



June 16, 2022

Dear Senator:

On behalf of The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, we write to express our support for Steve Dettelbach as Director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms and Explosives (ATF). We urge you to promptly confirm him.

Once again, we find ourselves in the wake of horrific mass shootings, including the murder of 10 Black shoppers in a Buffalo, NY grocery by a white supremacist, and more recently the senseless massacre of 19 children and two adults at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Tex., the nation's deadliest school shooting since the 2012 massacre at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn. But these shameful high-profile incidents only tell part of the story. Every year, well over ten thousand people in the U.S. have had their lives cut short in gun-related homicides. And every year, communities of color throughout the country are disproportionately affected. The public desperately needs strong leadership at the federal level to address gun-related crime, and to support state and local authorities, and the communities they serve, as they continually respond to gun violence.

Mr. Dettelbach brings with him a strong track record of defending underserved and vulnerable communities. He worked in the Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division, Criminal Section, where he handled a number of important cases including the El Monte slavery case involving dozens of Thai garment workers held in involuntary servitude in California. As the U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Ohio, he established a new Civil Rights Unit in that office. His accomplishments in that office included reaching a consent decree with the Cleveland Police and bringing suit against two counties under the Voting Rights Act to secure bilingual ballots. He also served as chair of the Attorney General's Civil Rights Subcommittee under Attorneys General Eric Holder and Loretta Lynch. As the nation's chief enforcer of federal firearms laws, Mr. Dettelbach will bring a much-needed sensitivity to how all individuals including people of color are affected by gun violence, and a strong dedication to using all the tools at his disposal to help stem the tide.

Throughout his career, in both the private and public sectors, Mr. Dettelbach has stood out for his leadership skills, his ability to listen to and work with a wide range of stakeholders, and his stellar credentials. The Leadership Conference is pleased to support his nomination as the Director of ATF, and we urge you to confirm him without delay.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions, please contact Rob Randhava, senior counsel, at [randhava@civilrights.org](mailto:randhava@civilrights.org) or at 202-466-6058.

Sincerely,

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