

Floor Remarks
H.R. 6395 FY2021 NDAA
Amendment #91
Rep. Gerald E. Connolly (D-VA)

- M_. Chair, I rise today to offer an amendment to the FY2021 National Defense Authorization Act which would ensure that no U.S. servicemember with a felony-level domestic violence conviction is able to legally purchase firearms.
- This simple, bipartisan amendment would codify existing Department of Defense policy which requires DOD to report to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) servicemembers who are prohibited from purchasing firearms.
- The DOD Inspector General found that DOD has failed consistently to report domestic violence convictions – 4 in 5 domestic violence cases examined (86 percent) were not properly reported to the FBI or NICS.
- One of the domestic abusers the DOD failed to report to the FBI was Devin Kelley, who entered a house of worship in Sutherland Springs, TX in November 2017, and killed 27 people with the guns he should have been prohibited from purchasing under current law.
- Codifying this reporting requirement gives it more teeth and will help Congress in its oversight of these important public safety measures that DOD is failing to implement.
- I want to thank my colleagues, Peter King, Mike Turner, and Jennifer Wexton, for cosponsoring this amendment with me.
- M_ Chair, I yield back.