 60611-3295

Voice: 312-202-5000

Fax: 312-202-5001

E-mail: postmaster@facs.org

Washington Office

20 F Street, NW Suite 1000
Washington, DC 20001

Voice: 202-337-2701

Fax: 202-337-4271

E-mail: djohnson@facs.org

facs.org

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March 3, 2021

The Honorable Mike Thompson
406 Cannon Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jerrold Nadler
302 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Thompson and Nadler:

On behalf of the more than 82,000 members of the American College of Surgeons (ACS), I would like to express our support for the Bipartisan Background Checks Act of 2021 (H.R. 8). This legislation would require all sales to go through the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) as established under the Brady Handgun and Violence and Prevention Act. This legislation is an important step to addressing the public health crisis.

In 2018, the American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma (ACS COT) released a set of thirteen recommendations from its Firearm Strategy Team (FAST) Workgroup. These proposals include strategies and tactics to reduce firearm injury, death, and disability in the United States. One of these recommendations includes support for a robust and accurate background check for all firearm purchases and transfers. We applaud you for introducing this legislation to keep firearms from dangerous individuals and help reduce the number of people impacted by firearm-related violence.

Again, thank you for your leadership on this vital issue. We look forward to working with you to ensure enactment of this important legislation and on future efforts to address the firearm-related public health crisis.

Sincerely,

David B. Hoyt, MD, FACS
Executive Director