

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

June 4, 2026

THE HONORABLE DAVID STEINER  
Postmaster General  
U.S. Postal Service  
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW  
Washington, DC 20260

Dear Mr. Steiner:

We write in strong opposition to the U.S. Postal Service's (USPS) recent proposal to unilaterally repeal restrictions on the mailing of handguns through the Postal Service that Congress passed into law through the Nonmailable Firearms Act of 1927. This move would undermine public safety, circumvent state firearms laws, burden law enforcement, and put postal workers and communities at increased risk of gun violence. We urge USPS to immediately withdraw this proposed rule.

The proposed rule entitled 'Revised Mailing Standards for Firearms,' published in the Federal Register on April 2, 2026, would allow individuals to directly receive concealable firearms via USPS without using a Federal Firearms License (FFL) holder as an intermediary.<sup>1</sup> This would create a mile-wide regulatory loophole, allowing handguns to be mailed anywhere in the nation without the safeguards provided by FFL facilitated transfers and giving criminals a powerful new tool to traffic guns across the country undetected.

Not only would this rule undermine states' ability to enforce their own firearms laws, it would also exacerbate the flow of guns from states with weaker laws into states that have enacted stronger protections, also known as the "iron pipeline". Nearly two-thirds of crime guns recovered in states with strong gun laws were originally sold in states with weaker laws, and as many as 87% of the firearms used in crime in cities in states with strong gun laws were trafficked from other states with weaker gun laws.<sup>2</sup> Allowing USPS to facilitate the direct mailing of concealable firearms across state lines without going through FFLs would create a new channel

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<sup>1</sup> United States Postal Service. (2026, April 2). Revised mailing standards for firearms (91 Fed. Reg. 16601–16605). <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2026/04/02/2026-06376/revised-mailing-standards-for-firearms>

<sup>2</sup> Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence. (n.d.). *Trafficking & straw purchasing*. <https://giffords.org/lawcenter/gun-laws/policy-areas/crime-guns/trafficking-straw-purchasing/>

for interstate gun trafficking and strip states of their authority to keep dangerous weapons out of their communities.

This proposal would create significant risks for law enforcement officers, postal workers, and the public. Without federally licensed firearms dealers conducting background checks and verifying lawful transfers, law enforcement would have fewer opportunities to identify suspicious transactions and intercept firearms destined for prohibited individuals. Postal workers, who are not trained to handle firearms, would be placed in the dangerous and unpredictable situation of unknowingly delivering concealable weapons through the mail. By weakening longstanding safeguards that help prevent illegal gun transfers, this rule would make it harder to trace crime guns and easier for dangerous weapons to end up in the wrong hands.

Congress passed the Nonmailable Firearms Act of 1927 to prevent mail-order handgun sales from circumventing state and local firearms laws and to keep concealable firearms out of the mail.<sup>3</sup> This law, combined with other bipartisan legislation like the Gun Control Act of 1968, and the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act of 1993, have been incredibly successful in preventing the trafficking of handguns through the mail. Of the 4,082 gun trafficking investigations identified by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives between 2017 and 2021 in which a method of transportation was known, only 131 involved USPS.<sup>4</sup>

Finalizing this proposed rule would effectively nullify nearly a century of federal law based solely on a nonbinding opinion from the Department of Justice Office of Legal Counsel. USPS does not have the authority to disregard a duly enacted statute, and an internal executive branch legal opinion cannot override a law passed by Congress. Rather than asking Congress to change the law, this proposal attempts to sidestep longstanding federal protections that have played a critical role in keeping concealable firearms out of the wrong hands.

Firearms remain the leading cause of death for Americans under the age of 18 and handguns are the type of firearm most often used to kill law enforcement officers.<sup>5,6</sup> At a time when our communities face a continuing gun violence crisis, the federal government should be reinforcing proven safeguards, not dismantling them.

