

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4605

April 26, 2021

Dear Mr. Chipman,

I write to ask that you publicly commit to investigate allegations that Hunter Biden falsified information during a background check in order to illegally obtain a firearm should you be confirmed by the U.S. Senate as the Director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF).

Politico first reported that Hunter Biden answered “no” to the question about drug use on the Firearms Transaction Record for a gun back in October of 2018.¹ Many Americans are rightfully alarmed by these reports considering Mr. Biden’s history of drug use. In the past, the Biden family has been open about Mr. Biden’s struggle with substance abuse, and Navy records indicate his discharge from service following a positive drug test.² Since lying on a background check form is a felony, this allegation merits investigation.

Sadly, lying on background checks is common, often called “lying and trying”, but rarely prosecuted. The Government Accountability Office reported in 2017 that of the 112,000 lie-and-try crimes that year, only 12 were prosecuted.³ Dating back to a report you commissioned during your time at ATF, it is estimated that 10-20 percent of people denied gun purchases ended up committing a crime involving a firearm later.⁴

¹ Tara Palmeri and Ben Schreckinger, *Sources: Secret Service inserted itself into case of Hunter Biden's gun*, *Politico*, <https://www.politico.com/news/2021/03/25/sources-secret-service-inserted-itself-into-case-of-hunter-bidens-gun-477879>

² Colleen McCain Nelson and Julian E. Barnes, *Bidien's Son Hunter Discharged From Navy Reserve After Failing Cocaine Test*, *The Wall Street Journal*, <https://www.wsj.com/articles/bidens-son-hunter-discharged-from-navy-reserve-after-failing-cocaine-test-1413499657>

³ *Law Enforcement: Few Individuals Denied Firearms Purchases Are Prosecuted and ATF Should Assess Use of Warning Notices in Lieu of Prosecutions* (September 2018), Government Accountability Office, <https://www.gao.gov/assets/gao-18-440.pdf>

⁴ Jose Pagliery, *Gun form liars may go on to commit gun crimes, internal ATF research suggests*, *CNN*, <https://www.cnn.com/2018/12/21/us/gun-form-liars-atf-invs>

Allegations of this crime are no less serious when leveled at Hunter Biden. Your career makes clear your zeal for expanding and enforcing regulations on firearms. Your work as a special agent at ATF for 25 years, which notably included working as a case agent in the Waco trial, and then going on to advise a leading gun control advocacy organization, speak for themselves.⁵ The American public deserves to know that this same commitment will not be curbed depending on whether the offender is well-connected.

Your public commitment to hold all Americans to the same standard would demonstrate a good faith effort to maintain the rule of law and keep all Americans safe. I look forward to your public statement affirming your intention to investigate accordingly.

Sincerely,

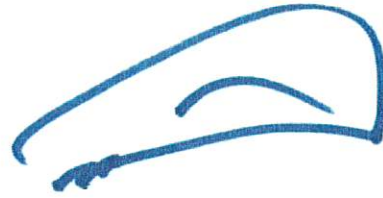


Bob Good, Member of Congress

⁵ Audrey Conklin, *Biden ATF pick David Chipman alarms gun rights groups*, Fox News, <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/biden-gun-control-atf-david-chipman-assault-weapons-nra>




Brian Babin, Member of Congress



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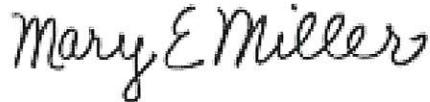
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