

# Micah Grant

*Trustee, Natomas Unified School District | 1901 Arena Blvd | Sacramento, CA 95834*

---

March 5, 2018

Honorable Doris Matsui  
WASHINGTON, DC  
Rayburn Building 2311  
Washington, DC 20515

## **RE: SCHOOL SAFETY**

Dear Congresswoman Matsui:

On behalf of California's students, I strongly urge you to give serious consideration to proposals seeking to curb gun violence in our nation.

One proposal calls for more wide-ranging background checks including instituting background checks for person-to-person transfers and gun show sales. Congress might also consider enhancing mandatory background check requirements and standardizing them across all states.

Congress should immediately fund an expansion of mental health services to address precursors to violent behavior. Time and again, people seeking help from the system find that it fails them when they need it most. More must be done to help our most vulnerable citizens. While it is not realistic to assume that all people suffering from a mental health issue are unfit to own a gun, this delicate balancing act—the right to own a firearm versus public safety—is a conversation Congress must engage in if we are to reduce the number of gun deaths in America.

While emotions on both sides of the issue are high, here's what we can agree on: Mass shootings are a tragedy that must be stopped. It is imperative that we end the rhetoric and hyperbole and start building consensus from the middle.

The stakes are high, making it vital that we dial back the anger and contempt and find innovative ways to work collaboratively. This will only be accomplished when we begin to truly listen to one another, show more compassion, and work toward finding solutions we can all agree on. Small steps lead to bigger steps. We must find a way to take that first step.

Sincerely,

**MICAH GRANT**  
**Board Member**  
**Natomas Unified School District**