

# National Law Enforcement Partnership to Prevent Gun Violence (NLEPPGV) 2010-2021

## Partnership Report

### July 2021



NATIONAL POLICE  
FOUNDATION

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## History & Purpose of the Partnership

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The National Law Enforcement Partnership to Prevent Gun Violence was launched on October 25, 2010, at the annual conference of the International Association of Chiefs of Police in Orlando, Florida. Representatives of the founding organizations were on hand to speak to the devastating impact of firearms in the United States. The Partnership was organized by 10 national law enforcement leadership organizations that pledged to focus on effective strategies to address gun violence, calling its current level a "crisis" and "unacceptable."

The original members of the Partnership<sup>1</sup> included:

- Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) (non-membership)
- Hispanic American Police Command Officers Association (HAPCOA)
- International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators (IACLEA)
- International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP)
- Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCCA)
- National Association of Women Law Enforcement Executives (NAWLEE)
- National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE)
- National Sheriffs' Association (NSA)
- Police Executive Research Forum (PERF)
- National Police Foundation (NPF) (non-membership)

Collectively, the partner organizations represent and support nearly 35,000 members and law enforcement agencies, including the largest city police agencies in the United States and representatives from hundreds of international law enforcement organizations

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<sup>1</sup> The organizations participating in the Partnership evolved over the 11-year history of the Initiative.

across the globe. The Partnership marks an unprecedented joint effort by law enforcement leaders to address gun violence in an era of shrinking law enforcement budgets and rising levels of officer deaths.

The Partnership was chaired by partner members and staff, including Director Hubert Williams (ret.) who served as President of NPF, and Chief Jim Johnson (ret.) of the Baltimore County Police Department.

**As the Partnership was launched in 2010, various organization leaders spoke about the Partnership's mission and the issue of gun violence:**

Every day, gun violence threatens the safety and well-being of citizens and law enforcement officers throughout this country," said Chief Michael J. Carroll, president of the IACP. "Law enforcement understands and embraces our central role in combating illegal firearms and gun violence. That is why I am proud that the IACP, along with the leaders of our nation's premier law enforcement organizations, have come together in this unprecedented manner to create this national Partnership."

According to U.S. Secret Service Resident Agent in Charge Hector Hernandez, president of the HAPCOA, law enforcement leaders "know firsthand how devastating crimes involving guns are to our communities and society as a whole. We're honored to have the opportunity to have a role in fighting the cycle of gun violence."

"In 2008, 34 officers were killed in the line of duty with firearms. So far this year, we've lost 43 officers to firearms," said Chief Katherine Perez, president of NAWLEE. "The trend is worsening, and we need to take immediate action."

"Policymakers need to understand that law enforcement officers deal with gun violence as a daily reality, not an abstract theory," said Hubert Williams, former president of NPF. "Policy and resource decisions can put officers on the front lines at risk."

"Reducing gun violence is absolutely essential. Far too many of our citizens live in fear and far too many of our officers have lost their lives," said Chief Rob Davis, president of MCCA. "This unprecedented partnership is about bringing a fresh, pragmatic perspective to the debate about how to enhance community and officer safety."

"It's troubling that, even with the homicide rate declining, we are seeing a higher percentage of crime committed using firearms. We need to use the amplified voice of this partnership to bring attention back to the basic problem of too many guns in the wrong hands," remarked Assistant City Manager Patrick Melvin, president of NOBLE.

"The multiple incidents of serious gun violence on college campuses just since classes resumed this fall has been tremendously distressing and absolutely senseless," commented Chief Phillip Johnson, president of IACLEA.

"We need to engage with communities all across the country to support gun violence prevention efforts," said Chief Lou Dekmar, chair of CALEA. "The economic downturn has forced law enforcement agencies across the country to compete for increasingly scarce resources. We're delighted that we'll be able to bring to bear the influence of the Partnership to advocate for the resources needed to combat gun violence and protect our citizens and officers," said Sheriff B.J. Roberts, president of NSA.

"This is a nationwide problem," said Chuck Wexler, executive director of the PERF, underscoring the significance of the announcement. "It's not every day that you get ten diverse organizations united on anything. The Partnership gives us a platform to advocate collectively for the support we need to reduce gun crimes."

The Partnership was launched as a program administered by the IACP but transitioned to the NPF in 2012. NSA ended its involvement with the Partnership early in the effort, during 2011.

The Partnership launched with a Statement of Principles, representing the shared commitment of the member organizations to address the pervasive nature of gun violence and its horrific impact on communities across America:

- The level of gun violence in the United States, specifically firearm-related injuries and deaths including homicides, suicides, and accidental shootings, is unacceptable and demands immediate attention.
- As law enforcement organizations, we believe the level and lethality of gun violence directed at police officers requires an organized and aggressive response from policy makers at the federal, state, and local levels.



- Elected officials must commit to closing gaps in the current regulatory system, including those that enable felons, minors, persons with mental illness, and other prohibited persons to access firearms, and those that allow the trafficking of illegal guns.
- Law enforcement plays a central and critical role in preventing gun violence and solving crime. Effective strategies for the strict enforcement of laws concerning the illegal possession, trafficking, and criminal use of firearms are vital, and need to be supported by data, research, technology, training, and best practices.
- Because the public's health and safety depend on the efforts of law enforcement, agencies must have resources sufficient to prioritize the protection of officers and communities against illegal guns and firearm violence.
- The crisis of gun violence in our country necessitates a sustained, coordinated, and collaborative effort involving citizens, elected officials, law enforcement, and the entire criminal justice system.

## Overview of Partnership Efforts

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The Partnership held annual meetings and press conferences during the IACP Annual Meetings; supported convenings of law enforcement, researchers, and others to explore emerging research and policy issues; and engaged with member organizations on proposed legislation, Congressional testimony, and other matters.

During the course of the Partnership's existence from 2010 to 2021, it released more than 60 statements to the public, Members of Congress and Congressional Committees, and the media. The intent of these statements was to educate the public, media, and policymakers on the views of law enforcement and the reasons for those views. The Partnership's statements and letters can be found in Appendix A.

Reflected in these statements was a continued focus on the principles of the organization, expressions of grief and concern following many mass shooting incidents and attacks on officers, and policy proposals. The Partnership maintained a policy agenda consisting of six positions, including:

- Require background checks for all firearm purchasers.

- Improve background checks by ensuring that the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS), which maintains records of those who are legally prohibited from purchasing guns, be complete and accurate.
- Limit high-capacity ammunition magazines to 10 rounds.
- Oppose federal preemption of state laws governing the carrying of concealed weapons.
- Strengthen penalties for straw purchasing and make firearms trafficking a federal crime.

Seven of the nine groups—including IACLEA, IACP, MCCA, NAWLEE, NOBLE, PERF, and NPF—also supported a ban new semi-automatic assault weapons.

Each of the six official policy statements issued by the Partnership can be found in Appendix B.

## Status of the Partnership

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As of June 2021, several of the member organizations, including the IACP, PERF, and others, continue to publish statements and views on their own websites and/or continue to name gun violence as a top strategic priority, including NPF. Though these steps are taken independently, when reviewed as a whole, they continue to represent consensus that gun violence in the United States is a major epidemic, threatens officer safety, and wreaks havoc on many communities across the nation, most especially communities of color and those in impoverished areas. We are gratified to see the Biden Administration taking bold steps to address the rise in gun violence through its June 2021 Comprehensive Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Gun Crime and Ensure Public Safety, and we have confidence in the Administration's commitment to address the problem through common sense solutions and resources.

# APPENDIX A

# NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT PARTNERSHIP TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
January 5, 2016

CONTACT:  
[info@lepartnership.org](mailto:info@lepartnership.org)

## NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT LEADERS APPLAUD REASONABLE AND CONCRETE STEPS TO STRENGTHEN ENFORCEMENT OF EXISTING GUN LAWS AND ENHANCE PUBLIC SAFETY

**WASHINGTON** – Leaders of the nation's major national law enforcement leadership organizations today participated in a meeting with President Obama where he announced and discussed a series of concrete actions designed to reduce gun violence, including measures to keep firearms out of the hands of those who are not legally entitled to possess them.

The National Law Enforcement Partnership to Prevent Gun Violence (the Partnership), comprised of national law enforcement leadership organizations, is pleased to see these vitally important actions move forward, which will enhance public safety and support law enforcement's efforts to reduce gun violence.

"These critical enforcement measures will strengthen existing background check processes, ensure that those who are engaged in the business of firearm sales follow the rules that gun dealers are required to follow, and provide law enforcement increased support by better resourcing the agencies charged with enforcing gun laws," said Chief Jim Johnson of the Baltimore County (MD) Police Department, who represents the Major Cities Chiefs Association and serves as the Chairperson for the Partnership.

Many of the steps announced by the President this week have long been a part of the Partnership's policy agenda and are consistent with its statement of principles. "These very reasonable enforcement actions will better protect all of our communities at a time of heightened concerns about gun violence and about terrorism, following the San Bernardino incident," said Johnson, who added, "It is vital that everyone understand how critical these measures are to the safety of our communities, and that none of these measures adversely impact lawful gun ownership."

"The President's actions to provide clarity on existing gun laws, prioritize enforcement of gun crimes, strengthen the NICS system by addressing the gap in mental health and other disqualifying records, and his allocation of greater resources to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) for NICS system improvements and to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives

(ATF) for additional agents and investigators will all make our communities safer,” said Johnson.

The Partnership has long stressed the vital role that ATF plays in enforcing gun laws and reducing gun violence, and has urged that ATF be better resourced to carry out its vital mission as the only federal law enforcement entity with reducing gun violence as its primary mission. The Partnership has also been calling for the nomination of a permanent director to lead ATF.

The Partnership’s policy priority has been the use of and requirement for background checks prior to all firearm sales. “Background checks have already blocked more than 2.4 million prohibited purchases since the Brady Law went into effect in 1994. “Today’s actions will go a long way, but we will continue to press for universal background checks and are grateful for the President’s support,” said Johnson.

The National Law Enforcement Partnership to Prevent Gun Violence ([www.lepartnership.org](http://www.lepartnership.org)) is an alliance of the nation’s law enforcement leadership organizations concerned about the unacceptable level of gun violence in the United States. The Partnership is working to address the pervasive nature of gun violence and its horrific impact on community and officer safety.

#### The Partnership Includes:

- Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA)
- Hispanic American Police Command Officers Association (HAPCOA)
- International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators (IACLEA)
- International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP)
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- Police Executive Research Forum (PERF)
- Police Foundation (PF)



# NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT PARTNERSHIP TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

February 13, 2014

**CONTACT**

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## STATEMENT BY BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD, POLICE CHIEF JIM JOHNSON, CHAIR, NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT PARTNERSHIP TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE, ON 20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF BRADY LAW IMPLEMENTATION

Good morning. I am Jim Johnson, Chief of Police of Baltimore County, Maryland. I am here as the Chair of the National Law Enforcement Partnership to Prevent Gun Violence, known as “the Partnership.” We are an alliance of nine national law enforcement leadership organizations working together to make our citizens and our officers safer by keeping guns out of the hands of criminals and other dangerous individuals. The Partnership includes:

- the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA);
- the Hispanic American Police Command Officers Association (HAPCOA);
- the International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators (IACLEA);
- the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP);
- the Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCCA);
- the National Association of Women Law Enforcement Executives (NAWLEE);
- the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE);
- the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF); and
- the Police Foundation (PF)

Today marks the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the implementation of the landmark Brady Law, which requires nationwide background checks for guns purchased through federally licensed firearm dealers.

I am proud to stand here today with Sarah Brady who, along with her husband Jim, have made a remarkable contribution to this nation. Law enforcement across the United States worked hard with Sarah and Jim to get the Brady Law enacted and, unquestionably, this law has been a tremendous public safety success.

Since its implementation in 1994, background checks have blocked more than two million prohibited firearm purchases. There is no way to quantify how many lives have been saved as a result of this law, but it is obvious that more than 2 million guns in the wrong hands is a recipe for more than 2 million catastrophes.

The Brady Law has been crucial in reducing firearm access to those that are not legally permitted to possess them, including criminals and the dangerously mentally



## **NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT PARTNERSHIP TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE**

ill. But there remain other avenues for dangerous purchasers to acquire firearms, and these must likewise be shut down. Up to 40 percent of firearm purchases take place between private parties, without a licensed dealer, and thus do not require a background check under federal law. As we in law enforcement have been warning, that is tantamount to allowing 40 percent of passengers to board an airplane without undergoing any security screening. The honor system would not work at airports and it does not work when it comes to buying guns.

As public safety professionals, we see every day the devastation caused by gun crime. All across America, gun violence is claiming the lives of more than 30 people each day. Law enforcement officers are not only on the front lines working to protect the public, but are increasingly the targets of gun violence. Ambushes of law enforcement have risen dramatically, and were the leading cause of fatal shootings of officers for two years in a row, in 2012 and 2013. This is unacceptable.

We may not be able to eliminate all gun violence, but that shouldn't mean we do nothing. We should take the obvious and reasonable step of requiring background checks for private sales to prevent dangerous people from acquiring guns. The nine law enforcement organizations that comprise the National Law Enforcement Partnership to Prevent Gun Violence are united in support of expanding background checks to all firearm purchases, regardless of where the sale takes place. This is not just common sense – lives depend on it.

# NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT PARTNERSHIP TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
July 8, 2016

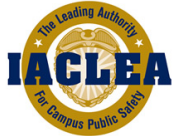
CONTACT:  
info@lepartnership.org



## STATEMENT ON THE MURDER OF FIVE DALLAS POLICE OFFICERS AND THE SHOOTING OF 7 OTHERS

Baltimore County Chief of Police Jim Johnson

*Chair National Law Enforcement Partnership to Prevent Gun Violence*



The National Law Enforcement Partnership to Prevent Gun Violence deeply mourns the loss of four Dallas Police Department Officers and one Dallas Area Rapid Transit Police Officer, who were deliberately targeted for assassination today by a deranged and cowardly individual(s) who was intent on killing law enforcement officers. We send our deepest condolences to the families of these brave fallen officers and to the officers and families of those who were shot and survived. Our thoughts are also with the citizens of Dallas, Texas and with this great Nation as we all share in the loss of these heroes.

Our coalition of nine national law enforcement leadership organizations has long expressed our concern over the devastating toll of violence in our communities and in violence directed towards law enforcement. Those who encourage and call for violence against law enforcement are equally as guilty as those who commit such violence and do nothing to promote the kind of mutual trust and cooperation that is needed to ensure that every American can feel safe within their communities.

Law enforcement officers put their own lives on the line to protect others, but the prevalence of gun violence across our nation is making these jobs increasingly more dangerous. Here are some of the disturbing facts:

- Firearm fatalities among law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty have risen sharply this year, up 44 percent over the same time last year, according to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund.
- Gunfire was the leading cause of officer line of duty deaths in 2014, as it has been since 2009, according to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund.

- Firearms were responsible for 93 percent of homicides of law enforcement officers between 1996 and 2010, according to a 2013 Johns Hopkins study.
- Gun deaths among all Americans have been on the rise over the past 15 years, going from an average of 79 per day in 2002, to 92 a day in 2014 -- the last year for which data is publicly available, according to the Center for Disease Control.

The National Law Enforcement Partnership to Prevent Gun Violence has stressed the need – as a public safety imperative – for improved responses to these senseless acts of violence and will remain committed to pursuing these improvements and calling attention to their need as we are doing today.

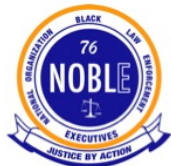
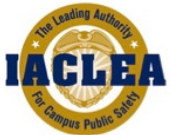
We owe it to the heroes lost and injured today and to all of America's law enforcement officers to do all we can to make our communities safer and to unite in support of one another, regardless of the color of our skin, how we worship, who we love or the uniform we wear. Dallas Chief of Police David Brown asked for our support and today, we pledge our support to the Dallas and DART Police Departments, to law enforcement nationwide, and to those in our communities who are far too often victimized by gun violence.

Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA)  
 Hispanic American Police Command Officers Association (HAPCOA)  
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 National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE)  
 Police Executive Research Forum (PERF)  
 Police Foundation (PF)

# NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT PARTNERSHIP TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
OCTOBER 22, 2013

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## LAW ENFORCEMENT LEADERS SAY EXPANDED BACKGROUND CHECKS FOR GUN PURCHASERS CRITICAL TO PUBLIC AND OFFICER SAFETY

### *AMBUSHES LEADING CAUSE OF OFFICER FIREARM FATALITIES FOR TWO YEARS IN A ROW*

Philadelphia, PA – At a press conference today at the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) conference, the National Law Enforcement Partnership to Prevent Gun Violence (the Partnership), a coalition of nine national law enforcement leadership organizations, emphasized the need to expand background checks for firearm purchasers, warning of the dangers to public and officer safety when guns are sold without background checks. Law enforcement leaders also expressed grave concerns that ambushes of police have risen dramatically and for the last two years in a row have been the leading cause of officer firearm fatalities.

"We in law enforcement are on the front lines, and we see the unacceptable toll gun violence takes in communities across America -- every single day," said Baltimore, MD Police Chief Jim Johnson, who Chairs the Partnership. "That includes law enforcement officers who are increasingly the targets of gun violence. In 2012 and as of mid-year 2013 – ambushes have been the leading cause of officer firearm fatalities. This is an alarming phenomenon that we cannot allow to continue."

In 2012, the number of officers killed by gunfire in ambushes jumped to 15, up from five in 2011, according to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund. As of mid-year 2013, seven of the 17 officers killed by gunfire were targeted in ambushes. In 2011, for the first time in 14 years, firearms were the number one cause of death for officers killed in the line of duty, and gunfire continues to be a leading cause of officer fatalities.

"Gun violence is killing us – citizens and law enforcement alike. There are more than 30 Americans killed by firearms everyday. This madness has to stop," said Philadelphia, PA Police Commissioner Charles Ramsey, the host



Chief for IACP's conference who opened the press conference. "We must do all we can to keep guns out of dangerous hands by ensuring that we require background checks on all gun purchasers." Commissioner Ramsey also serves as President of the Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCCA) and the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF), two member organizations of the Partnership.

