



Congresswoman  
**VERONICA ESCOBAR**  
*Texas' 16th Congressional District*

August 2020

## El Paso Strong: Combating Hate with Action

On August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019, El Paso faced the indescribable pain and horror that too many other American communities have had to endure. A horrific act of domestic terrorism fueled by racism and xenophobia that killed 23 beautiful souls, injured 22, and devastated all of us.

A year after the attack against our community, El Pasoans continue to demand action to address domestic terrorism and resolve the gun violence epidemic that plagues our nation, and Congresswoman Veronica Escobar stands ready to be a voice for her community in our nation's capital.

Every day since the attack against El Paso, and every day moving forward, Congresswoman Escobar has committed her work to honoring the victims, survivors, and the El Paso community with action. Below a comprehensive overview of Congresswoman Escobar's legislative actions:

On July 31, 2020, [Congresswoman Escobar introduced a legislative package ahead of the one-year anniversary of the shooting](#). The first, a resolution, marks one year since the shooting, honors the victims and survivors, and acknowledges the work left to be done to combat hate and gun violence. The second, a bill, would designate the El Paso Community Healing Garden as a National Memorial. The NALEO Educational Fund, UnidosUS, and LULAC endorse both pieces of legislation.

Additionally, the same day, [Congresswoman Escobar secured \\$8 million in H.R. 7617, the second minibus for FY21](#), for grants to state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies to conduct educational outreach and training on hate crimes and to investigate and prosecute hate crimes.

This appropriations package also includes an amendment introduced by Congresswoman Escobar to promote access to mental health resources to survivors of crime by encouraging the Health and Human Services (HHS) to streamline Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration (SAMHSA) grants.

On September 25, 2019, Dr. Alejandro Rios-Tovar, Associate Trauma Medical Director at the University Medical Center of El Paso, [testified before the House Judiciary Committee during a hearing on Protecting America from Assault Weapons](#), where he described the lethal impact of assault weapons in communities like El Paso and call upon Congress to come together to stop the senseless gun violence.

On September 11, 2019, the House Judiciary Committee took additional steps to address the issue of gun violence prevention by marking up a series of bills to help respond to the growing problem of gun violence:

- **H.R. 1186, the *Keep Americans Safe Act***  
The *Keep Americans Safe Act*, introduced by Rep. Ted Deutch (FL-22), would ban high capacity ammunition magazines. These magazines are a critical feature that makes many assault weapons particularly lethal.
- **H.R. 1236, the *Extreme Risk Protection Order Act of 2019***, amended to also include provisions from **H.R. 3076, the *Federal Extreme Risk Protection Order Act***  
The *Extreme Risk Protection Order Act of 2019*, introduced by Rep. Salud Carbajal (CA-24), provides incentives through grants for states to adopt laws providing for Extreme Risk Protection Orders to prevent those deemed a risk to themselves or others from accessing firearms. In addition, the *Federal Extreme Risk Protection Order Act of 2019*, introduced by Rep. Lucy McBath (GA-06), establishes a procedure for obtaining Extreme Risk Protection Orders in federal court.
- **H.R. 2708, the *Disarm Hate Act***.  
The *Disarm Hate Act*, introduced by Rep. David Cicilline, includes those convicted of misdemeanor hate crimes in the list of categories of individuals who are prohibited from possessing firearms, and who would be prohibited from doing so through background checks.

On September 6, 2019, Congresswoman Escobar chaired a [House Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship hearing in El Paso](#) focusing on the Trump administration's border policies and the relationship between anti-immigrant

rhetoric and domestic terrorism. The hearing shed light on this painful and dangerous trend and positioned El Paso in the front and center of this important national discussion.

Following the attack against our community, Congresswoman Escobar, along with over 200 of her colleagues, urged Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell to call the Senate back into session over August recess in 2019 to consider bipartisan pieces of legislation passed by the House of Representatives in February – H.R.8, the Bipartisan Background Checks Act and H.R. 1112, the Enhanced Background Checks Act. These bills could prevent future tragedies like the one that happened in El Paso.

## Resources for the Community

If you are in need of assistance, Congresswoman Escobar’s office has compiled the list of resources below for the community. Additionally, to learn about how you can help the victims and their families, please visit the El Paso Community Foundation website at [www.epcf.org](http://www.epcf.org)

If you have any other questions or need help with a federal agency, please contact my office at 915-541-1400 or visit [escobar.house.gov/services/help-federal-agency](http://escobar.house.gov/services/help-federal-agency).

**[The El Paso United Family Resiliency Center](#)**

Dial 915-775-2783

**[Emergence Health Network Crisis Hotline](#)**

Dial 915-779-1800

**[Miners Talk crisis line \(UTEP Students Only\)](#)**

Dial 915-747-5302

**[Crisis Text Line](#)**

Text HOME to 741741

**[Veterans and Military Crisis Line](#)**

Dial 1-800-273-8255 then press 1

**[El Paso Child Guidance Center](#)**

Dial 915-562-1999