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November 8, 2017

The Honorable Michael McCaul
Chairman
Homeland Security Committee
H2-176 Ford House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman McCaul:

I write to request that the Homeland Security Committee hold a hearing concerning the threat of home grown terror and links to easy access to guns. Two recent mass shootings in Las Vegas, Nevada, and Sutherland Springs, Texas, underscore the urgent need for action. I am outraged by the epidemic of gun violence, and I believe that the Congress should take all reasonable steps to both understand gun violence in America and examine the changes necessary to deter future threats. The Committee on Homeland Security can play a constructive role in this effort.

For the second time in just over a month, the horrific mass murder of innocent civilians has left Americans shocked and grieving. The constituents we represent are looking for leadership from Congress to discuss policy options that could prevent future massacres. The Committee on Homeland Security must assert its jurisdiction in identifying and deterring threats to our nation by immediately convening the Committee to explore legislative solutions to the gun violence epidemic in America, including the effectiveness of the national database used by firearms dealers to check the backgrounds of gun buyers. California has taken many steps to reduce gun violence including requiring universal background checks and instituting a 10-day waiting period for gun purchases.

The Committee cannot continue to sit idly while gun violence deaths continue to mount. A full hearing of the threats posed by gun violence and the actions that Congress should undertake to meet this challenge in a constructive and bipartisan manner is necessary. Congress has a responsibility to secure our homeland from threats, including ways to reduce the likelihood that gun violence will continue to repeat itself and claim even more American lives.

Again, I urge the Committee to immediately convene and hold hearings to identify the best policies to adequately address the epidemic of gun violence in America which is a threat to our Homeland Security.

Sincerely,

Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress
California – District 44