

Date: June 27, 2022

To: Federal Legislation Committee

From: Thomas B. Modica, City Manager 

Subject: **Gun Legislation Update: The Bipartisan Safer Communities Act**

---

On Saturday, June 25, 2022, President Biden signed the first major gun legislation in nearly three decades, the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act. While the law's provisions fell short of most Democratic legislators' hopes, it passed the House 234-193, with 14 House Republicans voting for the legislation. The Senate passed the bill 65-33, with 15 Senate Republicans voting in support of the measure. Despite this bipartisan achievement, the vast majority of Republicans opposed the bill, arguing it would restrict Second Amendment rights.

The Bipartisan Safer Communities Act aims to improve gun safety by narrowing restrictions on firearm ownership that are largely intended to keep guns out of the hands of people experiencing mental health crises, requiring more thorough background checks for buyers under 21 years of age, and authorizing new spending for policy programs related to mental health and school safety.

More information can be found in the attached summary provided by the City's federal representatives, Dentons. If you have any questions, please contact Tyler Bonanno-Curley, Manager of Government Affairs, at (562) 570-5715 or [Tyler.Curley@longbeach.gov](mailto:Tyler.Curley@longbeach.gov).

ATTACHMENT

CC: MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
CHARLES PARKIN, CITY ATTORNEY  
DOUGLAS P. HAUBERT, CITY PROSECUTOR  
LAURA L. DOUD, CITY AUDITOR  
LINDA F. TATUM, ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER  
KATY NOMURA, DEPUTY CITY MANAGER  
TERESA CHANDLER, DEPUTY CITY MANAGER  
APRIL WALKER, ADMINISTRATIVE DEPUTY CITY MANAGER  
KEVIN LEE, CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER  
MONIQUE DE LA GARZA, CITY CLERK  
DEPARTMENT HEADS

**MEMORANDUM**

To: Tom Modica  
Long Beach City Manager

From: John Russell

Date: 22 June 2022

Subject: Bipartisan Safer Communities Act

Proclaiming that "lives will be saved," President Joe Biden signed a bipartisan gun bill designed to keep weapons away from dangerous people, one month after a horrific elementary school shooting in Uvalde, Texas. Citing a litany of mass shootings from Las Vegas to Parkland, Florida, Biden said people for too long have urged government to "do something" about the gun problem.

Backers called the bill—the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act—aimed at improving background checks, securing schools and giving states federal funds to combat gun violence, the biggest breakthrough on the issue in decades. The new law lacks more far-reaching items sought by Biden and congressional Democrats. Republicans balked at those proposals, calling them encroachment on the Second Amendment.

Biden, during the signing ceremony, said that "God willing," the law will help "save a lot of lives."

Below is a summary of the legislation. Following Senate passage we will provide a section by section review.

**Crisis Intervention Orders**

Creates a new \$750 million funding pot available to states to create and administer laws that have sufficient due process protections that help ensure deadly weapons are kept out of the hands of individuals whom a court has determined to be a significant danger to themselves or others, and other similar purposes such as mental health courts, drug courts, and veterans' courts.

**Protections for Victims of Domestic Violence**

Adds convicted domestic violence abusers in dating relationships to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS). Creates a process for removal from NICS five years after the completion of the sentence, only if there are no intervening prohibited crimes or other crimes of violence.

**Clarification of Definition of Federally Licensed Firearms Dealer**

Cracks down on criminals who illegally evade licensing requirements and clarifies which sellers need to register, conduct background checks, and keep appropriate records.

**Under 21 Enhanced Review Process**

For buyers under 21 years of age, requires more thorough background checks including contacts with state databases and local law enforcement, and allows NICS additional time to investigate potentially disqualifying records if needed.

Provides additional funding to NICS to administer the new process and grants to help states upgrade criminal and mental health records for the NICS.

