



# State of New Mexico

Michelle Lujan Grisham  
*Governor*

February 14, 2019

## SENATE EXECUTIVE MESSAGE NO. 6

The Honorable Mary Kay Papen, President Pro Tempore  
and Members of the New Mexico State Senate  
State Capitol Building  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

Dear President Pro Tempore Papen and Members of the Senate,

We share a genuine opportunity to enact common-sense gun violence reduction measures, a real chance to make a difference in the fight to make our communities safer.

Enacting background checks to identify whether or not a person should possess a firearm and keep guns out of the hands of people with dangerous histories is the foundation of any comprehensive gun violence strategy. This is a first step and an important step in our public safety enhancement efforts.

Simply put, the background check legislation before you will save lives. We have to be on the forefront of prevention measures, whether it's studying gun violence as the public health epidemic it is or dedicating ourselves to making it tougher for bad actors to act badly.

Background checks, as you know, are more than a popular idea; they are effective. Background checks reduce the rate of women shot by an intimate partner by 47 percent; the rate of law enforcement officers shot and killed in the line of duty by 53 percent; and the rate of firearm suicide by 47 percent.

Most notably, perhaps, is the reality that 97 percent of American voters support background checks for all gun sales. That includes an overwhelming majority of gun owners, who have expressed support for such measures as well.

One year ago today, seventeen American families saw their entire world shatter. Seventeen bright futures were cut short. The lives of countless others were irrevocably changed by the trauma of what happened at a Florida high school.

In the interim, since Parkland, 1,200 more American children have been shot and killed. New Mexico is no exception when it comes to gun violence in this country.

These shootings were, and are, preventable. I call on us as leaders in New Mexico to lean in, to take common-sense action where we know we can and must.

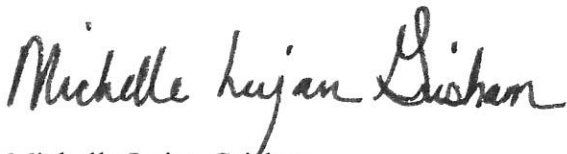
On the one-year anniversary of the horrific massacre at Parkland, I am reminded of our duty to take action to protect our children and families from gun violence.

I respect and value the innumerable responsible gun-owners across New Mexico. I recognize and respect their rights, rights we all share under our constitution.

But I will not abide inaction when innocent lives are at stake. I will not abide the path of least resistance when we can act and indeed lead.

I therefore ask that the honorable New Mexico State Senate pass Senate Bill 8.

Respectfully yours,



Michelle Lujan Grisham  
Governor

RECEIVED FROM THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Time: 11:43 am  
Date: 2/14/19

By Maggie Toulouse Oliver  
Secretary of State of New Mexico

Time: 11:45  
Date: 2/14/19

By Lucille V. Martinez  
for Chief Clerk of the Senate