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<sup>3</sup> U.S. Congress, House Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads. (1926). *Carrying pistols, revolvers, and other firearms in the mails* (H. Rep. No. 69-610). U.S. Government Printing Office

<sup>4</sup> “National Firearm Commerce and Trafficking Assessment (NFCTA): Firearms Trafficking Investigations - Volume Three - Part III,” Department of Justice, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, April 2024, <https://www.atf.gov/firearms/docs/report/nfcta-volume-iii-part-iii/download>

<sup>5</sup> Everytown Research & Policy. (n.d.). *Firearms are the leading cause of death for American children and teens*. <https://everytownresearch.org/graph/firearms-are-the-leading-cause-of-death-for-american-children-and-teens/>

<sup>6</sup> Federal Bureau of Investigation. (2025). *Officers killed and assaulted in the line of duty, 2025*. U.S. Department of Justice. <https://cde.ucr.cjis.gov/LATEST/resources/reports/Officers%20Killed%20and%20Assaulted%20in%20the%20Line%20of%20Duty%2C%202025.pdf>

For the sake of states' sovereignty, law enforcement, and public safety, we urge USPS to follow the laws enacted by Congress and withdraw this proposed rule. We appreciate your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



JM Tokuda  
Member of Congress



Haley M. Stevens  
Member of Congress



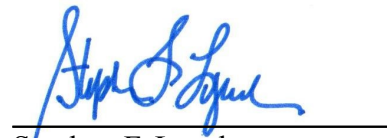
Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress



Suzanne Bonamici  
Member of Congress



Raja Krishnamoorthi  
Member of Congress



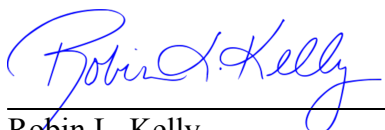
Stephen F. Lynch  
Member of Congress



Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.  
Member of Congress



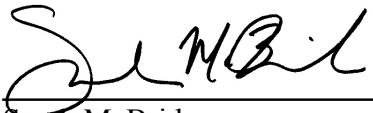
Dan Goldman  
Member of Congress



Robin L. Kelly  
Member of Congress



Kim Schrier, M.D.  
Member of Congress



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Sarah McBride  
Member of Congress



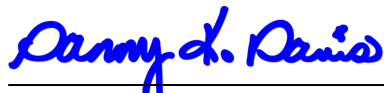
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Adam Smith  
Member of Congress



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Mike Thompson  
Member of Congress



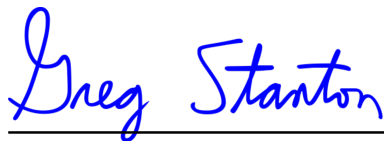
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Danny K. Davis  
Member of Congress



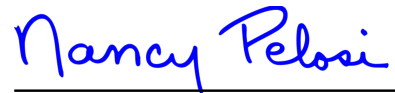
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Andrea Salinas  
Member of Congress




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Greg Stanton  
Member of Congress



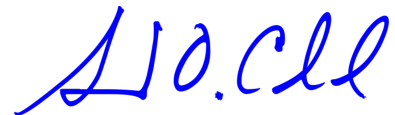
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Nancy Pelosi  
Member of Congress



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Jared Huffman  
Member of Congress



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Salud Carbajal  
Member of Congress



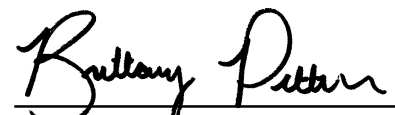
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Paul D. Tonko  
Member of Congress



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Ted W. Lieu  
Member of Congress



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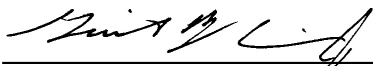
Brittany Petersen  
Member of Congress



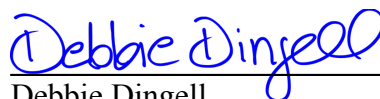
Lateefah Simon  
Member of Congress



Rashida Tlaib  
Member of Congress



Gilbert Ray Cisneros, Jr.  
Member of Congress



Debbie Dingell  
Member of Congress



Maxwell Alejandro Frost  
Member of Congress



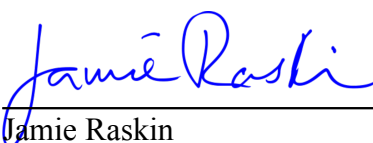
John B. Larson  
Member of Congress



Chellie Pingree  
Member of Congress



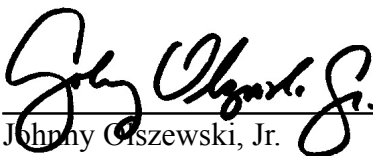
Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress



Jamie Raskin  
Member of Congress



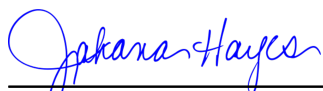
Jesús G. "Chuy" García  
Member of Congress



Johnny Oszewski, Jr.  
Member of Congress



Mike Quigley  
Member of Congress



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Jahana Hayes  
Member of Congress