The 1968 Gun Control Act prohibits anyone from possessing a firearm if he or she is a convicted felon, under indictment, a fugitive from justice, an unlawful user of or addicted to any controlled substance, an illegal alien, adjudicated as a mental defective or committed to a mental institution, dishonorably discharged from the military, or has renounced U.S. citizenship. The Act was later amended to include those under a restraining order for, or convicted of a crime of domestic violence. Currently, the Brady Law requires background checks for firearms purchased through federally licensed dealers. However, no background checks are required for firearms purchased in private sales, such as at gun shows or over the Internet.

"Up to 40 percent of firearm purchases are private, and thus do not require a check under federal law," said Chief Johnson. "That's like permitting 40 percent of passengers to board an airplane without going through airport security."

Noting that October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, Chief Johnson said, "Those convicted of domestic violence offenses or under a domestic violence restraining order are prohibited from possessing firearms, but because we do not require background checks at all transaction points, they are still able to get guns, and the results are tragic."

"Background checks work and have stopped more than two million prohibited purchases since 1994, when the Brady Law took effect," said Wellesley, MA Police Chief Terry M. Cunningham, 4<sup>th</sup> Vice President of IACP. As law enforcement professionals, we know countless lives have been saved because background checks thwarted those two million purchases. It is obvious we can save so many more lives if we expand background checks to all sales."

"Large or small, urban, suburban or rural, gun violence impacts communities all across America. Law enforcement is united in the fight to prevent gun violence," said Pittsburgh, PA Assistant Police Chief Maurita Bryant, Immediate Past President of the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE). "We are speaking out as public safety professionals because we know background checks save lives," she added.

The National Law Enforcement Partnership to Prevent Gun Violence (the Partnership) [lepartnership.org](http://lepartnership.org) is an alliance of the nation's law enforcement

leadership organizations concerned about the unacceptable level of gun violence in the United States. The Partnership is working to address the pervasive nature of gun violence and its horrific impact on community and officer safety. The Partnership is comprised of:

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[Police Foundation \(PF\)](#)

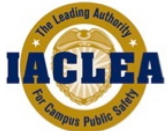
[www.lepartnership.org](http://www.lepartnership.org)

[info@lepartnership.org](mailto:info@lepartnership.org)

# NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT PARTNERSHIP TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE

## STATEMENT BY BALTIMORE COUNTY POLICE CHIEF JIM JOHNSON CHAIR, NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT PARTNERSHIP TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE

### LAW ENFORCEMENT LEADERS APPLAUD SENATE ACTION TO CONFIRM B. TODD JONES AS ATF DIRECTOR



The National Law Enforcement Partnership to Prevent Gun Violence (the Partnership) applauds the Senate's action today to confirm B. Todd Jones as Director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF). Mr. Jones is an outstanding professional who will effectively lead ATF, an agency that has functioned without a confirmed director for the past seven years.

ATF plays a vital role in protecting communities across America, particularly by investigating and preventing the illegal use and trafficking of firearms. Having a strong leader in place at ATF is essential to fighting the unacceptable level of gun violence plaguing our country. Law enforcement looks forward to working with Mr. Jones and to a continued partnership with ATF under his leadership.

Hispanic American Police Command Officers Association (HAPCOA)  
International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators (IACLEA)  
International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP)  
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Police Executive Research Forum (PERF)  
Police Foundation (PF)

# NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT PARTNERSHIP TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE

November 4, 2015

The Honorable Barack Obama  
The President  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

The National Law Enforcement Partnership to Prevent Gun Violence (the Partnership), a broad coalition of national law enforcement leadership organizations concerned about gun violence, thanks you for your excellent remarks at the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) conference last week in Chicago. The day before you spoke, the Partnership convened a press conference at the same event, stressing that curbing gun violence must be a top priority for this nation and emphasizing the need for background checks on all gun purchasers.

As you know, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) has lacked a permanent Director since March 31, 2015. Given the critical role ATF plays — through investigation and enforcement — in mitigating the harm caused by armed criminals and illegal firearms, it is vital that ATF be publicly recognized as the critically important law enforcement entity it is, and supported through proper resourcing. That includes, ensuring that ATF has the necessary operating funds and that it has a permanent leader. Just as the White House could not function effectively without a President, no local, state or federal law enforcement agency can do so without leadership. ATF's hard working agents and staff are adversely impacted and the agency is forced to operate at a deficit when the position of ATF Director is left vacant and without a nominee — regardless of the talent, professionalism or commitment of those who serve in the organization.

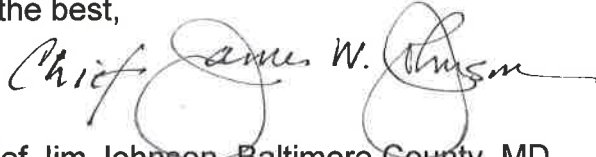
We implore you to nominate a permanent Director of ATF, and ask that you do so without delay. The law enforcement community has the utmost respect for and confidence in ATF's Deputy Director, Thomas Brandon, a career ATF special agent who has served with distinction and honor as the agency's Acting Director since March of 2015 and as the ATF Deputy Director since October 2011. We believe that there is no better person at this time to lead ATF in a permanent capacity, and we urge you to nominate him for this critical



position. It is time to send an unmistakable message that ATF and its mission to reduce gun violence is essential.

Thank you for your continued leadership on these important issues. We look forward to working with you and your staff in the days and months ahead to ensure the safety of all Americans.

All the best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chief James W. Johnson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the word "Chief" written in a smaller, more upright script than the rest of the name.

Chief Jim Johnson, Baltimore County, MD  
Chair, National Law Enforcement Partnership to Prevent Gun Violence

**Hispanic American Police Command Officers Association (HAPCOA)**

**International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators (IACLEA)**

**Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCCA)**

**National Association of Women Law Enforcement Executives (NAWLEE)**

**National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE)**

**Police Executive Research Forum (PERF)**

**Police Foundation (PF)**



## STATEMENT BY BALTIMORE COUNTY POLICE CHIEF JIM JOHNSON, CHAIR OF THE NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT PARTNERSHIP TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE, ON THE SHOOTINGS AT THE NAVY YARD



Members of the National Law Enforcement Partnership to Prevent Gun Violence express our deepest sorrow and condolences to the families who lost loved ones in the tragic shooting at the Navy Yard in Washington, DC. We mourn the 12 people whose lives were needlessly cut short by a disturbed gunman, and wish all those injured in this heinous attack a swift recovery.

We commend the heroic actions of the law enforcement officers from all agencies who worked together as a team, saving lives while risking their own as they entered the facility to confront an active shooter. One of those officers survived being shot but a security officer (a retired state trooper) was shot and killed as he, too, served to protect others. Our nation owes a great debt of gratitude to them, to the other first responders, and to the medical professionals who worked tirelessly to care for all those physically injured and emotionally traumatized.

Gun violence is taking a severe toll on the people of our nation, day in and day out, including law enforcement officers, who are too often the targets of armed perpetrators. We, as a nation, have a responsibility to do all we can to prevent future incidents and the needless loss of life.

A comprehensive approach is needed to prevent dangerous individuals from acquiring guns. As a public safety imperative, law enforcement has been urging the adoption of a federal policy requiring background checks for all firearm purchasers, along with measures to ensure that all records, including mental health disqualifiers, are submitted to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS).

While a background check reportedly did not prevent the Navy Yard suspect from purchasing a firearm, other dangerous individuals are currently able to evade a check by going online or to a gun show, for example, where no questions are asked. It is alarming that a disqualified purchaser -- with a worse record of offenses than the suspect's -- can purchase guns without any check because checks are required only if the purchase takes place through a federally licensed firearms dealer.

As those on the front lines, law enforcement urges policymakers to prioritize the problem of gun violence that claims more than one life every hour. We, as a nation, must no longer tolerate this needless carnage.

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## NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT PARTNERSHIP TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
October 2, 2015

**CONTACT:**  
[info@lepartnership.org](mailto:info@lepartnership.org)



### **STATEMENT BY BALTIMORE COUNTY POLICE CHIEF JIM JOHNSON, CHAIR, NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT PARTNERSHIP TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE, ON THE MASS SHOOTING AT UMPQUA COMMUNITY COLLEGE IN OREGON**



Members of the National Law Enforcement Partnership to Prevent Gun Violence (the Partnership) send our deepest condolences to those who lost their loved ones and our hearts go out to all those injured and traumatized by the despicable shooting rampage yesterday at Umpqua Community College in Oregon.



While we do not yet know all the details about the shooter or how he acquired firearms, we do know that more can and must be done to keep guns out of the hands of those intent on harming others.



We cannot accept the suggestion that nothing can or will be done to prevent mass shootings and the carnage occurring every day all across America. We do not accept the argument that discussion about solutions at this time is inappropriate. As law enforcement professionals, we will never accept the proposition that because we cannot prevent every shooting, that we should do nothing to prevent those we can. Now is the time for discussion and now is the time for action. Enough is enough.



Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA)  
Hispanic American Police Command Officers Association (HAPCOA)  
International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators (IACLEA)  
International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP)  
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# NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT PARTNERSHIP TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
December 23, 2014

CONTACT:  
[info@lepartnership.org](mailto:info@lepartnership.org)



## STATEMENT BY BALTIMORE COUNTY POLICE CHIEF JIM JOHNSON, CHAIR, NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT PARTNERSHIP TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE, ON THE MURDERS OF POLICE OFFICERS LIU, RAMOS AND KONDEK



The National Law Enforcement Partnership to Prevent Gun Violence mourns the loss of Officers Wenjian Liu and Rafael Ramos who were heinously murdered on Saturday afternoon by a deranged individual intent on killing law enforcement officers, and Officer Charles Kondek, who died after being gunned down and run over, allegedly by a convicted felon, in Tarpon Springs, Florida. We send our deepest condolences to the families of these brave fallen officers. Our thoughts are also with Shaneka Nicole Thompson, who is hospitalized after being shot in Baltimore County, MD, on Saturday morning.



Our coalition of nine national law enforcement leadership organizations has long warned of the dangers of guns in the hands of those too dangerous to possess them, and has been sounding an alarm about the rise in gun violence across the nation, including the dramatic rise in law enforcement officers shot and killed in the line of duty.



Law enforcement officers put their own lives on the line to protect others, but the prevalence of gun violence across our nation is making these jobs increasingly more dangerous. Here are some of the disturbing facts:



- Firearm fatalities among law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty have risen sharply this year, up 53 percent over the same time last year, according to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund.
- Gunfire is the leading cause of officer line of duty deaths in 2014, as it was in 2011 when gun deaths outpaced all other causes for the first time in 14 years.
- In 2012 and into 2013, ambushes of police were the number one cause of officer firearm fatalities, and in 2014 ambushes remain a leading cause of officer deaths involving guns.



- Firearms were responsible for 93 percent of homicides of law enforcement officers between 1996 and 2010, according to a 2013 Johns Hopkins study.
- Gun deaths among all Americans have been on the rise over the last decade, going from an average of 82 per day in 2002, to 91 a day in 2012 -- the last year for which data is publicly available.
- Active shooter incidents have also been on the rise, according to a recent FBI report, with active shooter incidents increasing from 6.4 per year from 2000 to 2006, to 16.4 per year from 2007 to 2013.

Clearly, our nation has a deeply disturbing gun violence problem that is killing those in uniform and the citizens we work to protect. It is crucial that our nation pull together and work to keep guns from criminals and others too dangerous to possess them. The National Law Enforcement Partnership to Prevent Gun Violence has stressed the need – as a public safety imperative – for policies requiring background checks to cover all firearm sales, not just those made through licensed firearms dealers.

We owe it to Officers Liu and Ramos, their loved ones, and all Americans to do all we can to make our nation safer and stronger, and to protect others from the same fate. We can and we must do more to quell this senseless violence.

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# NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT PARTNERSHIP TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

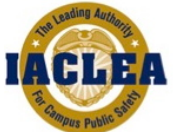
June 10, 2014

**CONTACT**

[info@lepartnership.org](mailto:info@lepartnership.org)



## **STATEMENT BY BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD, CHIEF JIM JOHNSON, CHAIR, NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT PARTNERSHIP TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE, ON THE AMBUSH OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS IN LAS VEGAS**



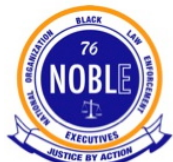
The National Law Enforcement Partnership to Prevent Gun Violence mourns the loss of the three people gunned down in Las Vegas on Sunday, including Officers Alyn Beck and Igor Soldo. While we do not yet know all the facts, reports indicate that these officers were ambushed by individuals who specifically sought out law enforcement.



Law enforcement officers are not only on the front lines working to protect the public, but are increasingly the targets of gun violence. Ambushes of law enforcement have risen dramatically, and were the leading cause of fatal shootings of officers for two years in a row, in 2012 and 2013, according to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund. As of Sunday, June 8, 2014, officer firearm fatalities were up 53% from the same time last year. This is an alarming trend that we cannot allow to continue.



We are outraged that more has not already been done to prevent the senseless killings of citizens and law enforcement alike. Our nation must make it a priority to prevent dangerous individuals from acquiring guns and inflicting such grave damage on others. Enough is enough.



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# NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT PARTNERSHIP TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE

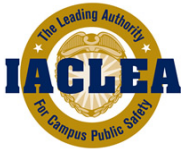


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
JULY 31, 2015

CONTACT:  
[info@lepartnership.org](mailto:info@lepartnership.org)



## STATEMENT BY BALTIMORE COUNTY POLICE CHIEF JIM JOHNSON, CHAIR, NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT PARTNERSHIP TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE, ON THE RECENT SPATE OF MASS SHOOTINGS



The National Law Enforcement Partnership to Prevent Gun Violence (the Partnership) continues to mourn the victims of the shooting last week in Lafayette, Louisiana. Our hearts are with the families and loved ones of Mayci Breaux and Jillian Johnson, who were laid to rest this week. We wish all those injured in this horrific attack rapid recoveries.



Active shooter incidents are on the rise, according to a September 2014 FBI report. And tragically, guns in the wrong hands are claiming too many lives in communities all across the United States. In the wake of the third high profile mass shooting in as many months, Americans are rightfully upset and questioning how this can keep happening.



Rather than prognosticate about what will or won't be done to curb America's gun violence problem, it is time to do what is right and immediately take the necessary steps to prevent future shootings by doing more to block dangerous people from accessing firearms.



As public safety professionals, we know that strengthening and expanding background checks are the most critical steps we can take to prevent gun violence. Background checks are the front line in preventing dangerous people from buying guns. They have successfully blocked more than 2 million prohibited firearm purchases since the Brady Law took effect in 1994.



The gunmen who committed the callous attacks in Charleston, Chattanooga and Lafayette should not have been able to acquire firearms. Yet, reports indicate that the three alleged perpetrators were able to buy guns either through federally licensed gun dealers or through an online website listing firearms for sale, demonstrating the need to both strengthen and expand background checks.



POLICE EXECUTIVE  
RESEARCH FORUM

The Partnership, comprised of nine national law enforcement leadership organizations that have come together to combat gun violence, strongly supports three background check measures that will better keep guns out of dangerous hands.



First, it is essential that we *expand our existing background check system to*

cover *all* firearm sales, no matter where a gun is purchased. While federal law requires background checks for purchases made through federally licensed firearms dealers, no checks are required for private sales. That must change.

Second, we must strengthen the background check system by *ensuring that states and federal agencies share all disqualifying records* with the NICS system. Dangerous people have been able to pass background checks because their criminal and mental health disqualifying records barring them from gun possession were *never shared* with the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS).

Third, before a firearm is transferred, we want to ensure the FBI has *enough time* to adequately conduct background checks when further investigation is needed, as it was in the case of the shooting that took nine lives at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston.

According to the FBI, Dylann Roof, who is charged in the massacre, was able to buy the .45 caliber weapon police say was used in the shooting, even though his criminal record should have barred him. That's because under existing law, when the record of a potential buyer necessitates additional review, as was the case in approximately nine percent of NICS checks in 2014 -- and was the case with Dylann Roof's April 2015 purchase -- the FBI can delay a sale for *only three business days* while they investigate further. After three business days, the dealer has the option of selling the gun even if the purchaser's eligibility to possess firearms is still in question. Last year, the FBI reported more than 2,500 guns were sold to people who should have been barred but sales proceeded nevertheless. As the Charleston shooting rampage painfully shows, there are some cases where more time to investigate before a firearm is transferred would mean more lives saved.

The solutions are clear. We can, and we must, do more to prevent guns from getting into dangerous hands by expanding and strengthening background checks for all firearm purchases. Failure to act is costing lives lost and lives shattered every single day in communities all across America.

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# NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT PARTNERSHIP TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
JULY 21, 2015

CONTACT:  
info@lepartnership.org

## STATEMENT BY BALTIMORE COUNTY POLICE CHIEF JIM JOHNSON, CHAIR, NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT PARTNERSHIP TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE, ON THE SHOOTING DEATHS OF SERVICE MEMBERS IN CHATTANOOGA, TN.

Members of the National Law Enforcement Partnership to Prevent Gun Violence (the Partnership) extend our deepest sympathy to the loved ones of the five service members killed by a gunman who went on a shooting rampage at two military facilities on Thursday in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

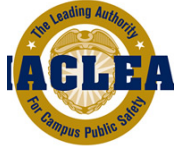
We mourn the losses of U.S. Marine Corps Sgt. Carson A. Holmquist; U.S. Navy Petty Officer 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Randall Smith; U.S. Marine Corps Gunnery Sgt. Thomas J. Sullivan; U.S. Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Squire K. "Skip" Wells; and U.S. Marine Corps Staff Sgt. David A. Wyatt. We wish speedy recoveries to the Marine recruiter and Chattanooga police officer who were wounded in the attack. Our thoughts are with them, their loved ones and all those impacted by this heinous act.

