



The Honorable James Comer
Chairman
House Oversight Committee
2157 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Robert Garcia
Ranking Member
House Oversight Committee
2157 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

September 9, 2025

Chairman Comer and Ranking Member Garcia,

Founded in 1974, Brady works across Congress, courts, and communities, uniting gun owners and non-gun owners alike, to take action, not sides, and end America's gun violence epidemic. Our organization today carries the name of Jim and Sarah Brady. As you know, Jim was shot and severely injured in the assassination attempt on President Ronald Reagan. As victims of gun violence and life-long gun owners, Jim and Sarah dedicated the rest of their lives to passing federal legislation requiring background checks for gun sales. Brady continues to uphold Jim and Sarah's legacy by uniting Americans from coast to coast, red and blue, young and old, liberal and conservative, to free America from gun violence.

As the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform will be considering numerous bills on the District of Columbia, Brady writes to express concern over attempts to override D.C. Home Rule and oppose any bill that would impose additional federal overreach over the District's autonomy.

Every American should have a say in how they can best prevent gun violence and violent crime in their own communities without federal overreach; that is at the very core of the system of federalism our founding fathers fought a revolution to create. When it comes to efforts to pass gun or public safety laws, citizens of our nation's capital are often at the mercy of federal legislators with little interest in their needs, and attempts by the District's leaders to keep their communities safe are continuously tossed aside by lawmakers with no stake in those communities.

The District's residents are among the only Americans who bear all the responsibilities of citizenship without fully realizing their benefits. [D.C. residents pay higher taxes](#) than in all but 2 states and have the [highest per capita federal tax rate](#) in the nation. Yet, D.C. Home Rule is limited — Congress has the power to review and block local legislation, control the budget, and appoint judges.

The bills being considered by the Committee are both an overreach and unnecessary. Violent crime in the District, including crimes involving firearms, has [fallen since 2023 and was at a 30-year low](#) in January

2025. That fall is directly attributable to recent policy efforts to reduce violence, including increased investment in community-based violence intervention work being done by local D.C. residents and organizations.

District residents deserve autonomy over their home and over how they choose to combat violent crime. **As such, Brady calls on Members of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform to oppose any bill that restricts the autonomy of the District of Columbia or overrides the District's criminal justice laws.**

Best regards,
Mark

Mark A. Collins
Director, Federal Policy
Brady: United Against Gun Violence
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