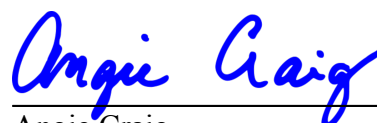
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Maxine Dexter, M.D.  
Member of Congress



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Thomas R. Suozzi  
Member of Congress



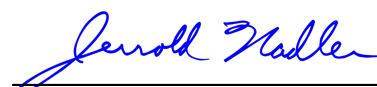
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Angie Craig  
Member of Congress



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Josh Gottheimer  
Member of Congress



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Jerrold Nadler  
Member of Congress



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Yassamin Ansari  
Member of Congress



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Gabe Amo  
Member of Congress



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Dina Titus  
Member of Congress



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Eric Sorensen  
Member of Congress




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Lori Trahan  
Member of Congress



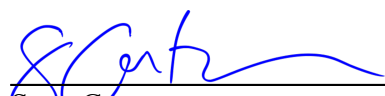
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Laura Friedman  
Member of Congress

  
George Whitesides  
Member of Congress

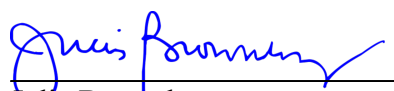
  
Betty McCollum  
Member of Congress

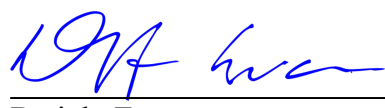
  
Kevin Mullin  
Member of Congress


  
Sean Casten  
Member of Congress


  
Jake Auchincloss  
Member of Congress

  
Eugene Simon Vindman  
Member of Congress

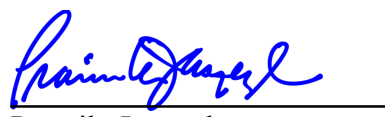
  
Julia Brownley  
Member of Congress

  
Dwight Evans  
Member of Congress

  
Mary Gay Scanlon  
Member of Congress

  
Sylvia R. Garcia  
Member of Congress

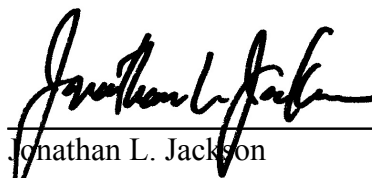
  
Adelfa S. Grijalva  
Member of Congress

  
Pramila Jayapal  
Member of Congress



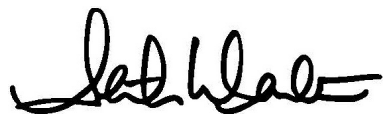
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Shri Thanedar  
Member of Congress



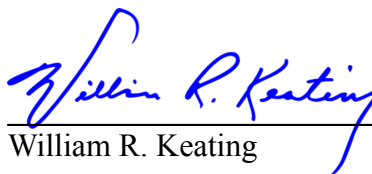
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Jonathan L. Jackson  
Member of Congress



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Seth Moulton  
Member of Congress



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William R. Keating  
Member of Congress



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Richard E. Neal  
Member of Congress



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Wesley Bell  
Member of Congress



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Frederica S. Wilson  
Member of Congress



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Bonnie Watson Coleman  
Member of Congress




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Mark DeSaulnier  
Member of Congress



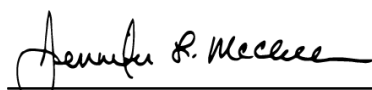
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Timothy M. Kennedy  
Member of Congress



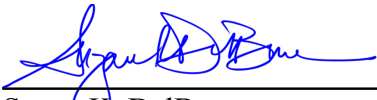
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LaMonica McIver  
Member of Congress



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Jennifer L. McClellan  
Member of Congress



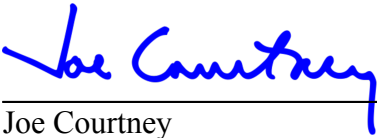
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Suzan K. DelBene  
Member of Congress



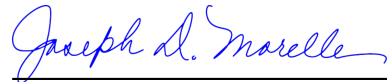
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Robert C. "Bobby" Scott  
Member of Congress



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Joe Courtney  
Member of Congress



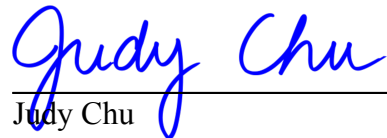
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Joseph D. Morelle  
Member of Congress



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Katherine M. Clark  
Member of Congress



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Judy Chu  
Member of Congress