While we do not yet know all the facts, we know this incident is being handled as a domestic terrorism investigation. News reports indicate the shooter had a history of substance abuse, a recent arrest, and that a background check revealed information disqualifying him for a position at a nuclear power plant. It has also been reported that he purchased firearms through an online site where buyers are able to avoid background checks because the sales are private, and that he was equipped with at least one assault rifle and 30-round ammunition magazines.

The problem of mass shooting incidents in the United States must be confronted, not ignored. A September 2014 FBI report found that active shooter incidents are on the rise. We have seen the targeting of those in uniform, from military professionals to law enforcement officers to TSA agents. We have also seen the targeting of members of the public, from those in houses of worship to shoppers in malls to moviegoers to small children in their classrooms. People everywhere are watching with horror as these incidents occur again and again.

As law enforcement professionals, we also see the gruesome gun deaths that occur every day in our communities. These killings often do not get significant media attention, but the losses are no less real to the families who will never again see their loved ones.

It is not enough to express shock and horror. It is imperative that our nation act to keep



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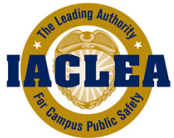


guns out of the hands of those who are too dangerous to possess them, and to address the problem of excessive firepower on our streets. A critical first step is to enforce the current federal ban on gun purchases by convicted felons and other dangerous persons. All of the organizations comprising the Partnership have long stressed the need for expanding background checks to cover all firearm sales. We know we cannot prevent every shooting incident from occurring, but that is no excuse for refusing to do what is possible. We certainly can prevent many needless tragedies and save countless lives.

Enough is enough. It is time to act responsibly and without delay. Lives depend on it.

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# NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT PARTNERSHIP TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
December 3, 2015

CONTACT:  
[info@lepartnership.org](mailto:info@lepartnership.org)

## STATEMENT BY CHIEF JIM JOHNSON, CHAIR NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT PARTNERSHIP TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE ON THE MASS SHOOTING AT THE INLAND REGIONAL CONFERENCE CENTER, IN SAN BERNARDINO, CA.

Members of the National Law Enforcement Partnership to Prevent Gun Violence (the Partnership) are once again grieving for victims killed in yet another horrific mass shooting. We offer our deepest condolences to the loved ones of the 14 people whose lives were cut short by callous murderers, and our hearts go out to all those shot and injured in the evil attack in San Bernardino.

While we do not know all the facts at this time, it is time that everyone face facts we do know: There are dangerous individuals intent on doing harm; and firearms are too easily accessible to them, acquirable through private sales without background checks or any questions asked.

Over and over, we have witnessed the tragic consequences of firearms in the wrong hands and excessive firepower on our streets. Mass shootings are occurring all too frequently, and gun violence is claiming an average of 92 lives every single day. Whether or not the motive is terrorism, incidents of gun violence, including the mass shooting in San Bernardino, are terrorizing our communities.

As law enforcement professionals, our organizations are calling for immediate measures to strengthen our nation's gun laws, including:

- Limiting ammunition magazine capacity to 10 rounds
- Expanding background checks to cover all sales, not just those that occur through licensed dealers
- Providing the FBI additional time to conduct more thorough checks in the cases where a purchaser's eligibility to possess firearms is in question
- Ensuring that all disqualifying records are contained in the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS), including disqualifying mental health records
- Providing the authority to the Attorney General to block firearms to those on the terror watch list

We also call on the President to nominate and the Senate to confirm, without delay, a permanent director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF). Given the critical role ATF plays - through investigation and enforcement - in mitigating the harm caused by armed criminals and illegal firearms, it is vital that ATF has a permanent leader, is properly resourced, and is not hamstrung by new Congressional riders that prevent the agency from conducting its important work.

If lives are lost in a plane or train crash, a bridge collapse, or even in a natural disaster, action is immediately taken to lessen future loss of life. There is no excuse for a lack of action when it comes to lives lost to gun violence. We've seen too much bloodshed. Action is long overdue.

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# NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT PARTNERSHIP TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE

June 20, 2013

Dear Senator,



On behalf of The National Law Enforcement Partnership to Prevent Gun Violence (The Partnership), I am pleased to offer our strong support for the nomination of B. Todd Jones to serve as the Director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF).



The Partnership is a coalition of national law enforcement leadership organizations concerned with the unacceptable level of gun violence in the United States, and the devastation it is having on communities across America.



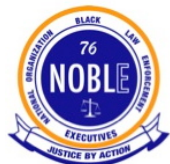
Mr. Jones has a proven commitment and track record in protecting public safety as the current Acting Director of ATF, and having served as the United States Attorney for the District of Minnesota and as a judge advocate in the United States Marine Corps. The Partnership believes Mr. Jones to be the well-qualified, strong and effective leader necessary for ATF, which has been without a confirmed director for seven years.



ATF's mission is to protect our communities from violent criminals, criminal organizations, the illegal use and trafficking of firearms, the illegal use and storage of explosives, acts of arson and bombings, acts of terrorism, and the illegal diversion of alcohol and tobacco products. Given the vital role that ATF plays in America's safety it is unconscionable that the agency has not had a confirmed leader for the past seven years. Law enforcement and the American people cannot afford to wait any longer for the Senate to confirm a Director to lead this agency that plays such a critical role in preventing gun violence and keeping America safe.



We urge the United States Senate to act swiftly to confirm Mr. Jones.



Sincerely,



Chief Jim Johnson, Baltimore County, MD  
Chair, National Law Enforcement Partnership to Prevent Gun Violence



Hispanic American Police Command Officers Association (HAPCOA)  
International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators (IACLEA)  
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# NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT PARTNERSHIP TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
November 30, 2015

CONTACT:  
[info@lepartnership.org](mailto:info@lepartnership.org)



## STATEMENT BY CHIEF JIM JOHNSON, CHAIR, NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT PARTNERSHIP TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE, ON THE SHOOTING RAMPAGE IN COLORADO SPRINGS, CO.



Members of the National Law Enforcement Partnership to Prevent Gun Violence (the Partnership) mourn the tragic losses of Jennifer Markovsky, 35; Ke'Arre Stewart, 29; and University of Colorado at Colorado Springs (UCCS) Officer Garrett Swasey, 44, who were killed on Friday in the shooting rampage at the Planned Parenthood clinic in Colorado Springs, Colorado. We offer our deepest condolences to their loved ones, and we wish full and speedy recoveries to the nine who were wounded in this despicable attack, including five police officers who bravely rushed to the scene, putting their own lives at risk to protect others.



America lost a true hero in Officer Swasey, who made it his life's work to help others, and who made the ultimate sacrifice as he selflessly ran toward grave danger to shield others from harm. We owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to the dedicated men and women in law enforcement, who each day don their uniforms not knowing what perils they will face during their workdays.



As gun violence devastates community after community, and active shooter incidents occur again and again with greater frequency, it is imperative that we address this problem now. We must do much more to keep guns from those intent on doing harm. While we cannot bring back Officer Swasey, Jennifer Markovsky or Ke'Arre Stewart, we can prevent others from suffering the same fate.



[Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. \(CALEA\)](#)  
[International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators \(IACLEA\)](#)  
[International Association of Chiefs of Police \(IACP\)](#)  
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[www.lepartnership.org](http://www.lepartnership.org)

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# NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT PARTNERSHIP TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

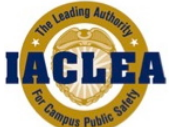
November 6, 2013

**CONTACT NAME**

info@lepartnership.org



## **STATEMENT BY BALTIMORE COUNTY CHIEF JIM JOHNSON, CHAIR, NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT PARTNERSHIP TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE ON THE SHOOTINGS AT LOS ANGELES INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**



Last Friday the nation suffered yet another tragic shooting, this time at the Los Angeles International Airport (LAX). Members of the National Law Enforcement Partnership to Prevent Gun Violence (the Partnership) are saddened by the loss of Transportation Security Administration (TSA) Officer Gerardo Hernandez. Our thoughts and prayers are with his loved ones, and the others wounded in this tragic incident, including two other TSA agents.



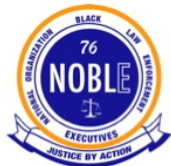
TSA agents perform critical duties keeping airline passengers safe. Reports that they were specifically targeted are deeply disturbing, as is the recent surge in ambush shootings of our nation's law enforcement officers.



In 2012 and as of mid-year 2013, ambushes were the leading cause of officer firearm fatalities, according to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund. In 2012, the number of officers killed by gunfire in ambushes jumped to 15, up from five in 2011. As of mid-year 2013, of the 17 officers killed by gunfire, seven were targeted in ambushes.



Those charged with our safekeeping – whether law enforcement officers, TSA agents, or other security personnel – should not have to worry about being gunned down simply because they wear a uniform or badge.



As a matter of public safety and the safety of our protectors, it is urgent that we as a nation prioritize preventing the horrific gun violence that is occurring daily across our nation.



The Partnership, [www.lepartnership.org](http://www.lepartnership.org), is an alliance of the nation's law enforcement leadership organizations concerned about the unacceptable level of gun violence in the United States. The Partnership is working to address the pervasive nature of gun violence and its horrific impact on community and officer safety. The Partnership is comprised of:



Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA)  
Hispanic American Police Command Officers Association (HAPCOA)  
International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators (IACLEA)  
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<http://www.lepartnership.org>

# NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT PARTNERSHIP TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE



March 12, 2013

Dear Senator Schumer:



I write to convey the strong support of the National Law Enforcement Partnership to Prevent Gun Violence (the Partnership) for your bill, S. 374, the "Fix Gun Checks Act of 2013."



The Partnership is an alliance of the nation's law enforcement leadership organizations concerned about the unacceptable level of gun violence in the United States. Our members include the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA); Hispanic American Police Command Officers Association (HAPCOA); International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators (IACLEA); International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP); Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCC); National Association of Women Law Enforcement Executives (NAWLEE); National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE); Police Executive Research Forum (PERF); and the Police Foundation (PF).



We commend you for your leadership on this crucial public safety measure, and for your comprehensive approach that will both extend the federal background check requirement to private firearm sales, and improve background checks by encouraging states to report all of their disqualifying records to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS).



As you know, current law requires background checks for firearms purchased through federally licensed firearms dealers, but no check is required for private sales, including those that occur at gun shows, out of automobile trunks, and through Internet and classified ads, for example. It is estimated that up to 40 percent of firearms transactions occur without any background screening. Allowing such transactions to occur without background checks is tantamount to permitting 40 percent of passengers to board an airplane without having to pass through airline security.



POLICE EXECUTIVE  
RESEARCH FORUM



The effectiveness of the Brady Law is indisputable: background checks work. Federal and state background checks blocked more than 2 million prohibited purchases from federally licensed dealers between 1994, when the Brady Law took effect, and 2010, according to the Department of

Justice's Bureau of Justice Statistics. It stands to reason that expanding the Brady background check requirement to all sales will prevent considerably more prohibited purchasers from acquiring firearms and doing harm in our communities. A background check law would affect only people already prohibited by law from buying guns and would have no effect on law-abiding citizens' ability to purchase firearms, as has been demonstrated since 1994. While background checks are preventing purchases to prohibited purchasers whose disqualifying records are in the NICS database, too many prohibited purchasers have fallen through the cracks and are able to acquire firearms because of incomplete records in NICS. As of October 31, 2012, only nine federal agencies out of 61 cited had reported mental health disqualification records to NICS. In addition, 19 states – with a total of 60 million residents – had each submitted fewer than 100 mental health disqualification records to NICS, 14 states had submitted fewer than ten, and one state had submitted zero mental health records.

A lack of background checks on private sales, and incomplete NICS records are allowing dangerous people to easily acquire deadly weapons, with devastating results. It is time to address and fix both of these problems, as your bill does.

For 40 years, dealers have been required to keep copies of the 4473 forms that purchasers fill-out, and all sellers must continue to do so under an expanded background check system. These seller-retained records are critical to law enforcement's ability to investigate gun crime and bring perpetrators to justice. When a gun is recovered in crime, that record is the only way to track down the last owner. Because seller receipts are completely decentralized, they do not compromise the privacy of law-abiding gun owners and cannot result in registration. Federal law requires the FBI to destroy, within 24 hours, any record of a sale that is generated through the background check system (unless the sale is denied), making registration impossible. Further, unless seller receipts are required for private sales, gun traffickers could simply claim to have complied with the background check requirement, which would hamper enforcement.

Law enforcement and the public, including gun owners, overwhelmingly support background checks for all firearm purchasers. A January 2013 Gallup poll found that 91% of Americans favor requiring criminal background checks for all gun sales, and a CBS poll from the same time found that 92% of Americans favor background checks on all potential buyers. Another January 2013 poll by Douglas E. Schoen found that 88% of gun owners, including 86% of NRA members, believe that all gun buyers should be required to pass a background check. Few policy matters register such vast public support.

The lack of a law requiring background checks on all gun purchasers is cutting too many lives short, and causing needless pain and suffering all across



America. We urge Congress to follow the will of the American public and stand with law enforcement to enact this critically important legislation without delay.

Lives depend on it.

Sincerely,

Chief Jim Johnson, Baltimore County, MD  
Chair, National Law Enforcement Partnership to Prevent Gun Violence

# NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT PARTNERSHIP TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

April 17, 2013

**CONTACT**

info@lepartnership.org



## **STATEMENT BY BALTIMORE COUNTY POLICE CHIEF JIM JOHNSON, CHAIR, NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT PARTNERSHIP TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE IN RESPONSE TO SENATE FAILURE TO EXPAND BACKGROUND CHECKS**



The National Law Enforcement Partnership to Prevent Gun Violence (the Partnership), is deeply disturbed by today's U.S. Senate rejection of common sense measures to keep guns out of the hands of criminals and other dangerous individuals. The lack of background checks for all gun purchasers is cutting too many lives short and causing needless pain and suffering in our communities. While the Manchin-Toomey background check amendment received 54 votes, 60 votes were necessary for Senate passage. Too many Senators ignored the will of the American people and failed to stand with law enforcement today.



Partner groups will continue to fight for commonsense measures to keep guns out of dangerous hands and excessive firepower out of our communities. The Brady Bill failed the first time it was up for a vote, but law enforcement came back fighting as we will again on these critical public safety issues.



Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA)  
Hispanic American Police Command Officers Association (HAPCOA)  
International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators  
(IACLEA)



International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP)

Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCC)

National Association of Women Law Enforcement Executives (NAWLEE)

National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE)

Police Executive Research Forum (PERF)

Police Foundation (PF)



**WWW.LEPARTNERSHIP.ORG**

# NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT PARTNERSHIP TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
June 17, 2016

CONTACT:  
info@lepartnership.org

## Re: Legislation to Close the Terror Gap

Dear Majority Leader McConnell, Minority Leader Reid, Speaker Ryan, and Minority Leader Pelosi:

We write to urge you to address the terror gap in our gun laws by **supporting Senator Dianne Feinstein's S.Amdt.4720 to the Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations Bill (S.2837)** and by rejecting the alternative proposal that would, by virtue of its requirements, continue to allow those suspected of involvement in terrorist activity to be able to purchase firearms.

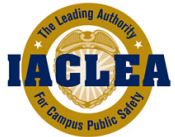
Under current law, the Department of Justice does not have the authority to stop gun sales to those on the terror watch lists so long as these individuals are not otherwise prohibited. This is a loophole that must be closed immediately for public and officer safety.

S.Amdt.4720 would address this loophole by allowing the Department of Justice to stop gun sales if the buyer is a terror suspect.

A counter-proposal by Senator Cornyn (S.Amdt.4749 to S.2837) would fail to address this problem, because it creates an unworkable and untimely process for the government to implement in order to stop these sales. Specifically, the Cornyn Amendment would require law enforcement seeking to stop a gun sale to first prove that the terror suspect will commit an act of terror or has conspired to do so. Not that the person is suspected of terror ties and is likely to use the firearm in connection with terror, but that he or she *will actually commit terrorism or has conspired to do so*. The legislation would give the government only *3 business days* to bring the suspected terrorist to court and meet this incredible standard—or else the FBI would be unable to block the sale. In light of this, the Cornyn amendment would continue to leave the terror gap open.

We ask you to honor the victims of Orlando and to improve public and officer safety by voting for Senator Feinstein's Amdt 4720.

Sincerely,  
Chief Jim Johnson, Baltimore County, MD  
*Chair, National Law Enforcement Partnership to Prevent Gun Violence*



*The National Law Enforcement Partnership to Prevent Gun Violence ([www.lepartnership.org](http://www.lepartnership.org)) is an alliance of the nation's law enforcement leadership organizations concerned about the unacceptable level of gun violence in the United States. The Partnership is working to address the pervasive nature of gun violence and its horrific impact on community and officer safety.*

The Partnership Includes:

Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA)  
Hispanic American Police Command Officers Association (HAPCOA)  
International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators (IACLEA)  
Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCCA)  
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# NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT PARTNERSHIP TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE



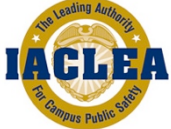
## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Sept 4, 2018

## CONTACT:

info@lepartnership.org

## STATEMENT ON PROLIFERATION OF UNTRACEABLE FIREARMS - WASHINGTON, D.C.



The National Law Enforcement Partnership to Prevent Gun Violence is reiterating its previously stated position that law enforcement agencies within and outside the United States maintain the ability to trace all firearms manufactured in, or imported into the United States.



Tracing firearms is a basic and necessary task in conducting criminal investigations and in regulating legal commerce in firearms. The advent of so-called Ghost Guns, or 80% complete firearm receivers, as well as firearms receivers created using 3D printing technology, has fundamentally exceeded the ability of current laws and regulations to protect the public from untraceable, and in some instances, undetectable firearms.



