

March 18, 2021

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader Schumer and Minority Leader McConnell:

On behalf of Giffords, the gun safety organization founded and led by former Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords, I write to urge you to confirm Lisa Monaco to serve as United States Deputy Attorney General.

An experienced, skilled Deputy Attorney General working alongside Attorney General Garland will help advance the critical work of the Department of Justice, including overseeing the work of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) to enforce our nation's gun laws and regulate the gun industry as well as the work of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) to ensure that our background checks system prevents people who are prohibited from possessing guns from accessing them.

Lisa Monaco's accomplishments and legal experience make her an ideal candidate for the job. Her considerable experience working at the senior levels of law enforcement and the Department of Justice make her extraordinarily qualified to serve as Deputy Attorney General.

During last week's nomination hearing, we were heartened to hear Ms. Monaco commit to fostering better coordination across federal, state, and local law enforcement to reduce violence. And we applaud her call for improvements in hate crime reporting, an issue of particular concern to Giffords, since perpetrators of hate crimes with access to firearms have used guns to intimidate, wound, and kill victims of their bias-motivated attacks.

As a gun violence prevention organization, we appreciate Ms. Monaco's commitment to the principles and values of the Department of Justice and commend her pledge to advocate for the resources necessary for the ATF, FBI, and other agencies within the Department to fulfill their duties. Over the years, the gun lobby has effectively lobbied for legislation and appropriations riders to limit the ATF's ability to effectively fulfill its mission. The case for more resources for the ATF and FBI was made very clear in 2020: uncertainty drove [thousands of Americans to gun stores](#), with record numbers of first-time buyers bringing firearms into their homes, often without any safety training. The FBI background check system was overwhelmed by the demand, delaying investigations and resulting in [potentially hundreds of thousands of people buying firearms without completing a background check](#). Cities across the nation grappled with significant increases in homicides and violent crimes even as communities locked down in response to the coronavirus pandemic.



COURAGE TO FIGHT GUN VIOLENCE

PO Box 51196, Washington, DC 20091 [GIFFORDS.ORG](https://www.giffords.org)

A Deputy Attorney General like Lisa Monaco who is committed to reversing these dangerous trends; advancing the critical, lifesaving missions of these agencies; and improving public safety is needed now more than ever. Giffords emphatically supports Ms. Monaco's nomination, and we urge you to vote to confirm her to serve as United States Deputy Attorney General.

Sincerely,

Adam Skaggs
Chief Counsel & Policy Director