

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5051
MINORITY (202) 225-5074
<https://oversight.house.gov>

MEMORANDUM

July 15, 2022

To: Members of the Committee on Oversight and Reform

Fr: Committee Staff

Re: Hearing on “Examining the Practices and Profits of Gun Manufacturers”

On **Wednesday, July 20, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. ET**, the Committee on Oversight and Reform will hold a hybrid hearing in **room 2154 of the Rayburn House Office Building and on the Zoom video platform** to examine the role of the firearms industry in the gun violence epidemic.

I. BACKGROUND

On July 4, 2022, a 21-year-old gunman opened fire at an Independence Day celebration in Highland Park, Illinois.¹ He killed seven people and wounded dozens of others.² This massacre followed a string of mass shootings in prior months, including a shooting at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas, that killed 19 children and two teachers, and a shooting at a Tops supermarket in Buffalo, New York, just ten days earlier, which killed ten people.³ In each of these cases, the gunman used an AR-15-style rifle to carry out the murders.⁴

Gun manufacturers, and the gun industry at large, have enjoyed a significant increase in firearms sales in recent years.⁵ This increase in gun sales has been correlated with an increase in

¹ *What We Know About the Shooting in Highland Park*, New York Times (July 7, 2022) (online at www.nytimes.com/article/highland-park-shooting-facts.html).

² *Id.*

³ *What to Know About the School Shooting in Uvalde, Texas*, New York Times (July 5, 2022) (online at www.nytimes.com/article/ualde-texas-school-shooting.html); *Gunman Kills 10 at Buffalo Supermarket in Racist Attack*, New York Times (May 14, 2022) (online at www.nytimes.com/live/2022/05/14/nyregion/buffalo-shooting).

⁴ *More Mass Shooters Are Using Semi-Automatic Rifles – Often Bought Legally*, USA Today (July 12, 2022) (online at www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2022/07/12/mass-shootings-weapons-legal-what-to-know/7814081001/).

⁵ *U.S. Bought Almost 20 Million Guns Last Year — Second-Highest Year On Record*, Forbes (Jan. 5, 2022) (online at www.forbes.com/sites/joewalsh/2022/01/05/us-bought-almost-20-million-guns-last-year---second-highest-year-on-record/?sh=73673ef213bb).

gun violence in the United States.⁶ Guns are now the leading cause of death for children in this country.⁷

II. THE COMMITTEE’S INVESTIGATION

On May 26, 2022, in the wake of the mass shootings in Buffalo and Uvalde, the Committee sent letters to five leading manufacturers of AR-15-style rifles for information related to the manufacture, marketing, and sales of their weapons, to understand how these guns are fueling the gun violence epidemic and to inform gun safety legislation to protect Americans.⁸

On June 8, 2022, the Committee held a hearing titled “The Urgent Need to Address the Gun Violence Epidemic” to examine the toll gun violence has on American communities and commonsense reforms to prevent further deaths from firearms.⁹ The hearing featured testimony from individuals affected by gun violence, local elected officials, and gun safety advocates and experts.

III. HEARING PURPOSE

The purpose of this hearing is to examine the role of the firearms industry in the gun violence epidemic.

IV. WITNESSES

Mark P. Smith

President and Chief Executive Officer
Smith & Wesson Brands, Inc.

Christopher Killoy (*Invited*)

President and Chief Executive Officer
Sturm, Ruger & Company, Inc.

⁶ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *Fast Facts: Firearm Violence Prevention* (May 4, 2022) (online at www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/firearms/fastfact.html); *What the Data Says About Gun Deaths in the U.S.*, Pew Research Center (Feb. 3, 2022) (online at www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2022/02/03/what-the-data-says-about-gun-deaths-in-the-u-s/).

⁷ *Firearms Overtook Auto Accidents as the Leading Cause of Death in Children*, NPR (April 22, 2022) (online at www.npr.org/2022/04/22/1094364930/firearms-leading-cause-of-death-in-children).

⁸ Committee on Oversight and Reform, *Press Release: Chairwoman Maloney Launches Investigation into Manufacturers of Assault Weapons Used in Mass Shootings* (May 27, 2022) (online at <https://oversight.house.gov/news/press-releases/chairwoman-maloney-launches-investigation-into-manufacturers-of-assault-weapons>).

⁹ Committee on Oversight and Reform, *Hearing on The Urgent Need to Address the Gun Violence Epidemic* (June 8, 2022) (online at <https://oversight.house.gov/legislation/hearings/the-urgent-need-to-address-the-gun-violence-epidemic>).

Marty Daniel (*Invited*)
Chief Executive Officer
Daniel Defense, LLC

Ryan Busse
Senior Advisor
Giffords Law Center

Kelly Sampson
Senior Counsel and Director of Racial Justice
Brady: United Against Gun Violence

Staff contacts: Charnele Dernbach, Max Whitcomb, Taylor Edwards, and William Ryan
at (202) 225-5051.