There are two bills currently introduced in the U.S. Senate that propose to address untraceable and undetectable firearms: S.3300, The Untraceable Firearms Act of 2018 and S.3304 The 3D Printed Gun Safety Act of 2018. Both proposed bill make necessary changes to current law.<sup>1</sup>



The Partnership believes that all firearms should be sufficiently marked to allow them to be traced when they come into police custody. The 90<sup>th</sup> Congress passed the Gun Control Act of 1968 but it never contemplated either 80% receivers or 3D printing technology when the law permitted individuals to manufacture one gun per year without a serial number. The two Senate bills named above and their companion bills in the House of Representatives address the legal gap created by the new technologies and the Partnership encourages the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress to quickly address this urgent need.



POLICE EXECUTIVE  
RESEARCH FORUM



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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/3300/text>  
<https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/3304/text>

*The National Law Enforcement Partnership to Prevent Gun Violence  
([www.lepartnership.org](http://www.lepartnership.org)) includes seven national law enforcement organizations  
dedicated to serving the Nation's more than 900,000 sworn law enforcement  
officers and professional staff.*

**The Partnership Includes:**

Hispanic American Police Command Officers Association (HAPCOA)  
International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators (IACLEA)  
Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCCA)  
National Association of Women Law Enforcement Executives (NAWLEE)  
National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE)  
Police Executive Research Forum (PERF)  
Police Foundation (PF)



# NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT PARTNERSHIP TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

March 7, 2018

**CONTACT:**

info@lepartnership.org



## STATEMENT ON COMPREHENSIVE GUN SAFETY PROPOSALS - WASHINGTON, D.C.



The National Law Enforcement Partnership to Prevent Gun Violence strongly urges President Trump and the Congress of the United States to implement the full slate of reforms recommended in the Partnership policy agenda. The majority<sup>1</sup> of partners agree that our national leaders should immediately enact these policies: <https://www.lepartnership.org/policy-agenda/>

- \* Require [background checks](#) for all firearm purchasers.
- \* Ensure that the [National Instant Criminal Background Check System \(NICS\)](#) is accurate and complete.
- \* Limit access to [high-capacity ammunition](#) magazines.
- \* Oppose forcing the states to accept federal concealed carry reciprocity/preemption.
- \* Strengthen penalties for straw purchasing and make firearms trafficking a federal crime.
- \* Ban or regulate [semi-automatic assault weapons](#) and other firearms/accessories designed to circumvent the National Firearms Act of 1934 (e.g., bump stocks, trigger activators, firearm suppressors/silencers, and other, similar products).



These measures will prevent dangerous people from acquiring firearms, prevent weapons of war from being used to inflict the mayhem we've witnessed [so often in so many places](#), and support states' rights by preserving their ability to decide who may lawfully carry concealed firearms.

The National Law Enforcement Partnership to Prevent Gun Violence ([www.lepartnership.org](http://www.lepartnership.org)) includes nine national law enforcement organizations dedicated to serving the Nation's more than 900,000 sworn law enforcement officers and professional staff.



### The Partnership:

[Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. \(CALEA\)](#)

[Hispanic American Police Command Officers Association \(HAPCOA\)](#)

[International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators \(IACLEA\)](#)

[International Association of Chiefs of Police \(IACP\)](#)

[Major Cities Chiefs Association \(MCCA\)](#)

[National Association of Women Law Enforcement Executives \(NAWLEE\)](#)

[National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives \(NOBLE\)](#)

[Police Executive Research Forum \(PERF\)](#)

[Police Foundation \(PF\)](#)



<sup>1</sup> The commission on the Accreditation of Law Enforcement Agencies, CALEA International Association of College Law Enforcement Agencies, IACLEA, and International Association of Chiefs of Police IACP chose not to participate in issuing this statement. This does not necessarily represent disagreement with the views expressed herein.

# National Law Enforcement Partnership to Prevent Gun Violence



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
February 15, 2018

CONTACT:  
[info@lepartnership.org](mailto:info@lepartnership.org)

## Mass Shootings in the United States

### WASHINGTON, D.C. –

The National Law Enforcement Partnership to Prevent Gun Violence – representing nine national law enforcement organizations and associations across the U.S. – expresses its outrage over yesterday's horrific school shooting in Florida. We wish to express our deepest sympathies for the victims and their families and all of the students, families, first responders and the entire community, whose lives are forever changed in such a senseless and horrible way.

While many will say that it is too soon to talk about why or what can be done, we reject that excuse and call for serious discussions and action to stop the bloodshed and to protect our children and families – in schools, houses of worship, homes and in communities across America. The law enforcement community stands united against this violence and it is well beyond time for our policy leaders to do the same.

The National Law Enforcement Partnership to Prevent Gun Violence ([www.lepartnership.org](http://www.lepartnership.org)) includes nine national law enforcement organizations dedicated to serving the Nation's more than 900,000 sworn law enforcement officers and professional staff.

### The Partnership Includes:

Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA)  
Hispanic American Police Command Officers Association (HAPCOA)  
International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators (IACLEA)  
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[info@lepartnership.org](mailto:info@lepartnership.org)

# NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT PARTNERSHIP TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

May 14, 2018

## CONTACT:

info@lepartnership.org

## STATEMENT ON “RED FLAG” CIVIL PROCESS TO TEMPORARILY REMOVE FIREARMS FROM INDIVIDUALS IN CRISIS - WASHINGTON, D.C.

The National Law Enforcement Partnership to Prevent Gun Violence (the Partnership) supports the concept of Emergency Risk Protection Orders (ERPO), Gun Violence Restraining Orders (GVRO), or similarly focused “red flag” laws that temporarily dispossess individuals in crisis of firearms. Research by major universities<sup>1</sup> strongly suggests ERPOs greatly reduce the danger of injury or death in homes where guns are present.

At present California, Connecticut, Maryland, Oregon and Washington State have enacted protective legislation<sup>2</sup> that allows close family members, intimate partners, current or recent co-habitants, and law enforcement to petition the courts for an ERPO. Eight other states have bills pending in their legislatures, and Federal legislation is being considered in both houses of Congress. President Trump has publicly stated his support for some version of “The Gun Violence Restraining Act,” H.R. 2598, by Representative Carbajal, or “The Gun Violence Protection Act,” S.1212 by Senator Feinstein.

Findings from a recent study of Connecticut firearm safety warrants from 1999 through 2013<sup>3</sup> found that on average, seven guns were removed from at-risk individuals. In 44% of cases, civil warrants led to the respondent receiving psychiatric treatment. This study found that a life was saved for every 10-20 civil warrants issued. In every state and at the Federal level, each enacted or proposed law incorporates powerful due process requirements to prevent malicious or frivolous orders from being issued.

A majority<sup>4</sup> of the Partnership believes that emergency risk protection, “red flag” legislation shows great promise in reducing gun violence by people in crisis for whatever reason. These civil orders give a person’s loved ones and law enforcement new options to proactively but temporarily remove guns from volatile situations and reduce the potential for tragedy. The Partnership urges the speedy adoption of thoughtful legislation to this end.



<sup>1</sup> [https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract\\_id=2828847](https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2828847)

<sup>2</sup> <http://lawcenter.giffords.org/gun-laws/policy-areas/who-can-have-a-gun/extreme-risk-protection-orders/>

<sup>3</sup> [https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract\\_id=2828847](https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2828847)

<sup>4</sup> IACP chose not to participate in issuing this statement. This does not necessarily represent disagreement with the views expressed.

*The National Law Enforcement Partnership to Prevent Gun Violence (www.lepartnership.org) includes eight national law enforcement organizations dedicated to serving the Nation's more than 900,000 sworn law enforcement officers and professional staff.*

**The Partnership Includes:**

Hispanic American Police Command Officers Association (HAPCOA)  
International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators (IACLEA)  
International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP)  
Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCCA)  
National Association of Women Law Enforcement Executives (NAWLEE)  
National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE)  
Police Executive Research Forum (PERF)  
Police Foundation (PF)

# **NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT PARTNERSHIP TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
January 16, 2013**

**[info@lepartnership.org](mailto:info@lepartnership.org)**

## **STATEMENT OF BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD, CHIEF JIM JOHNSON CHAIR, NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT PARTNERSHIP TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE**

The National Law Enforcement Partnership to Prevent Gun Violence commends President Barack Obama and Vice President Joseph Biden for their important initiatives aimed at curbing our nation's epidemic of gun violence.

As public safety professionals who are on the front lines protecting our communities, we thank Vice President Biden for seeking the input of the Partnership and relying on our collective expertise in making these crucial recommendations to the President.

We are especially pleased that the President has chosen to embrace the specific measures that are the critical priorities for the Partnership, including:

- Background checks for all firearm purchasers
- Strengthening and improving the records contained in the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS)
- A ban on assault weapons and ammunition magazines in excess of ten rounds.

The leadership of the President and Vice President is reassuring to both the American public and the law enforcement community that gun violence is being confronted by our political leaders at the highest levels. Congress now has a responsibility to heed the call and work with the Administration to enact these vital, life-saving measures. Law enforcement leaders will be working to make our voices heard all across the nation and in the halls of the U.S. Capitol to ensure that our elected Senators and Representatives take immediate and decisive action to combat this horrific epidemic.

The Administration's comprehensive actions to address the gun violence problem reflect our approach as law enforcement leaders, and we look forward to working with the White House and Congress to advance these common-sense public safety measures.

International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators  
International Association of Chiefs of Police  
Major Cities Chiefs Association  
National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives  
National Association of Women Law Enforcement Executives  
Police Executive Research Forum  
Police Foundation

# **NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT PARTNERSHIP TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE**

## **TESTIMONY FOR CHIEF JIM JOHNSON, BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND CHAIR, NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT PARTNERSHIP TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE**

**Senate Judiciary Committee Hearing  
Wednesday, January 30, 2013**

Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member, and Members of the Committee, I want to thank you for the opportunity to testify today. I am here on behalf of the National Law Enforcement Partnership to Prevent Gun Violence, an alliance of the nation's law enforcement leadership organizations concerned about the unacceptable level of gun violence in the United States.

The Partnership, founded in 2010, includes: the Commission on Accreditation of Law Enforcement Agencies; Hispanic American Police Command Officers Association; International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators; International Association of Chiefs of Police; Major Cities Chiefs Association; National Association of Women Law Enforcement Executives; National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives; Police Executive Research Forum; and the Police Foundation.

We mourn those lost to gun violence, including the 20 children in Newtown, along with the six brave adults whose lives were cut short by a deranged individual armed with firepower originally designed for combat, not for gunning down innocent members of our communities.

More than 30 homicides occur in America each day. Two-thousand children, ages 18 and under, die of firearm-related deaths in the U.S. every year. In 2011, for the first time in 14 years, firearms were the leading cause of death for police officers killed in the line of duty. In just the two-week period after the Newtown massacre, six police officers were killed and 10 injured in 12 separate shootings.

In a one-week period in 2011, the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF) found that gun crime in six cities cost more than \$38 million, and in the year 2010 cost the entire country more than \$57 billion.

We urgently need Congress to address the rising epidemic of gun violence. Law enforcement leaders support the President's comprehensive approach, which includes enhancing safety at educational institutions and addressing mental health issues. But on behalf of my colleagues across the nation, I am here today to tell you that we are long overdue in strengthening our nation's gun laws. Doing so must be a priority for Congress.

The organizations in the National Law Enforcement Partnership to Prevent Gun Violence are united in urgently calling on Congress to:



- Require background checks for *all* firearm purchasers;
- Ensure that prohibited purchaser records in the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS), are up-to-date and accurate; and
- Limit high capacity ammunition feeding devices to ten rounds.

Seven of our nine groups, including the largest organizations among us, also support a ban on assault weapons and Senator Feinstein's legislation.

Federal law prohibits dangerous individuals, such as convicted felons and those with mental health disqualifiers, from possessing firearms. While background checks are required for purchases through federally licensed gun dealers, no check is required for private sales, such as those through Internet postings, print ads or gun shows.

From November 2011 to November 2012, an estimated 6.6 million firearm transactions occurred without a background check. Up to 40 percent of firearm transactions occur through private individuals rather than licensed gun dealers. Allowing 40 percent of those acquiring guns to bypass background checks is like allowing 40 percent of airline passengers to board a plane without going through airport security.

Last October, in Brookfield, Wisconsin, seven women were shot by a prohibited purchaser who was under a domestic violence restraining order. The shooter answered an online ad and was able to buy a gun without a background check. Had the sale required a check, this tragedy could have been prevented.

Background checks work. They stopped nearly 2 million prohibited purchases between 1994 and 2009. We already have a national background check system in place. Therefore, extending background checks to *all* firearm purchasers can easily be implemented – and should be, without delay.

States can't do it alone. Interstate firearms trafficking is a serious problem that must be addressed federally. The problem is rampant: According to the ATF, in 2009, 30 percent of guns recovered at crime scenes had crossed state lines.

Submissions to NICS must be improved, especially mental health and drug abuse records. The 2007 massacre at Virginia Tech is a tragic example of a prohibited purchaser slipping between the cracks due to incomplete NICS records.

The ban on assault weapons and high-capacity ammunition magazines must be reinstated. Like assault weapons, high-capacity magazines are not used for hunting, do not belong in our homes and wreak havoc in our communities. Banning these magazines will reduce the number of bullets a shooter can use before having to reload. Reloading can provide a window of time in which to take down a shooter, as we saw in Tucson.

In 1998, four years after the assault weapons and high-capacity ammunition magazine ban was enacted, the percentage of firearms with large-capacity magazines recovered by Virginia police decreased and continued to drop until it hit a low of 9 percent in 2004, the year the ban expired. It hit a high of 20 percent in 2010, according to a Washington Post analysis.

After the 1994 law expired, 37 percent of police agencies saw increases in criminals' use of

assault weapons, according to a 2010 PERF survey.

I have been in law enforcement for nearly 35 years, and have seen an explosion in firepower since the assault weapons ban expired. It is common to find many shell casings at crime scenes these days, as victims are being riddled with multiple gunshots.

The common-sense measures we are calling for will not infringe on Second Amendment rights, but will ensure that we keep guns out of dangerous hands and excessive firepower out of our communities.

Generations of Americans, including our youngest ones, are depending on you to ensure they will grow up and fulfill their roles in the great human experience. None of us can fail them. I urge you to follow the will of the American public and stand with law enforcement to enact these common-sense public safety measures.

Thank you.

# **NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT PARTNERSHIP TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE**

## **“Proposals to Reduce Gun Violence: Protecting Our Communities While Respecting the Second Amendment”**

**U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee**

**Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights and Human Rights**

**Baltimore County, MD, Chief Jim Johnson, Chair**

**National Law Enforcement Partnership To Prevent Gun Violence**

**February 12, 2013**

Chairman Durbin, Ranking Member Cruz, and members of the Subcommittee, on behalf of the National Law Enforcement Partnership to Prevent Gun Violence, I want to thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony for your hearing, “Proposals to Reduce Gun Violence: Protecting Our Communities While Respecting the Second Amendment.”

The Partnership, founded in 2010, is an alliance of the nation’s law enforcement leadership organizations concerned about the unacceptable level of gun violence in the United States. It includes the Commission on Accreditation of Law Enforcement Agencies; Hispanic American Police Command Officers Association; International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators; International Association of Chiefs of Police; Major Cities Chiefs Association; National Association of Women Law Enforcement Executives; National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives; Police Executive Research Forum, and the Police Foundation.

The gun violence epidemic in our country is devastating. More than 30 homicides occur in America each day. Two thousand children, ages 18 and under, die of firearm-related deaths in the U.S. every year. Law enforcement officers, charged with protecting the public safety, are increasingly targets of gun violence. In 2011, for the first time in 14 years, firearms were the leading cause of death for police officers killed in the line of duty, according to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund. This disturbing trend persists today. In just the two-week period after the Newtown massacre, six police officers were killed and 10 injured in 12 separate shootings.

The organizations in the Partnership are united in calling on Congress to:

- Require background checks for *all* firearm purchasers;
- Ensure that prohibited purchaser records in the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS), are up-to-date and accurate; and
- Limit high-capacity ammunition feeding devices to ten rounds.

Seven of our nine groups, including the largest organizations among us, also support a ban on assault weapons and Senator Dianne Feinstein's assault weapons legislation.

We strongly support these measures because we know they will save lives by preventing dangerous people from acquiring guns and keeping excessive firepower out of our communities.

### **These vital measures are constitutional.**

These measures are crucial for public safety and do not infringe on an individual's constitutional right to possess firearms. In the 2008 case of District of Columbia v. Heller, 554 U.S. 570 (2008), the United States Supreme Court ruled that the Second Amendment protects an individual's right to possess a firearm. The ruling also recognized that "like most rights, the right secured by the Second Amendment is not unlimited," and listed several categories of restrictions that are presumptively constitutional, such as: laws prohibiting convicted felons or mentally ill from possessing firearms; laws prohibiting the carrying of firearms in government buildings or schools; and laws prohibiting possession of "dangerous and unusual" weapons that are not "in common use at the time."

### **Congress must enact legislation to require background checks for all firearms purchasers and ensure that prohibited purchaser records in NICS are up-to-date and accurate.**

Background checks will prevent prohibited purchasers, such as convicted felons and those with mental health disqualifications, from purchasing firearms. They will not impede law-abiding citizens from purchasing guns.

While background checks are required for firearm purchases through federally licensed gun dealers, no check is required for private sales, such as those occurring through Internet postings, print ads or gun shows. Private transactions are estimated to account for up to 40 percent of firearm transactions. Allowing these transactions to occur without background checks is tantamount to permitting 40 percent of passengers to board an airplane without going through airline security.

Background checks work. They stopped nearly 2 million prohibited purchases between 1994, when the Brady Law went into effect, and 2009. We can only imagine how many lives have been saved and other tragedies averted because we require background checks through licensed gun dealers. We do not have to imagine, however, the real life impact of not having checks in place for private purchases. One example of a tragedy that could have been averted, if universal background checks were in place, occurred last October in Brookfield, Wisconsin. A prohibited purchaser who was under a domestic violence

restraining order shot seven women in a salon, killing three. The shooter had answered an online advertisement and all too easily bought a gun without a background check. Applying background checks to all sales will clearly save lives and prevent needless suffering.

