

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 9, 2013

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for contacting me to express your support for universal background checks for gun sales. I appreciate your input on this important issue.

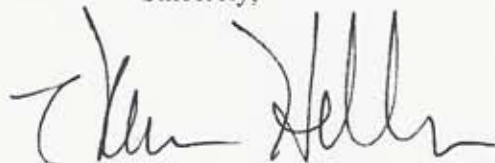
As you may know, included in the President's proposal on gun control is the requirement to conduct background checks on all gun sales and transfers. Under current federal law, all retail sales of firearms require a background check. I recognize there has been some recent discussion regarding applying this requirement to private sales and transfers of firearms. I believe that we can take reasonable steps to ensure that we do not infringe on the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding citizens while also keeping guns out of the hands of those who are potentially violent or mentally ill.

The reality is that we need to take concrete steps to reform our current background check system to make it more effective and efficient. We must look for common sense measures to ensure that we keep guns out of the hands of criminals and those who are potentially violent. In addition, we must find ways to better identify those suffering from mental illness, as well as increase information sharing between states and our national background check system to ensure that it more fully encompasses individuals who may not be eligible to purchase a firearm.

As this issue is debated across the Capitol, I will work with my colleagues to make background checks more efficient and effective. As a sportsman, I want to ensure that we continue to look to our Constitution to guide us as we search for answers in these increasingly difficult times while also taking steps to make our communities safer. Rest assured I will keep your perspective in mind should legislation related to background checks come to the Senate floor for debate or vote.

Once again, thank you for contacting me to share your thoughts. Please continue keeping me informed of the issues that matter to you.

Sincerely,



DEAN HELLER
U.S. Senator