### **Penalties for Straw Purchasing**

Creates federal straw purchasing and trafficking criminal offenses, allowing prosecutors to target dangerous illegal gunrunners.

### **Violence Interruption Funding**

Provides \$250 million in funding for community-based violence and prevention initiatives.

### **Investment in Children and Family Mental Health Services**

Supports national expansion of community behavioral health center model; improves access to mental health services for children, youth, and families through the Medicaid program and CHIP; increases access to mental health services for youth and families in crisis via telehealth; and provides major investments at the Department of Health and Human Services to programs that expand provider training in mental health, support suicide prevention, crisis and trauma intervention and recovery.

**-Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic:** Expands the existing Medicaid CCBHC demonstration program to all states to increase access to community based behavioral health services.

**-School-based mental health:** Helps states to implement, enhance, and expand schoolbased health programs under Medicaid through updated guidance, technical assistance, and state planning grants.

**-Gold standard in mental health coverage for children:** Improves oversight of states' implementation of Medicaid's Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) benefit, the country's gold standard in children's health coverage, to strengthen children's access to comprehensive mental health care services.

**-Telemental health services for children:** Requires CMS to provide guidance to states on how they can increase access to behavioral health services through telehealth under Medicaid and CHIP.

**-Teleconsults for pediatricians and mental health specialists:** Provides \$80 million in grants to support pediatric primary care providers to rapidly access mental health specialists' expertise in guiding the treatment of their patients. Reauthorizes the program for five years and expands teleconsults into emergency departments and schools.

**-Training for pediatric providers:** Appropriates \$60 million over five years for training in mental health for primary care clinicians who treat children and youth.

**-Community and first responder mental health training:** Appropriates \$120 million over four years to prepare and train community members and first responders on how to appropriately and safely respond to individuals with mental disorders.

**-Support for states to expand mental health services:** Provides \$250 million for states, DC, and territories to enhance comprehensive community mental health services.

**-Building awareness of and access to services for mental health:** Appropriates \$240 million over four years for programs that increase awareness of mental health issues among school-aged youth, provide training for school personnel and other adults who interact with school-aged youth to detect and respond to mental health issues, and connect school-aged youth who may have behavioral health issues and their families to needed services.

**-School-based trauma support:** Includes a set aside of \$28 million for grants to support trauma care in school settings.

Support after traumatic events: Appropriates \$40 million over four years to improve treatment and services for children, adolescents, and families who have experienced traumatic events.

**-National Suicide Prevention Lifeline/9-8-8:** Appropriates \$150 million to support implementation of the 9-8-8 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline that provides 24/7, free and confidential support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress.

### **Funding for Schools**

Invests in programs to expand mental health and supportive services in schools, including: early identification and intervention programs, school-based mental health and wrap-around services, improvements to school-wide learning conditions, and school safety.

**-School Based Mental Health Services and Staff:** Provides \$500 million through the School Based Mental Health Services (SBMHS) Grant Program to increase the number of qualified mental health service providers that provide school based mental health services to students in school districts with demonstrated need.

**-Training and Pipeline Development for School Based Mental Health Staff:** Provides \$500 million in funding to the School Based Mental Health Service Professionals Demonstration Grant. This money will help train and diversify the pipeline of school counselors, school social workers, and school psychologists.

**-Improving Conditions for Student Learning:** Provides \$1 billion in funding through Title IV-A to support a variety of activities to improve conditions for student learning, including developing positive school climates through evidence-based practices.

**-Out of School Programs:** Provides \$50 million in funding to the 21st Century Community Learning Centers program, which funds extracurricular, afterschool and summer programs, with a focus of new funding to target programs for older youth.

**-School Safety:** Provides \$300 million in funding through the STOP School Violence Act to institute safety measures in and around schools, support school violence prevention efforts and provide training to school personnel and students. Codifies the [schoolsafety.gov](https://www.schoolsafety.gov) clearinghouse, which provides evidence-based resources to improve school safety