Since we already have a national background check system in place, extending background checks to *all* firearm sales would be simple – and would not have an impact on anyone's ability to purchase a gun except prohibited purchasers.

A federal law requiring background checks is necessary as Interstate gun trafficking is a serious problem that states cannot combat alone. In 2009, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives reported that 30 percent of crime guns crossed state borders. We know that in places like New York, Chicago, and even my jurisdiction of Baltimore County, a high percentage of crime guns are coming from states with weaker laws.

**Congress must enact legislation to ban assault weapons and limit high-capacity ammunition magazines.**

Assault weapons were originally designed for the battlefield, and have no place in our communities. These weapons were developed to enable a shooter to rapidly spray-fire multiple rounds at an enemy in combat, not for gunning down small children, moviegoers, firefighters or the law enforcement officers protecting them.

Law abiding citizens do not need semiautomatic assault weapons and have no need for high-capacity magazines holding more than ten rounds. This kind of firepower, however, has particular utility and has proven especially destructive in the hands of those intent on doing harm, as we have seen from Aurora to Newtown.

The carnage caused by these unusually dangerous weapons is devastating, including to our law enforcement officers, as criminals up the ante with firepower in excess of what even our police officers typically use. We do not typically supply law enforcement with 120-round drums, for example, yet in my own jurisdiction's evidence room we have several such drums that have been seized.

Banning high-capacity magazines would reduce the number of bullets a shooter can use before having to stop to reload, and reloading can provide a critical window of time in which to take down a shooter, as we saw in Tucson.

Studies show that the 1994 assault weapons ban was effective. In 1998, four years after the assault weapons and high-capacity ammunition magazine ban was enacted, the percentage of firearms with large-capacity magazines recovered by Virginia police decreased and continued to drop until it hit a low of 9 percent in 2004, the year the ban expired. It hit a high of 20 percent in 2010,

according to a Washington Post analysis. After the 1994 law expired, 37 percent of police agencies saw increases in criminals' use of assault weapons, according to a 2010 Police Executive Research Forum survey.

The actions we support are important for the safety and protection of both our citizens and our law enforcement officers. These common-sense measures would not infringe on Americans' Second Amendment rights, nor would they place an undue burden on law-abiding citizens' ability to buy firearms. The assault weapons ban would affect only a particularly dangerous class of weapons, and law-abiding citizens will continue to be able to acquire and choose from the vast array of firearm models on the market.

**Congress must enact legislation to combat straw purchasing.**

There is currently no federal law prohibiting an individual from purchasing a firearm for a prohibited purchaser. As a result, these straw purchasers can only be prosecuted for minor paperwork violations. We must do more to tackle the problem of straw purchasing and gun trafficking, which is why seven of the nine organizations in the Partnership are already on record in support of the Stop Illegal Trafficking in Firearms Act, sponsored by Senator Leahy, and the Gun Trafficking Prevention Act, sponsored by Senator Gillibrand.

As law enforcement professionals responsible for protecting the safety of our citizens and communities as well as our own officers, we urge you to support these sensible measures that will keep guns out of dangerous hands, and stem the excessive firepower that has caused massive destruction and needless suffering across our great nation.

Thank you.

Chief Jim Johnson  
Chief of Police, Baltimore County, MD  
Chair, National Law Enforcement Partnership to Prevent Gun Violence



# NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT PARTNERSHIP TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 27, 2013

## CONTACT

info@lepartnership.org

## LAW ENFORCEMENT LEADERS FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY CALLED ON CONGRESS TODAY TO TAKE ACTION TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE

### *Law Enforcement Officials Demand Congress Strengthen Nation's Gun Laws*

As part of the *National Law Enforcement Partnership to Prevent Gun Violence*, an alliance of the nation's most important law enforcement organizations, police leaders from across the country came together in Washington, D.C. today to demand that Congress act to end the epidemic of gun violence that kills more than 30 Americans every day.

Law enforcement officials representing the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), the International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators (IACLEA), the Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCC), and the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE) joined together at a press conference to call on Congress to:

- Require background checks for all firearm purchasers;
- Improve the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS), by ensuring that disqualifying records of all prohibited firearms purchasers are contained in the system;
- Ban new semi-automatic assault weapons; and
- Limit high-capacity ammunition magazines to ten rounds.

"There is no more urgent issue facing Congress than the safety of our communities nationwide," said Chief Jim Johnson, Baltimore County, MD, Chair of the National Law Enforcement Partnership to Prevent Gun Violence, and Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCC) representative to the Partnership. "Congress must act now to curb rising gun violence by passing legislation requiring background checks on all firearms sales and banning assault weapons and high-capacity magazines of more than ten rounds."

"International Association Campus Law Enforcement Administrators calls upon Congress to take action to save lives," said the organization's President, Chief Anne Glavin, California State University, Northridge, CA. "Statistics prove background checks work and they need to become universal and well supported with data submitted completely. High capacity magazines and assault weapons allow for our nation's young people to die in numbers that are unacceptable and need to end."

"The International Association of Chiefs of Police supports these measures because we know from experience that these policies will prevent dangerous people from acquiring firearms and harming the innocent. The IACP believes that these proposals and actions reflect an effective, balanced approach to addressing the plague of gun violence in our communities and nation," said Chief Terry Cunningham, Wellesley, MA, and 4<sup>th</sup> Vice President of IACP.

“National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives urge Congress to act immediately to put an end to the scourge of gun violence in our country – both mass shootings and the everyday/routine violence that pervades our towns and cities, said Chief John Dixon, Petersburg, VA, and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President of the organization. “Extending background checks for all firearm purchasers is a common-sense measure. Assault weapons and high-capacity ammunition magazines are instruments of carnage, pure and simple, and must be removed from our streets.”

Chiefs Johnson, Glavin, Cunningham and Dixon were joined by more than 25 of their law enforcement colleagues including:

- **IACLEA’s** Dolores ("Dee") Danser, Chief, Dickinson College Public Safety; Mike Fink, Deputy Chief, University of Pennsylvania; and Mike Webster, Director, Campus Safety, McDaniel College.
- **IACP’s** Kent Barker, Chief, Tualatin, OR; Terrence Cunningham, Chief, Wellesley, MA; Dwight Henninger, Chief, Vail, CO; Russell Laine, Chief, Algonquin, IL; Joseph H. Lumpkin, Sr., Chief of Police, Athens Clark County, GA; and Colonel Steven O'Donnell, Superintendent, RISP/Commissioner, RI Department of Public Safety.
- **MCC’s** Shawn Jones, Deputy Chief, Atlanta, GA and Martha Montalvo, Executive Assistant Chief, Houston, TX.
- **NOBLE’s** Travis Christian, Chief, Waverly, PA; Keith Humphrey, Chief of Police, Norman, OK; Virgil Green, Chief of Police, Spencer, OK; Victor McCraw, Captain, Arizona Department of Public Safety; William Nagle, Deputy Chief, Denver, CO; Thomas Ryff, Chief, Tempe, AZ; and Perry Tarrant, Captain, Tucson, AZ; and John Vinson, Chief of Police, University of Washington.

### **About the National Law Enforcement Partnership to Prevent Gun Violence**

The Partnership is an alliance of the nation’s law enforcement leadership organizations concerned about the unacceptable level of gun violence in the United States. The Partnership is working to address the pervasive nature of gun violence and its horrific impact on community and officer safety. The Partnership includes the following member organizations, all of which support expanding background checks to all firearm purchasers, improving records in NICS, and banning new ammunition magazines in excess of ten rounds:

[Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. \(CALEA\)](#)  
[Hispanic American Police Command Officers Association \(HAPCOA\)](#)  
[International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators \(IACLEA\)](#)  
[International Association of Chiefs of Police \(IACP\)](#)  
[Major Cities Chiefs Association \(MCC\)](#)  
[National Association of Women Law Enforcement Executives \(NAWLEE\)](#)  
[National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives \(NOBLE\)](#)  
[Police Executive Research Forum \(PERF\)](#)  
[Police Foundation \(PF\)](#)

Seven of the nine organizations have also taken positions in support of legislation banning new semi-automatic assault weapons, and enhancing penalties for straw purchasers and gun trafficking.

###

# NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT PARTNERSHIP TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE

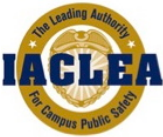


April 15, 2013



Dear Members of Congress:

I write on behalf of the National Law Enforcement Partnership to Prevent Gun Violence (the Partnership) to share our strong opposition to national concealed carry reciprocity, which may be offered as an amendment to S. 649.



National concealed carry reciprocity would severely undermine state concealed carry licensing systems by allowing out of state visitors to carry concealed firearms even if those visitors have not met the standards for carrying a concealed weapon in the state they are visiting.



It would preempt state concealed carry laws, which vary widely. Not all require background checks or safety training, for instance. States and localities should have the right to legislate concealed carry laws that best fit the needs of their communities.



National concealed carry reciprocity would create potentially life-threatening situations for law enforcement officers. During traffic stops, it would be nearly impossible for police to verify the validity of nearly 50 different carry permits, forcing officers to make split-second decisions for their own safety in an already dangerous situation.



The Partnership is an alliance of the nation's law enforcement leadership organizations concerned about the unacceptable level of gun violence in the United States. Our members include the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA); Hispanic American Police Command Officers Association (HAPCOA); International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators (IACLEA); International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP); Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCCA); National Association of Women Law Enforcement Executives (NAWLEE); National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE); Police Executive Research Forum (PERF); and the Police Foundation (PF).



[WWW.LEPARTNERSHIP.ORG](http://WWW.LEPARTNERSHIP.ORG)

We respectfully urge every member of Congress to respect state laws and protect our nation's police officers and the citizens they serve by opposing national concealed-carry reciprocity.

Sincerely,

Chief Jim Johnson, Baltimore County, MD  
Chair, National Law Enforcement Partnership to Prevent Gun Violence

Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA)  
Hispanic American Police Command Officers Association (HAPCOA)  
International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators (IACLEA)  
International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP)  
Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCC)  
National Association of Women Law Enforcement Executives (NAWLEE)  
National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE)  
Police Executive Research Forum (PERF)  
Police Foundation (PF)

# NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT PARTNERSHIP TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

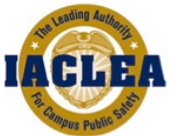
April 15, 2013

## CONTACT

info@lepartnership.org



### STATEMENT OF BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD, CHIEF JIM JOHNSON, CHAIR, NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT PARTNERSHIP TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE, IN SUPPORT OF THE MANCHIN-TOOMEY BACKGROUND CHECK LEGISLATION



The National Law Enforcement Partnership to Prevent Gun Violence (the Partnership) supports the legislation authored by Senators Manchin and Toomey that will expand the current federal background check system to transactions at gun shows, and through the Internet and publications. The legislation also addresses the importance of improving checks by encouraging states to send all their disqualifying records to the National Instant Criminal Background Checks System (NICS).



While the Manchin-Toomey legislation does not cover all firearm purchases, we believe that requiring background checks for all firearm purchases at gun shows, and for transactions through Internet and publications, are important steps forward that will save lives.



Although it is clear Congress will not act at this time to expand the existing background check system to all sales, Partner groups fully intend to continue to fight for making our federal background check system universal so that criminals and other dangerous individuals are blocked from acquiring guns from all sources.



Over the coming days, Partner groups will continue to urge congressional support for the Manchin-Toomey background check legislation, for Senator Leahy's legislation that addresses gun trafficking and straw purchasers, and for Senator Feinstein's legislation banning new semiautomatic assault weapons and large capacity ammunition magazines. The Partnership will also actively oppose any attempts to weaken the Manchin-Toomey legislation or our nation's gun laws.



Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA)  
Hispanic American Police Command Officers Association (HAPCOA)  
International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators (IACLEA)  
International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP)  
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Police Foundation (PF)



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# NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT PARTNERSHIP TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

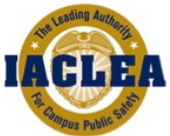
April 17, 2013

## CONTACT

info@lepartnership.org



## STATEMENT OF BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD, CHIEF JIM JOHNSON, CHAIR, NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT PARTNERSHIP TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE, ON ADS PURPORTING TO REPRESENT LAW ENFORCEMENT



"The National Law Enforcement Partnership to Prevent Gun Violence (the Partnership) — an alliance of nine of the nation's law enforcement leadership organizations — strongly supports expanding background checks to all transaction points to ensure that criminals and other dangerous people are not able to access firearms. In addition to background checks, Partner groups are pressing for other measures that will help to reduce gun violence including a ban on assault weapons and high capacity ammunition magazines.



Only law enforcement speaks for law enforcement. We hope that members of Congress will listen directly to law enforcement and not those who purport to represent us but do not. Today, we urge Senators to back law enforcement and the overwhelming majority of Americans who support background checks by voting for the Manchin- Toomey amendment. Lives depend on it."



Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA)  
Hispanic American Police Command Officers Association (HAPCOA)  
International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators (IACLEA)  
International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP)  
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National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE)  
Police Executive Research Forum (PERF)  
Police Foundation (PF)



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# **NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT PARTNERSHIP TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
June 26, 2012**

**[info@lepartnership.org](mailto:info@lepartnership.org)**

## **AS FIREARMS RISE TO # 1 CAUSE OF COPS' LINE-OF-DUTY DEATHS, VIRGINIA AND NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT LEADERS CALL FOR STRENGTHENING BACKGROUND CHECKS ON FIREARM PURCHASERS**

### ***Police Groups Meet with Virginia's U.S. Senate Candidates to Discuss Vital Public Safety Concerns***

(RICHMOND) Today in Richmond, police leaders from the Commonwealth and major national law enforcement leadership organizations announced their call for strengthening background checks on firearm purchasers to ensure that criminals and other dangerous people currently prohibited by law from possessing guns do not obtain them illegally. The call comes on the heels of the release of data for 2011 that shows that for the first time in 14 years, firearms surpassed motor vehicles as the number one cause of death for officers in the line of duty, according to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund.

The police representatives from the Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police (VACP) and the National Law Enforcement Partnership to Prevent Gun Violence (NLEPPGV) issued their call while assembled in Richmond to meet with the candidates for Virginia's highly contested U.S. Senate seat, George Allen (R) and Tim Kaine (D). Police expressed their viewpoints on a range of critical public safety concerns, including expanding the background check requirement for firearm purchasers, improving the quality of record systems, and other measures to keep communities and police officers safe.

To ensure a fruitful discussion, the meetings between law enforcement and the candidates were held in private, and the ground rules stated that candidates' comments would not be shared publicly. The meetings are nonpartisan and informational only; they will not result in an endorsement of any candidate.

"It was encouraging to meet with both U.S. Senate candidates and have the opportunity to discuss vital public safety matters," said Staunton Police Chief James E. Williams, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President of the Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police. "Even though the police organizations will not make endorsements, the candidates showed a willingness to listen to law enforcement leaders as they formulate their public safety policies. Law enforcement is uniting because we have seen too much gun violence; meanwhile there are effective solutions with wide public support that will positively impact it. We just need federal lawmakers to act."

Chief Williams chaired the VACP/NLEPPGV meeting, which was held at The Berkeley Hotel, 1200 East Cary Street, downtown Richmond.

“Law enforcement leaders across America have coalesced around the urgent need to prevent gun violence,” said Hubert Williams, President of the Police Foundation and Chair of the National Law Enforcement Partnership to Prevent Gun Violence, a coalition of major national law enforcement leadership organizations. “Cops’ jobs are dangerous enough, without allowing convicted felons, people who are mentally deranged and crack heads to buy guns on the honor system. State laws, alone, are insufficient to keep firearms from dangerous people. Criminals have figured out how to circumvent state laws to obtain firearms illegally. Background checks are effective in stopping illegal transactions. In fact, they are one of the most effective tools we have to stop violent crime with firearms.”

Background checks register near-unanimous public support. 89% of Virginians support requiring all gun buyers to pass a background check. Support actually rises in two Virginia Senate Districts in rural southwestern parts of the state. 96% in SD-21 and 94% in SD-38 agree that anyone who buys a gun should be required to go through a background check. Support among gun owners is equally high, with 94% of gun owners in both districts favoring background checks for anyone who buys a firearm.

Currently, the Brady Law requires background checks for firearms purchased through federally licensed dealers in an effort to block sales to prohibited purchasers under federal and state laws. Those who are legally prohibited from possessing firearms include convicted felons, fugitives, drug addicts, those under domestic violence restraining orders, and the mentally ill, for example. Background checks are highly effective: in the first 15 years after the Brady Law’s enactment, background checks stopped nearly 2 million prohibited purchasers.

However, an estimated 40 percent of firearms transactions occur at other transaction points, where the Brady Law does not apply. The result is that criminals, felons, fugitives and other dangerous people are currently buying guns on the honor system. The omission of sales through the secondary market is permitting guns to get into the wrong hands and is aiding and abetting illegal gun trafficking.

“Police rely on policymakers to set the laws. Our goal today was to share our expertise and to converse with the candidates on the policies that will enhance public safety,” said Chief David McCoy, University of Richmond, and representing the International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators.

The chiefs will gather just days before the FY2012-14 budget takes effect July 1. The new budget provides additional funds allocated by the Virginia General Assembly in the 2012 session to improve the state’s background check system. Citing delays for checks on firearm purchasers, some called for eliminating Virginia’s background checks on rifles and shotguns. Rather than agreeing to eliminate such checks, legislators instead – during a time of severe fiscal constraints – provided additional funds to improve the background check system.

