

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

April 10, 2025

Daniel Driscoll
Acting Director
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives
U.S. Department of Justice
99 New York Avenue, NE
Washington, DC 20226

Dear Acting Director Driscoll:

I write requesting information regarding the use of certain systems by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF).

Pursuant to a Freedom of Information Act request by Gun Owners of America, the ATF inadvertently released unredacted documents regarding a system monitoring Americans seeking to exercise their rights under the Second Amendment. Upon realizing their error, the ATF initiated an ongoing, yearslong effort to prevent the release of those documents.

Based on limited public information, the NICS Audit Log Review (Monitoring) system appears to allow ATF agents to request monitoring of a target for time frames ranging from 30 to 180 days after providing identifying information and applicable or potential violations of statute. Upon approval, the ATF would receive alert(s) from the FBI using information in its National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS). The existence of this program, and the ATF's longstanding push to conceal it from the public, raise questions about its general use and its potential to infringe on Americans' civil liberties.

For this reason, I request you provide complete, original, and unredacted copies of the following no later than 5:00 p.m. ET on April 24, 2025.

- Records showing the number of individuals for whom ATF is requesting or has requested NICS monitoring, since April 28, 2020.
- Records demonstrating the purpose(s) for which each individual has been monitored.
- Records discussing the legality of NICS monitoring.
- Records demonstrating the number of individuals prosecuted as a result of being "monitored" by the program.
- Records demonstrating any reported unlawful or otherwise improper misuse of NICS monitoring by ATF personnel (or contractors of ATF).

I appreciate your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rand Paul". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rand Paul, M.D.
Chairman
U.S. Senate Homeland Security
& Governmental Affairs Committee