



NATIONAL CONFERENCE of STATE LEGISLATURES

The Forum for America's Ideas

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The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Majority Leader McConnell and Minority Leader Schumer:

The National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) respectfully urges the Senate to support the passage of S.2135, the “Fix NICS Act of 2017.” This bipartisan bill will promote information sharing of criminal history records between states and the federal government and is a positive step toward enhancing public safety nationwide. NCSL supports federal assistance in improving state criminal history records and related information systems and believes that a seamless state-federal system respects federalism principals and protects states’ abilities to govern, while ensuring the public safety of all Americans.

NCSL appreciates the Senate’s thoughtful approach to reaching the goal of better public safety by requiring federal agencies and courts to certify to the attorney general whether they have provided any disqualifying records of people prohibited from receiving or possessing a firearm to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) and to develop a workable plan to monitor compliance with this objective. NCSL similarly supports the bill’s goal of working cooperatively with states to develop plans to transmit state information to the NICS.

In closing, we reiterate our support for the Fix NICS Act of 2017. Together, we can take steps to improve public safety while respecting the appropriate role of the states in this effort. For additional information, please contact Susan Frederick (susan.frederick@ncsl.org / 202-624-3566) and Lucia Bragg (lucia.bragg@ncsl.org / 202-624-3576).

Sincerely,

The Honorable Gerald Malloy
South Carolina Senate

The Honorable Timothy Johns
South Dakota House of Representatives

Co-Chairs, NCSL Law, Criminal Justice & Public Safety Committee

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