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## SELECT COMMITTEE ON MASS VIOLENCE PREVENTION & COMMUNITY SAFETY TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

### **Questions to Designated Parties, Duty # 1**

The below questions from members of the House Select Committee on Mass Violence Prevention and Community Safety (Select Committee) were submitted via email to Designated Parties as listed in the Formal Request for Information posted by the Select Committee on August 13, 2020.

#### **General Questions for all Designated Parties from Representative Blanco:**

1. What specific statutes related to the transfer and possession of firearms do you believe need to be strengthened?
2. NICS is central to background checks and preventing certain persons from purchasing firearms. What specific statutory changes do you believe we need to make regarding information reported for NICS purposes and to improve the quality and responsiveness of that database?
3. Can you please identify any gaps in current law that might allow the purchasing and transfer of firearms to persons prohibited by current law from possessing firearms? In other words, how are these persons coming into possession of firearms and what recommendations do you have to prevent them from acquiring firearms?
4. Can you explain the laws that address the transfer and purchasing of firearms online? What gaps can you identify related to internet purchases? And what specific statutory recommendations do you have to ensure persons not allowed to possess firearms are not able to acquire them online?
5. Can you please provide an exhaustive list of all persons prohibited by current law from possessing firearms? Do you believe certain other persons should be prohibited from purchasing firearms?
6. Are persons convicted of a hate crime prohibited from possessing firearms?
7. What specific statutory recommendation would you have to address stranger to stranger sales that currently don't involve background checks? How could your recommendation(s) be enforced?

8. What happens when someone who is prohibited from purchasing/possessing a firearm tries to purchase a firearm and is discovered and barred because of a background check? Is there any follow up from law enforcement with that person who tried to illegally obtain a firearm? Is the attempted purchase a crime for that person who is prohibited by law?
9. Do you believe the current crime or punishment is effective for possessing a firearm for persons who are prohibited by law?
10. Do you have any specific statutory recommendations on addressing straw purchases?
11. Do you have any specific recommendation on expanding background checks?
12. What specific recommendations could you make regarding the disarming of persons prohibited of possessing firearms?
13. Do you have any other recommendations or opinions on addressing and preventing mass gun violence?