In addition to the three speakers at the press conference, law enforcement leaders from around the state, many of whom serve on the Executive Committee of the Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police, participated in the candidate meeting and press conference. They were:

Chief Douglas A. Goodman, Jr., Ashland  
Chief Michael F. Lynch, George Mason University Police Department, representing  
International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators  
Colonel Richard J. Rappoport, Chief of Police, City of Fairfax  
[www.lepartnership.org](http://www.lepartnership.org)

Chief David C. Sloggie, Williamsburg

Police representatives from the National Law Enforcement Partnership to Prevent Gun Violence were:

Sylvester Daughtry, Jr. – Executive Director, Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies

Katherine Perez – President, National Association of Women Law Enforcement Executives

Chief James W. Johnson – Baltimore County Police Department, representing Major Cities Chiefs

Chief John I. Dixon, III – City of Petersburg, representing National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives

# **NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT PARTNERSHIP TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
July 17, 2012**

**[info@lepartnership.org](mailto:info@lepartnership.org)**

## **AS FIREARMS RISE TO # 1 CAUSE OF COPS' LINE-OF-DUTY DEATHS, WISCONSIN AND NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT LEADERS CALL FOR EXPANDING BACKGROUND CHECKS ON FIREARM PURCHASERS**

### ***Police Officials Meet with Wisconsin U.S. Senate Candidates to Discuss Vital Public Safety Concerns***

(MADISON) – Police leaders from Wisconsin and major national law enforcement leadership organizations today announced their call for strengthening background checks on firearm purchasers to prevent criminals and other dangerous people currently prohibited by law to possess guns from obtaining them. The call, issued at a Madison press conference, comes after the release of data that shows that for the first time in 14 years, firearms surpassed motor vehicles as the number one cause of death for officers in the line of duty in 2011, according to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund.

The police administrators from the Wisconsin Chiefs of Police Association (WCPA) and the National Law Enforcement Partnership to Prevent Gun Violence (NLEPPGV) issued their call while assembled in the state capital to meet with candidates for Wisconsin's highly contested U.S. Senate seat. Police expressed their viewpoints on several critical public safety concerns, prioritizing strengthening the background check requirement for firearm purchasers and improving the reporting of record histories of disqualified purchasers to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS). They also talked with candidates about the importance of opposing federal preemption of state carrying concealed weapons legislation.

All Senate candidates from both parties were invited to meet with the law enforcement delegation, which included active-duty police chiefs and sheriffs from Wisconsin. During this two-day gathering, the law enforcement administrators met with Tommy Thompson (R) and Eric Hovde (R). Jeff Fitzgerald (R) was scheduled to meet Monday, but he cancelled the meeting. Tammy Baldwin (D) and Mark Neumann (R) indicated an interest in meeting, but they had scheduling conflicts. The officials are working with the Baldwin campaign to schedule a time to meet in the future. The WCPA hopes to meet with Jeff Fitzgerald and Mark Neumann as well.

To ensure a fruitful discussion, the meetings were held in two private sessions, and the ground rules stated that candidates' comments would not be shared publicly. The meetings are nonpartisan and informational only; they will not result in an endorsement of any candidate.

"We were pleased to have one-on-one meetings with several U.S. Senate candidates in which we could speak candidly about needed federal efforts to reduce gun violence and enhance public safety," said Douglas H. Pettit, chief of police in Oregon, WI, and chair of the law enforcement meeting. "The goal of these meetings was to impart our expertise, not issue

endorsements. It is encouraging that even in a highly contested race, these candidates dedicated their time to hearing the concerns of law enforcement leaders.”

The meeting was held at The Concourse Hotel, One West Dayton Street, in downtown Madison.

“Every minute of every day, thousands of law enforcement officers are risking their lives for the citizens of their communities. Their jobs have become more risky and dangerous, in part, because people with dangerous intent are able to purchase guns and use them to kill innocent individuals and the officers sworn to protect the public,” said Hubert Williams, President of the Police Foundation and Chair of the National Law Enforcement Partnership to Prevent Gun Violence, a coalition of major national law enforcement leadership organizations. “That is why law enforcement leaders have united to press for a federal law requiring background checks for firearms purchasers. A patchwork of state laws leaves wiggle room for criminals to maneuver and obtain weapons illegally.”

Background checks register near-unanimous public support. 93% of Wisconsinites support requiring a background check before purchasing or carrying a gun. Nationally, 81% of gun owners support background checks for gun purchases at any venue.

The federal Brady Law, which requires background checks on firearms purchased through federally licensed dealers, has a proven track record of blocking firearm sales to prohibited purchasers. Those who are legally prohibited from possessing firearms include convicted felons, fugitives, drug addicts, those under domestic violence restraining orders, and those who have been adjudicated mentally ill, for example.

Background checks are highly effective: in the first 15 years after the Brady Law’s enactment, background checks stopped nearly 2 million prohibited purchasers. However, an estimated 40 percent of firearms transactions occur at transaction points where the Brady Law does not apply. The result is that criminals, felons, fugitives and other dangerous people are currently buying guns on the honor system. The omission of background checks for sales through the secondary market is permitting guns to get into the wrong hands and is aiding and abetting illegal gun trafficking.

In addition to Pettit and Williams, participants at the press conference, included:

Chief Bernard Coughlin, Verona Police Department  
Chief Tom Czaja, Fox Point Police Department  
Chief Kurt Heuer, Wisconsin Rapids Police Department  
Sheriff David J. Mahoney, Dane County Sheriff’s Office  
Sheriff Steven R. Michek, Iowa County Sheriff’s Office and President, Badger  
State Sheriff’s Association  
Chief Dennis Plantz, Berlin Police Chief and President, WCPA  
Chief Susan Riseling, Chief of Police/Associate Vice Chancellor, University of  
Wisconsin-Madison, representing the National Association of Women Law  
Enforcement Executives (NAWLEE)  
Chief Gerald Strunz, Sauk Prairie Police Department  
Chief Lisa Walter, University of Wisconsin-Stout, representing the International  
Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators (IACLEA)

# **NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT PARTNERSHIP TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
July 26, 2012**

**[info@lepartnership.org](mailto:info@lepartnership.org)**

## **NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT LEADERSHIP ORGANIZATIONS ISSUE CALL FOR STRONGER FEDERAL GUN LAWS IN WAKE OF AURORA THEATER SHOOTING**

### ***Police Groups Highlight Ongoing Campaign for Action to Expand Background Checks for Gun Purchasers and Limit High-Capacity Ammunition Magazines***

(WASHINGTON, DC) – The National Law Enforcement Partnership to Prevent Gun Violence, an alliance of nine major national police leadership organizations, announced its call for background checks for all firearms purchasers and a ban on high-capacity ammunition magazines today at a news conference in Washington, DC. The group has been working with state law enforcement associations and leaders this summer in key states, pressing for expanded background checks for firearms purchasers and other public safety measures. But the Aurora theater shooting has intensified their calls for timely action.

“The nation is waiting for lawmakers to move beyond hand-wringing and shoulder-shrugging in response to these mass catastrophes,” said Hubert Williams, Chair of the National Law Enforcement Partnership to Prevent Gun Violence and President of the Police Foundation.

“These mass murders are neither acceptable, nor inevitable. There are numerous public safety initiatives – that are backed by the public and law enforcement – that will reduce the frequency and severity of this type of carnage. Our nation must establish as a top priority addressing this horrific gun violence that shatters our safety and security.”

The Partnership’s policy agenda includes background checks for all firearms purchasers and a limit on large-capacity ammunition magazines. The background check measure would complement the existing Brady Law, enacted in 1994, which established background checks for gun purchases at federally licensed gun dealers. But an estimated 40% of firearm transactions occur through non-dealers sales – leaving nearly half the firearm sales in the United States unregulated.

“Knowingly permitting four out of ten firearm sales to occur completely unregulated is irresponsible and counterproductive to public safety,” said James Johnson, incoming Chair, National Law Enforcement Partnership to Prevent Gun Violence, and Chief of Police in Baltimore County, MD. “Police do our jobs everyday patrolling the streets and protecting the public while putting their own lives on the line. Law enforcement needs the support of our lawmakers to enact policies that will keep officers and the public safer.”

While the Aurora shooting suspect reportedly passed background checks in obtaining his firearms, Williams emphasized the importance and effectiveness of background checks in keeping guns from other dangerous people, stressing that nearly 2 million prohibited



purchases were stopped between 1994 and 2009. He noted that background checks will help reduce gun violence that touches dozens of Americans every day.

“Gun violence is impacting us all,” Williams said. “In 2011, gunfire was the leading cause of death for police killed in the line of duty, surpassing motor vehicles for the first time in 14 years. Gun violence occurs day in and day out, claiming 34 Americans every single day.”

Background checks are overwhelmingly supported by the public – and gun owners themselves: 86% nationally, including 81% of gun owners, support background checks for all firearms purchasers, regardless of seller or venue.

The Partnership has been collaborating with law enforcement leadership organizations in key states to educate U.S. Senate candidates and the public, building bipartisan support to expand background checks to gun sales beyond licensed dealers. In Virginia and Wisconsin law enforcement leaders recently met with U.S. Senate candidates in private sessions specifically focused on gun violence, emphasizing the need for strengthened background checks. The meetings were strictly educational in nature and candidates participated despite being told that there would be no endorsements made. The police leaders also held major press conferences in each state to publicize their calls for action.

Williams dismissed those saying action is impossible on gun issues, noting, that there were naysayers in the 80s and 90s when, “Law enforcement was pivotal in passing a string of federal gun laws: the ban on cop-killer bullets; the ban on undetectable plastic guns; and the Brady Law requiring background checks for guns purchased through licensed dealers. We know that common sense can prevail.”

The National Law Enforcement Partnership to Prevent Gun Violence is comprised of:

- Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc.
- Hispanic American Police Command Officers Association
- International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators
- International Association of Chiefs of Police
- Major Cities Chiefs Association
- National Association of Women Law Enforcement Executives
- National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives
- Police Executive Research Forum
- Police Foundation

# **NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT PARTNERSHIP TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
August 16, 2012**

**[info@lepartnership.org](mailto:info@lepartnership.org)**

## **STATEMENT BY HUBERT WILLIAMS PRESIDENT OF THE POLICE FOUNDATION AND CHAIR OF THE NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT PARTNERSHIP TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE**

(WASHINGTON, DC)—Our nation is facing an epidemic of senseless gun violence, and the time to address it is now.

Last year, gunfire was the leading cause of death for police officers killed in the line of duty, surpassing motor vehicles for the first time in 14 years, according to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund. Those charged with our safekeeping are increasingly becoming the target of violence, as we saw today in Louisiana with two officers wounded and two killed as they were reportedly ambushed by a gunman brandishing an assault rifle, and as we saw yesterday with the shooting of a security guard in Washington, DC, who heroically fended off a disturbed gunman reportedly equipped with large capacity ammunition magazines.

We continue to mourn the recent losses in Aurora, Colorado, and in Oak Creek, Wisconsin, where we also saw the heroic actions of law enforcement officers who put their own lives on the line in service to others. These recent tragedies are all too demonstrative of what we are seeing across the nation—criminals and deranged individuals able to access firearms and high capacity ammunition magazines with all too great ease.

The National Law Enforcement Partnership to Prevent Gun Violence, an alliance of nine major national police leadership organizations, has united together to combat this crisis that is plaguing communities across America. We are calling on our elected leaders and candidates to support background checks for all firearm purchasers and to restore the 1994 law that limited ammunition magazines to ten rounds.

Our political leaders can no longer turn a deaf ear to this deadly problem. Our elected officials and candidates seeking office must demonstrate the leadership we need to keep Americans safe. We continue to see acts of courage by those men and women in blue who put their lives on the line to protect others. It is urgent that our elected leaders and those seeking public office also step up and support law enforcement and the stronger gun laws we know will save lives and prevent further tragedies.

The National Law Enforcement Partnership to Prevent Gun Violence consists of:  
Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc.  
Hispanic American Police Command Officers Association  
International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators  
International Association of Chiefs of Police  
Major Cities Chiefs Association  
National Association of Women Law Enforcement Executives  
National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives  
Police Executive Research Forum  
Police Foundation

**[www.lepartnership.org](http://www.lepartnership.org)**

# **NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT PARTNERSHIP TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
October 17, 2012**

**[info@lepartnership.org](mailto:info@lepartnership.org)**

## **STATEMENT BY BALTIMORE COUNTY POLICE CHIEF JAMES W. JOHNSON, CHAIR OF THE NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT PARTNERSHIP TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE**

On behalf of the National Law Enforcement Partnership to Prevent Gun Violence, we are pleased the issue of gun violence was finally addressed during a presidential debate. Our hats off to the questioner, as she demonstrated that the problem of gun violence is on the minds of the American people, just as it is for our nation's law enforcement.

The topic of gun violence deserves more attention by the candidates, the media and the public, as too many people across the nation are victimized by senseless violent crimes involving firearms, with all too many lives lost every single day. Without the focus, commitment and active efforts by our nation's elected leaders to responsibly address these issues, the death toll and tragedy will continue.

Gun violence impacts us all, directly or indirectly. In addition to the harm and suffering of all those victimized, there are economic costs, with just one murder, alone, estimated to cost five million dollars. In 2011, firearms were the leading cause of police line of duty deaths, exceeding all other causes for the first time in 14 years. We have many problems in our nation, but this one is without question a matter of life and death – something that cannot and must not be ignored.

The National Law Enforcement Partnership to Prevent Gun Violence is an alliance of major national police leadership organizations, united together to combat the gun-violence crisis plaguing communities across our country. In the remaining 20 days until the election, we urge that there be a greater dialogue on these issues as the candidates must focus on and face up to this urgent problem.

The National Law Enforcement Partnership to Prevent Gun Violence is comprised of: Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc., Hispanic American Police Command Officers Association, International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators, International Association of Chiefs of Police, Major Cities Chiefs Association, National Association of Women Law Enforcement Executives, National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives, National Troopers Coalition, Police Executive Research Forum, and the Police Foundation.

# **NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT PARTNERSHIP TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
December 19, 2012**

**[info@lepartnership.org](mailto:info@lepartnership.org)**

## **STATEMENT BY BALTIMORE COUNTY POLICE CHIEF JIM JOHNSON, CHAIR OF THE NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT PARTNERSHIP TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE ON THE MASSACRE AT SANDY HOOK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

The members of the National Law Enforcement Partnership to Prevent Gun Violence express our deepest sorrow and our heartfelt condolences to the families who lost loved ones in the tragic and catastrophic massacre this past Friday at Sandy Hook Elementary School. We grieve for the 20 first-grade students who were killed, for the adults who died while trying to protect them, for their families who will always mourn their loss, for the students and teachers who survived but will never be the same, and for the Newtown community whose sense of security is now shattered.

As law enforcement professionals, we have a duty to protect the lives and safety of our citizens. There is nothing we will not do to fulfill this duty, including risking our own lives. But that, in this instance, was not enough. The police response at Sandy Hook was swift and brave, but there was no chance for law enforcement to save the lives lost, given the firepower involved and how quickly the perpetrator was able to inflict wide-spread carnage, spray-firing multiple rounds of ammunition.

Vicious, mindless slaughter is taking place with alarming and accelerating frequency in the schools, shopping malls, and movie theatres of America, in addition to the gun violence that occurs daily but receives less attention. Gun violence has become an epidemic that must be addressed with urgency.

Our duty demands that we do more than risk our lives in the next frenzied assault. A comprehensive approach to this problem is needed, and it is our duty to let policymakers and the public know what policies we need to better protect the public. As public safety professionals, we are calling for the President and Congress to:

- Require background checks for ALL firearm purchasers.
- Limit high-capacity ammunition magazines to ten rounds.
- Ban new semi-automatic assault weapons.

These measures will save lives. Failure to act will continue to cost lives. There is a historic, long established Constitutional right for Americans to own guns. These three measures do not infringe on that right. They will prevent millions of dangerous people from acquiring firearms, and prevent weapons whose distinguishing characteristic is the ability to spray-fire tens to hundreds of rounds in rapid succession, inflicting the kind of carnage we have seen from Aurora to Newtown. Semiautomatic assault weapons and large capacity ammunition magazines are

made for war. They have no role in self-defense or hunting, unless the goal is to hunt human beings.

In his remarks to the grieving community of Newtown, President Obama was clear about the need for action to prevent future tragedies. We stand ready to work with the President and with Congress to do what is necessary to stop this gun violence epidemic and to prevent what happened in Newtown from happening to others.

We are appealing to all policymakers in the strongest most urgent possible terms. Forget the politics. Remember these children. To save lives, act now.

International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators  
International Association of Chiefs of Police  
Major Cities Chiefs Association  
National Association of Women Law Enforcement Executives  
National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives  
Police Executive Research Forum  
Police Foundation

# **NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT PARTNERSHIP TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
October 24, 2012**

**[info@lepartnership.org](mailto:info@lepartnership.org)**

## **STATEMENT BY BALTIMORE COUNTY POLICE CHIEF JAMES W. JOHNSON, CHAIR OF THE NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT PARTNERSHIP TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE**

Our thoughts are with the victims of the senseless tragedy that occurred on Sunday, October 21<sup>st</sup> in Brookfield, Wisconsin. As law enforcement professionals who deal with violent crime day in and day out, we know all too well the devastation caused by gun violence. It is especially disturbing knowing that tragedies like the one that occurred in Brookfield are preventable.

It is unlawful for someone under a domestic violence restraining order, as the suspect reportedly was in Brookfield, to possess firearms. Other categories of prohibited purchasers include convicted felons, fugitives from justice, those under indictment, and those who have been adjudicated mentally ill. To ensure that the purchase is legal, federal law requires those seeking to buy guns from federally licensed gun dealers to undergo background checks. But there is no such required background check if a purchaser buys a gun from an individual, as the suspect reportedly did in Wisconsin.

An estimated 40 percent of firearm transactions occur through private individuals, not through licensed gun dealers. Allowing 40 percent of firearm purchasers to bypass background checks is just as irrational as it would be if we allowed 40 percent of airline passengers to bypass airport security.

It is unconscionable that we allow dangerous people to buy guns from any source without taking simple steps to ensure the sale is legal. We already have a national background check system in place, and extending sales to all firearm purchasers is a simple but lifesaving measure that can and must be implemented without delay.

In the interest of public safety and common sense, it is time for our elected officials to step up and support this vital law enforcement measure.

Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies  
Hispanic American Police Command Officers Association  
International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators  
International Association of Chiefs of Police  
Major Cities Chiefs Association  
National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives  
National Association of Women Law Enforcement Executives  
Police Foundation

# NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT PARTNERSHIP TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
October 26, 2015

CONTACT: [info@lepartnership.org](mailto:info@lepartnership.org)



## NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT LEADERS, STRESSING DANGEROUS INCREASE IN GUN VIOLENCE, SAY IMMEDIATE ACTION NEEDED TO KEEP GUNS OUT OF THE WRONG HANDS



## 92 AMERICANS KILLED EVERY DAY BY GUNS, SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN GUN CRIMES, MORE FREQUENT MASS SHOOTINGS SHAKING COMMUNITIES TO THE CORE



**CHICAGO** — Leaders of the nation's major national law enforcement leadership organizations today highlighted the dangerous rise in gun violence plaguing all corners of the U.S., and stressed the urgency of keeping guns out of the wrong hands by enhancing and expanding background checks for all gun sales.



Members of the National Law Enforcement Partnership to Prevent Gun Violence (the Partnership), comprised of nine national law enforcement leadership organizations, spoke at a press conference during the annual conference of the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP).



Chicago Police Superintendent Garry McCarthy led off the press conference, in his role as Host Chief of IACP's 2015 conference. He spoke of the uptick in gun violence reported by major city chiefs across the country, saying, "the common denominator from Chicago to Charlotte is that guns are getting in the hands of the wrong people and lives are being erased, all because of easy access to guns by people intent on doing harm to themselves or others."



"America is in crisis because of gun violence. The longer we wait, the more people die," said Jim Johnson, the Chief of Police of Baltimore County, MD, and the Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCCA) representative to the Partnership. "We've been rocked coast-to-coast from Charleston, South Carolina to Roseburg, Oregon. We keep seeing incident after incident unfold – from mass shootings to those that occur daily in our communities. This madness cannot continue. Enough is enough!"



Johnson cited numerous statistics that he and others said were cause for alarm:

- 466,113 people were victims of crime involving guns in 2014 – up 40% over the year before, according to the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS).
- Firearm deaths are up over the last decade. According to the latest data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), on average 92



Americans were killed by guns every day in 2013 – up from 82 a day in 2003. This number reflects a marked increase in suicides.

- Mass shootings are occurring with greater frequency. A September 2014 FBI report found a 56% increase in mass shootings in the period between 2007 and 2013 compared to the earlier time period of 2000 and 2006.
- Two-thirds of the 8,124 murders committed in the U.S. in 2014 involved firearms, according to the FBI's Uniform Crime Report.
- 2,000 children age 18 and under die from firearm-related deaths each year, according to CDC data.

The Partnership outlined three background check proposals that the organizations say will save lives:

- Expand background checks to cover all gun purchases – not just those made through licensed dealers. In far too many states individuals can transfer guns to others without any questions asked and no check required. Guns used in crime in cities like Chicago and New York are predominantly originating from places with weaker gun purchase laws.

The Brady Law requires background checks for firearms purchased through federally licensed dealers. However, no check is required for private sales, such as those transacted at a gun show or through an online or print ad.

According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, federal and state background checks blocked more than 2.4 million prohibited purchases from federally licensed dealers between 1994, when the Brady Law took effect, and December 31, 2012. Background check laws screen out those prohibited by law from possessing firearms and do not impact law-abiding citizens' ability to buy guns.

- Strengthen the background check system by ensuring that states and federal agencies share all disqualifying records with the NICS system. Dangerous people have been able to pass background checks because their criminal and mental health disqualifying records barring them from gun possession were never shared with the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS).
- Allow the FBI sufficient time to adequately conduct background checks when further investigation is needed before a firearm is transferred, as it was in the case of the shooting that took nine lives at the AME Church in Charleston. NICS background checks are generally completed in just a few minutes. But in some cases, more investigation is required to determine whether a flagged record disqualifies a prospective purchase from firearm possession. Under

current federal law, the sale can proceed in three business days even if the FBI has not completed the check.

“Last year, the FBI reported that more than 2,500 guns were sold to people who should have been barred but sales proceeded nevertheless,” Johnson said. “As the Charleston shooting rampage painfully shows, there are some cases where more time to investigate before a firearm is transferred would mean more lives saved.”

Emphasizing the interstate gun trafficking problem, Gregory A. Thomas, President of the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives said, “Guns know no borders. Dangerous criminals are buying guns in states where they can evade background checks and transporting them to states with tougher background check laws. We need states to do more and we need national policies that tighten up gun purchasing requirements.”

Thomas added, “In my hometown of New York City, just last week Randolph Holder, another brave police officer was shot and killed. I say another, because we are still mourning the loss of three other officers shot and killed in the last eleven months, including in ambush shootings.” Thomas said the guns used to kill those three officers all originated in Georgia, a state with weaker gun purchase laws.

Chuck Wexler, Executive Director, Police Executive Research Forum (PERF) discussed its just released report in which it found overwhelming support among law enforcement for universal background checks during a series of regional conferences and in a subsequent survey of more than 250 police executives. Of the police executives surveyed, 95 percent of respondents said they support comprehensive background checks, 94 percent support temporary bans on gun possession for those under a restraining order for domestic violence, and 96 percent support prohibiting gun possession by persons who have had an involuntary hospitalization with a clinical finding of being a danger to oneself or others.

“Our report was based on a two-year project and involved police chiefs, sheriffs, prosecutors and mayors. It shows that police chiefs, along with their mayors and prosecutors, strongly support measures to protect communities by preventing serious criminal offenders and dangerous persons from harming community members with firearms,” Wexler concluded. PERF is a police research organization that develops best practices and policies on critical issues in policing,

The National Law Enforcement Partnership to Prevent Gun Violence ([www.lepartnership.org](http://www.lepartnership.org)) is an alliance of the nation’s law enforcement leadership organizations concerned about the unacceptable level of gun violence in the

United States. The Partnership is working to address the pervasive nature of gun violence and its horrific impact on community and officer safety.

The Partnership includes:

[Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. \(CALEA\)](#)  
[Hispanic American Police Command Officers Association \(HAPCOA\)](#)  
[International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators \(IACLEA\)](#)  
[International Association of Chiefs of Police \(IACP\)](#)  
[Major Cities Chiefs Association \(MCCA\)](#)  
[National Association of Women Law Enforcement Executives \(NAWLEE\)](#)  
[National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives \(NOBLE\)](#)  
[Police Executive Research Forum \(PERF\)](#)  
[Police Foundation \(PF\)](#)

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[www.lepartnership.org](http://www.lepartnership.org)

[info@lepartnership.org](mailto:info@lepartnership.org)

# NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT PARTNERSHIP TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
July 7, 2017

CONTACT:  
[info@lepartnership.org](mailto:info@lepartnership.org)

## STATEMENT OF THE NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT PARTNERSHIP TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE ON THE CONCEALED CARRY RECIPROCITY ACT OF 2017 – S. 446 & H.R. 38



**WASHINGTON, D.C.** – The National Law Enforcement Partnership to Prevent Gun Violence urges members of Congress to oppose both the House and Senate versions of “Concealed Carry Reciprocity” – The Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act of 2017 (H.R. 38), sponsored by Representative Richard Hudson (R-NC), and The Constitutional Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act of 2017 (S. 446), sponsored by Senator John Cornyn (R-TX), respectively.

The National Law Enforcement Partnership to Prevent Gun Violence (the Partnership) includes nine national law enforcement organizations dedicated to serving the Nation’s more than 900,000 sworn and civilian law enforcement officers, executives, and professional staff.

The Partnership has opposed previous legislative attempts to mandate concealed carry reciprocity nationwide because such schemes severely undermine successful, well established state laws governing carrying concealed firearms.

H.R. 38 and S. 446 would require each state – even those with strong permitting standards and stringent training requirements – to allow anyone to carry a concealed firearm so long as the person’s own home state allows it. These misguided bills would preempt local and state perspectives on what’s best for communities by forcing states to accept weaker concealed carry standards of other states and eliminates every state's ability to determine who may exercise the enormous responsibility of carrying a firearm, concealed or otherwise.

Training is a vitally important aspect of carrying a concealed firearm. Law enforcement officers are extensively trained to understand responsible firearm use, including making split-second decisions about when deadly force is appropriate; they also attend periodic in-service training and regularly requalify with their service weapons, most at least semi-annually. According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, states require an average 92 hours of firearms skills and judgment training before certifying someone to carry a gun as a police officer. While a majority of states require a minimum number of hours of

training to be eligible for civilian concealed firearm permits, several states do not require any training at all to carry a firearm in public. No state should be forced to accept a person carrying a concealed firearm who has not received gun safety training.

In addition, during public contacts, police officers will face the daunting task of verifying the validity of different carry permits from the states that issue them. Twelve states require no permit whatsoever to carry a concealed gun, taking away an officer's ability to determine if a person is carrying legally. Reciprocity would leave law enforcement helpless to keep guns out of the wrong hands when a person claims "constitutional carry" authority. This obvious step in the wrong direction would sow chaos and uncertainty, making a cop's job harder and citizens less safe. Under the House bill (H.R. 38), attempting to verify a permit or identification card comes with potential legal liability for law enforcement, an outrageous outcome for an officer trying to protect his or her community.

The complete lack of consistent training standards, the different standards for identifying individuals that are too dangerous to carry, the uncertainty of a document's validity, and the exposure of agencies and police officers to civil liability create unacceptable risks to our nation's 900,000 police officers and the public at large. We reject the idea that one state's approach to carrying a concealed firearm will work across the country. States and localities should maintain their rights to legislate concealed carry laws that best meet the needs of their citizens.

The National Law Enforcement Partnership to Prevent Gun Violence urges you to respect and defend state laws while protecting and supporting our nation's police officers by opposing H.R. 38 and S. 446. Thank you for your support.

#### The Partnership Includes:

Hispanic American Police Command Officers Association (HAPCOA)  
International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators (IACLEA)  
International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP)  
Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCCA)  
National Association of Women Law Enforcement Executives (NAWLEE)  
National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE)  
Police Executive Research Forum (PERF)  
Police Foundation (PF)

# NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT PARTNERSHIP TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
March 17, 2017

CONTACT:  
[info@lepartnership.org](mailto:info@lepartnership.org)

## GUN VIOLENCE RESEARCH ACT OF 2017

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** – The National Law Enforcement Partnership to Prevent Gun Violence (The Partnership) urges the Congress to support the Gun Violence Research Act of 2017, (HR 1478) a bill introduced on March 9, 2017 by Representative Stephanie Murphy (D-FL) that would lift restrictions on gun violence research at the Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Our partner organizations are committed to data focused, intelligence led policing in the communities they serve. Evidence based decision making is now recognized as essential in all areas of public safety leadership, including resource allocation, staffing, personnel and equipment acquisition. Lack of sound, scientifically valid data may lead to misspent time, money and human capital. Instead, we should rely on rigorous, focused research to guide agencies' activities to curb gun violence.

Supporting research into the causes and solutions to gun violence as set forth in the Gun Violence Research Act of 2017, H.R. 1478, is a common-sense solution to providing safer communities for our citizens and police officers.

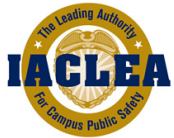
The National Law Enforcement Partnership to Prevent Gun Violence ([www.lepartnership.org](http://www.lepartnership.org)) includes nine national law enforcement organizations dedicated to serving the Nation's more than 900,000 sworn law enforcement officers and professional staff.

The Partnership Includes:

Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA)  
Hispanic American Police Command Officers Association (HAPCOA)  
International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators (IACLEA)  
International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP)  
Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCCA)  
National Association of Women Law Enforcement Executives (NAWLEE)  
National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE)  
Police Executive Research Forum (PERF)  
Police Foundation (PF)



# NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT PARTNERSHIP TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
March 10, 2017

CONTACT:  
[info@lepartnership.org](mailto:info@lepartnership.org)

## STATEMENT OF CHAIRMAN JIM JOHNSON ON GUN TRAFFICKING PREVENTION ACT OF 2017

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** – On behalf of the National Law Enforcement Partnership to Prevent Gun Violence, I urge you to support The Gun Trafficking Prevention Act of 2017 in the House of Representatives. This forward-thinking bill will prevent felons and other dangerous criminals from acquiring firearms.

There is no Federal law that specifically prohibits trafficking in firearms, despite concerns repeatedly raised by law enforcement officials at all levels of government in testimony before Congress. To fill this critical gap, The Gun Trafficking Prevention Act of 2017 prohibits the purchase or transfer of a firearm if the intent is to deliver the firearm to a person prohibited from possessing a firearm and exposes violators to up to 20 years of imprisonment.

The Gun Trafficking Prevention Act of 2017 strengthens penalties against “straw purchasers” who intentionally provide false or misleading material information when buying guns, including the false statement that he or she is the actual buyer when, in fact, he/she is purchasing the firearm for another person. Enhanced penalties give law enforcement and prosecutors a crucial tool to induce cooperation from straw purchasers when investigating complex gun trafficking schemes.

The Gun Trafficking Prevention Act of 2017 provides additional jail time for “kingpins” of firearms trafficking networks, creating a five-year penalty enhancement for these leaders and organizers of conspiracies. The bill recommends that the Sentencing Commission amend the Sentencing Guidelines to impose enhanced penalties for multiple illegal gun purchases.

The Gun Trafficking Prevention Act of 2017 has no impact on legal gun ownership or purchases. The bill is narrowly focused on individuals who purchase or transfer firearms with the intent of providing them to others not authorized to possess them. The bill includes exceptions for gifts that would not otherwise violate the law and certain transfers at death.

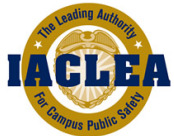
The National Law Enforcement Partnership to Prevent Gun Violence urges you to defend the nation's police officers and the general public by supporting The Gun Trafficking Prevention Act of 2017. Thank you for your support.

The National Law Enforcement Partnership to Prevent Gun Violence (the Partnership) includes nine national law enforcement organizations dedicated to serving the Nation's more than 900,000 sworn and civilian law enforcement officers, executives, and professional staff.

The Partnership Includes:

Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA)  
Hispanic American Police Command Officers Association (HAPCOA)  
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National Association of Women Law Enforcement Executives (NAWLEE)  
National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE)  
Police Executive Research Forum (PERF)  
Police Foundation (PF)

# NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT PARTNERSHIP TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
March 10, 2017

CONTACT:  
[info@lepartnership.org](mailto:info@lepartnership.org)

## STATEMENT OF CHAIRMAN JIM JOHNSON ON H.R. 367 AND S.59, THE HEARING PROTECTION ACT OF 2017

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** – On behalf of the National Law Enforcement Partnership to Prevent Gun Violence, I urge you to oppose H.R. 367, the Duncan-Carter Hearing Protection Act of 2017 in the House of Representatives, and S.59, the Hearing Protection Act in the Senate.

The Partnership is opposed to legislative proposals that would remove firearm silencers from regulation under the National Firearms Act of 1934 (NFA). These proposals, if enacted, would put police officers and the public at grave risk; The United States of America has more firearms in civilian hands than the next ten developed nations, and that fact alone causes our law enforcement personnel great concern for their safety. Ambush killings of police officers reached a 20 year high in 2016<sup>i</sup> – how many more will be sacrificed if assailants can fire at our police officers without fear of quick detection and rapid response?

An additional issue: suppressed guns absolutely defeat the only available state-of-the-art gunfire detection/location service whose use has become common in cities across the country. It's well documented that only 20 percent of gunfire is reported via 9-1-1 calls for service – how will the public know about, or police respond, to suppressed gunfire? Patrol units' response times will increase, detectives' window to locate critical evidence will narrow, and community members' willingness to offer actionable intelligence about "trigger pullers" will fade if firearm silencers become easily available.

The proponents of deregulation falsely claim that because silencers (also called suppressors or mufflers) are rarely used in crime, ipso facto there is no need for heightened regulation of these devices. The truth is that silencers are seldom used in crimes because, since 1934, their manufacture and sale has been tightly controlled. Transfers of the devices are closely tracked, and sanctions for using a silencer in a crime (registered or not) are severe. These facts lead to the inevitable conclusion that the current legislative/regulatory scheme has worked exceptionally well, just as it has with legally registered machine guns and other firearms listed on the NFA.

H.R. 367 and S.59 propose to weaken current law by eliminating the robust regulatory framework that has been in place for 80 years by allowing silencers to be treated in the same manner as firearms. This would expose silencers to other gaps in the federal law, the most concerning of which is the loophole that allows private sales of guns without a background check. This will flood the underground market for silencers whose distribution has heretofore been limited by the requirements of the NFA. Relaxation of these requirements will allow gang members, terrorists and domestic abusers easy access to these dangerous weapons. In most states and under Federal law, the transfer of firearms between unlicensed individuals is unregulated; based on the number of silencers currently registered with ATF, that equates to potentially more than 180,000 undocumented silencer transfers. Additionally, the proposed deregulation could result in a significant loss of tax revenue due to a mandated rebate of taxes paid by current silencer owners.<sup>ii</sup>

Before these ill-considered changes to existing firearms law, the primary target for silencer manufacturers has been military tactical teams who use silencers to confuse the sound of gunfire and confound an enemy's response to surprise attack. The widespread and uncontrolled distribution of silencers to an unwary civilian population, combined with the sheer number of firearms freely available in America, is a step in the wrong direction and will result in tragedy, including violence directed at police officers that will be difficult or impossible to investigate effectively.

The National Law Enforcement Partnership to Prevent Gun Violence urges you to defend the nation's police officers and the general public by opposing H.R. 367 and S.59. Thank you for your support.

The National Law Enforcement Partnership to Prevent Gun Violence (the Partnership) includes nine national law enforcement organizations dedicated to serving the Nation's more than 900,000 sworn and civilian law enforcement officers, executives, and professional staff.

#### The Partnership Includes:

Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA)  
Hispanic American Police Command Officers Association (HAPCOA)  
International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators (IACLEA)  
Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCCA)  
National Association of Women Law Enforcement Executives (NAWLEE)  
National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE)  
Police Executive Research Forum (PERF)  
Police Foundation (PF)

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i <http://www.nleomf.org/newsroom/news-releases/2016-officer-fatalities-report-release.html>. Accessed Feb 22, 2017.

ii <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/367>; <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/59>. Accessed Feb 22, 2017.



## NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT PARTNERSHIP TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE

May 29, 2014

Dear Representatives King and Thompson,

The National Law Enforcement Partnership to Prevent Gun Violence (the Partnership) applauds your bipartisan amendment to the FY15 Commerce Justice and Science Appropriations bill (HR 4660) to increase funding to strengthen the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) by providing \$19.5 million so that states will submit more disqualifying records for inclusion in the NICS database.

As law enforcement professionals, our nine law enforcement leadership organizations have come together to seek practical responses to reduce the gun violence that is cutting lives short and forever altering others through physical injury and emotional grief.

Over the Memorial Day weekend, our nation once again suffered a tragic mass shooting and murder of young students. Law enforcement professionals know that while we can't stop every shooting, our nation can absolutely do more to prevent gun violence by adopting sensible policies that prevent guns from getting into the wrong hands.

Background checks have a demonstrated record of success when disqualified purchasers' information is contained in the databases being checked. Federal and state background checks stopped more than 2 million prohibited purchases from federally licensed dealers between 1994 – when the Brady Law took effect – and 2010, according to the Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Statistics.

Many states are not currently submitting all of their disqualifying records to NICS. Your amendment will provide critical funding for states to increase the number of records entered in the NICS system and ultimately help to keep guns out of dangerous hands.

We urge all Members of Congress to support this important life-saving measure.

Sincerely,

Chief Jim Johnson, Baltimore County, MD  
Chair, National Law Enforcement Partnership to Prevent Gun Violence

Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA)  
Hispanic American Police Command Officers Association (HAPCOA)  
International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators (IACLEA)  
International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP)  
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National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE)  
Police Executive Research Forum (PERF)  
Police Foundation (PF)





# NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT PARTNERSHIP TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE



April 15, 2013

Dear Senators:



I write to convey the strong support of the National Law Enforcement Partnership to Prevent Gun Violence (the Partnership) for the "Public Safety and Second Amendment Rights Protection Act."



The Partnership is an alliance of the nation's law enforcement leadership organizations concerned about the unacceptable level of gun violence in the United States. Our members include the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA); Hispanic American Police Command Officers Association (HAPCOA); International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators (IACLEA); International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP); Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCC); National Association of Women Law Enforcement Executives (NAWLEE); National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE); Police Executive Research Forum (PERF); and the Police Foundation (PF).



The Partnership commends Senators Joe Manchin and Patrick Toomey for their hard work on this legislation that will take two important steps forward in strengthening and expanding the existing background check system. First, extending the federal background check requirement to gun shows, to online advertisements, postings, displays and other listings, and to publications will block prohibited purchasers from acquiring firearms through these additional channels. Second, encouraging states to report all of their disqualifying records to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) will improve checks by ensuring that all prohibited purchasers are in the background check system.



Ideally, the legislation would require background checks for all gun sales, closing more avenues for criminals and the dangerously mentally ill seeking to acquire guns. However, this extension of background checks to all firearm sales at gun shows, and to postings online and in publications is an important step forward.



[WWW.LEPARTNERSHIP.ORG](http://WWW.LEPARTNERSHIP.ORG)



Background checks for firearm purchasers are highly effective in keeping guns out of the wrong hands. According to the Justice Department's Bureau of Justice Statistics, since the Brady Law took effect in 1994, background checks blocked more than 2 million prohibited purchases from acquiring guns through federally licensed firearm dealers.

We urge you to support this common-sense measure that will be offered in the form of an amendment by Senators Manchin and Toomey on the floor of the U.S. Senate, and urge that you vote against all weakening amendments that may be offered. Lives depend on it.

Sincerely,

Chief Jim Johnson, Baltimore County, MD  
Chair, National Law Enforcement Partnership to Prevent Gun Violence

Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA)  
Hispanic American Police Command Officers Association (HAPCOA)  
International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators (IACLEA)  
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National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE)  
Police Executive Research Forum (PERF)  
Police Foundation (PF)

## NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT PARTNERSHIP TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
February 12, 2016

CONTACT:  
Police Foundation  
202-833-1460



### STATEMENT BY BALTIMORE COUNTY POLICE CHIEF JIM JOHNSON, CHAIR, NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT PARTNERSHIP TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE, ON A VIOLENT AND TRAGIC START TO 2016



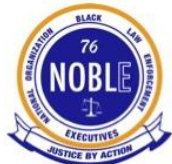
The National Law Enforcement Partnership to Prevent Gun Violence mourns the loss of six of our nation's finest to senseless gun violence. Riverdale (GA) Police Department's Major Greg Barney, Fargo (ND) Police Department's Jason Moszer, Harford County (MD) Sheriff's Deputies Patrick Dailey and Mark Logsdon, Mesa County (CO) Sheriff's Deputy Derek Geer, and Seaside (OR) Police Sergeant Jason Goodding were all serving and protecting honorably when they were shot and killed. We offer our deepest condolences to the families and co-workers of these brave fallen officers, as well as to the communities which they so proudly served.



The National Law Enforcement Partnership to Prevent Gun Violence has long warned of the dangers of guns in the hands of those too dangerous to possess them, and has been repeatedly urging action in response to gun violence across the nation, including gun violence that plagues our communities and takes innocent lives every week in places like Chicago, Milwaukee, Los Angeles and this week in Harford County, Maryland, Seaside, Oregon, Fargo, North Dakota, Grand Junction, Colorado, and Riverdale, Georgia.



Law enforcement officers put their own lives on the line to protect others every day, but the threat of gun violence in urban, rural and suburban communities across our nation is threatening one of the nation's most noble professions.



As we have previously stated, it is crucial that our nation pull together and work to keep guns from criminals and others too dangerous to possess them. The National Law Enforcement Partnership to Prevent Gun Violence has stressed the need – as a public safety imperative – to require background checks for all firearm sales or transfers, and other sensible gun policy measures.



POLICE EXECUTIVE  
RESEARCH FORUM



We owe it to all of those who have made the ultimate sacrifice, their loved ones, and all Americans to do all we can to make our nation safer and stronger, and to protect others from the same fate. We can and we must do more to quell this senseless violence.

Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA)  
Hispanic American Police Command Officers Association (HAPCOA)  
International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators (IACLEA)  
International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP)  
Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCCA)  
National Association of Women Law Enforcement Executives (NAWLEE)  
National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE)  
Police Executive Research Forum (PERF)  
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[www.lepartnership.org](http://www.lepartnership.org)

[info@lepartnership.org](mailto:info@lepartnership.org)

# NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT PARTNERSHIP TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
June 14, 2013

**CONTACT:**  
[info@lepartnership.org](mailto:info@lepartnership.org)



## **STATEMENT BY BALTIMORE COUNTY CHIEF JIM JOHNSON, CHAIR, NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT PARTNERSHIP TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE ON THE SIX MONTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SHOOTING AT SANDY HOOK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**



Today marks six months since the tragic massacre at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, CT. Members of the National Law Enforcement Partnership to Prevent Gun Violence (The Partnership) remember with deep sorrow the horrid events of that day, and we continue to grieve for the 20 children and 6 adults whose lives were taken, and the countless lives that were shattered by this senseless act.



Six months have passed, yet more gruesome and tragic crimes involving firearms continue to occur every day. Since Newtown, more than 5,000 people have lost their lives to gunfire in the United States<sup>1</sup>. Just last week, a mentally disturbed young man at Santa Monica College in California reportedly killed five people using a semi-automatic assault weapon, and carrying almost 1,300 rounds of ammunition.



Gun violence also takes a severe toll on law enforcement, already claiming 16 officers' lives this year<sup>2</sup>. Law enforcement officers put their lives on the line every day to protect the safety of our citizens, facing down armed and dangerous individuals whose acquisitions of firearms should have been prevented. We see firsthand the devastation caused by gun violence in our communities and know that more must and can be done to prevent it.



It is unconscionable that six months have passed since that fateful day in Newtown, and we have not yet enacted the most basic and commonsense measures to protect the public from this kind of senseless gun violence.



As public safety professionals, it is our duty to educate lawmakers and the public about the policies that will best protect us all. We urge lawmakers to heed the expertise of law enforcement and the will of the American people



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<sup>1</sup> Slate Magazine, "[How Many People Have Been Killed by Guns Since Newtown](#)"

<sup>2</sup> National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund, [Officer Fatality Data](#)

and do what we know will save lives: support expanding background checks to all firearm purchasers. We cannot stand by and watch the death toll continue to needlessly climb.

Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA)  
Hispanic American Police Command Officers Association (HAPCOA)  
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Police Executive Research Forum (PERF)  
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# NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT PARTNERSHIP TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
OCTOBER 27, 2014

CONTACT:  
[info@lepartnership.org](mailto:info@lepartnership.org)



## LAW ENFORCEMENT LEADERS SAY EXPANDING BACKGROUND CHECKS FOR GUN PURCHASES CRITICAL TO PUBLIC AND OFFICER SAFETY, AS GUN FATALITIES ON THE RISE

### GUNS LEADING CAUSE OF OFFICER LINE OF DUTY DEATHS, WITH OFFICER FIREARM FATALITIES UP 64% FROM SAME TIME LAST YEAR

Orlando, FL – Citing new data showing the increase in firearm fatalities among the general public and law enforcement, law enforcement officials representing nine national law enforcement leadership organizations, today stressed the importance of keeping guns out of dangerous hands by expanding background checks to all firearm purchases.

Under the umbrella of the National Law Enforcement Partnership to Prevent Gun Violence (“the Partnership”), law enforcement executives from across the nation came together at a press conference during the annual conference of the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) to sound an alarm that gun deaths are increasing, and that as a matter of public safety, our nation must prioritize keeping guns out of dangerous hands.

Baltimore County, MD, Police Chief Jim Johnson, Chair of the Partnership, voiced grave concern that over the last decade gun deaths in the U.S. have risen from an average of 82 per day in 2002 to 91 per day in 2012, the last year for which data are available. He also expressed alarm that in 2014 gunfire is the leading cause of death for police officers killed in the line of duty. As of October 26, 2014, officer firearm fatalities rose 64 percent from the same time in 2013, according to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund.

In 2012 and into 2013, ambushes were the leading cause of death for officers killed in the line of duty by guns. Ambushes remain a leading cause of officer firearm fatalities in 2014.

“Having served in both the military and for 17 years on the Orlando Police Department’s SWAT team, guns have always been a part of my professional life,” said Police Chief John Mina of the Orlando Police Department and IACP’s Host

Chief. "Law enforcement is not anti-gun. We have no problem with guns in responsible law-abiding hands. We do have a big problem with guns in the hands of bad guys." Chief Mina added, "There is no more vital issue of concern to law enforcement than dangerous individuals acquiring firearms. We, as a nation, must do everything we can to address this issue head on."

Federal law prohibits firearm possession by convicted felons, those under indictment, fugitives from justice, unlawful users of or those addicted to any controlled substance, illegal aliens, those adjudicated as a mental defective or committed to a mental institution, those dishonorably discharged from the military, or who have renounced U.S. citizenship, and those under a restraining order for, or convicted of a crime of domestic violence.

Currently, the federal Brady Law requires background checks for firearms purchased through federally licensed dealers, but background checks are not required for private sales. An individual can evade a check by purchasing a firearm at a gun show, or through an online ad, for example.

"Up to 40 percent of firearm transactions are private and do not require a check under federal law," said Chief Johnson. "That's like letting 40 percent of airline passengers board an airplane without going through airport security."

Wellesley, MA, Police Chief Terry M. Cunningham, who serves as 3rd Vice President of IACP, referenced U.S. Department of Justice statistics showing that between 1994, when the Brady Law was enacted, and 2010, background checks blocked more than 2 million prohibited purchases. "The Brady Law has already been incredibly successful," said Chief Cunningham, "By expanding background checks for all gun purchasers we will close loopholes and ensure we keep guns out of the hands of dangerous people and combat interstate gun trafficking."

"Law enforcement professionals and virtually all Americans support background checks for all gun purchases," said Dr. Cedric Alexander, DeKalb County, GA, Public Safety Director, who also serves as National President of the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE). "Ninety-two percent of the public supports background checks for all purchases, as do 88 percent of gun owners. It's time to make this a reality."

The National Law Enforcement Partnership to Prevent Gun Violence ([www.lepartnership.org](http://www.lepartnership.org)) is an alliance of the nation's law enforcement leadership organizations concerned about the unacceptable level of gun violence in the United States. The Partnership is working to address the pervasive nature of gun violence and its horrific impact on community and officer safety.



The Partnership includes:

[Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. \(CALEA\)](#)  
[Hispanic American Police Command Officers Association \(HAPCOA\)](#)  
[International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators \(IACLEA\)](#)  
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[info@lepartnership.org](mailto:info@lepartnership.org)

# NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT PARTNERSHIP TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
JUNE 19, 2015

CONTACT:  
info@lepartnership.org



## STATEMENT BY BALTIMORE COUNTY POLICE CHIEF JIM JOHNSON, CHAIR, NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT PARTNERSHIP TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE, ON THE SHOOTING AT EMANUEL AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH



Members of the National Law Enforcement Partnership to Prevent Gun Violence (the Partnership) express our deepest condolences to the families and survivors of the shooting on Wednesday at the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, South Carolina. We grieve for the nine victims whose lives were senselessly cut short, and for their families and loved ones, and our hearts go out to the survivors who endured unthinkable trauma in a peaceful place of worship. Our thoughts are with the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church and Charleston communities whose sense of safety and equilibrium have no doubt been shaken in the wake of this despicable act.



Law enforcement officials have acted swiftly in apprehending the individual suspected of carrying out this horrific shooting that is being investigated as a hate crime. News reports indicate that the suspected gunman had a record of offenses, including a felony drug charge that would have prohibited his possession of firearms. While all the facts are not yet known, it is obvious that the individual who committed this heinous and hateful act should never have been permitted access to firearms.



Gun violence is an urgent problem that can no longer be ignored and must not be tolerated. While we cannot reverse the loss of lives taken from us in Charleston on Wednesday, we absolutely can change course as a nation and institute policies that block dangerous individuals from accessing firearms. It is evident that we must require background checks regardless of whether a firearm is acquired through a gun dealer or at another transaction point. It is time for common sense to prevail.



It is inconceivable and appalling that Americans cannot go to sacred places of worship, movie theaters, schools, shopping malls or other public places without

fearing for their safety. As public safety officials, we stand united with leaders of the faith community in demanding an end to gun violence. Action is long overdue.

**Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA)**  
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**Police Foundation (PF)**

# NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT PARTNERSHIP TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE

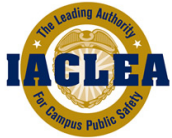


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
June 20, 2016

CONTACT:  
[info@lepartnership.org](mailto:info@lepartnership.org)



## Partnership Statement on Senate Amendments Regarding the NICS Background Check System



### *S.Amdt. 4751*

The National Law Enforcement Partnership To Reduce Gun Violence does not support Senate Amendment (S.Amdt.) 4751 to H.R.2578 — Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2016. This amendment is unresponsive to and inconsistent with what the Partnership has said is needed to improve the background check process and public safety. See our [Fact Sheet](#) on the NICS Background Check System and process for further information.



### *S.Amdt. 4750*

The National Law Enforcement Partnership To Reduce Gun Violence supports Senate Amendment Senate Amendment (S.Amdt.) 4750 to H.R.2578 — Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2016. This amendment is responsive to and consistent with what the Partnership has said is needed to improve the background check process and public safety. See our [Fact Sheet](#) on the NICS Background Check System and process for further information.



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# NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT PARTNERSHIP TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
MAY 15, 2015

CONTACT:  
info@lepartnership.org



## STATEMENT DURING POLICE WEEK 2015, BY BALTIMORE COUNTY POLICE CHIEF JIM JOHNSON, CHAIR, NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT PARTNERSHIP TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE, ON HONORING FALLEN OFFICERS AND PROTECTING THE PROTECTORS



Every minute of every day law enforcement officers put their own lives on the line while working to protect the public. This week, during Police Week, we honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice, as law enforcement officers from around the nation gather to pay tribute to those killed in the line of duty.



As we honor all our fallen heroes, we continue to collectively grieve the tragic loss of two Hattiesburg, Mississippi, police officers, Benjamin Deen, 34, and Liquori Tate, 24, who were shot and killed on Saturday, May 9 during a traffic stop. We send our deepest condolences to their families, and to all those whose loved ones sacrificed their own lives while protecting others.



This is a very solemn time. It is also an important time to reflect on the nature and level of danger that our men and women in blue face every day as they work to protect the public.



Firearms in dangerous hands are killing too many of our citizens and, as we have just seen with the shooting deaths of Hattiesburg Officers Deen and Tate, law enforcement officers are increasingly being gunned down by those intent on doing us harm.

Here are some of the disturbing facts:

- There was a 56% rise in firearm fatalities among law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty in 2014, over the previous year, according to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund.
- Gunfire was the leading cause of officer line of duty deaths in 2014, as it was in 2011 when gun deaths outpaced all other causes for the first time in 14 years.
- Ambushes involving guns were a leading cause of officer deaths in 2014 and the number one cause in 2013 and 2012.
- Firearms were responsible for 93 percent of homicides of law enforcement officers between 1996 and 2010, according to a 2013 Johns Hopkins study. Gun deaths among all Americans have been on the rise over the last decade, going from an average of 82 per day in 2002, to 91 a day in 2012 -- the last year for which data is publicly available.



- Active shooter incidents have also risen, according to an FBI report, with active shooter incidents increasing from 6.4 per year from 2000 to 2006, to 16.4 per year from 2007 to 2013.

As we mourn the loss of our heroic colleagues, it is critical that we do all we can to protect others from the same fate. This nation must come together and support measures to keep guns from criminals and others too dangerous to possess them.

While we require background checks for firearm purchases made through federally licensed gun dealers, criminals, domestic abusers, those with mental health disqualifiers, and illegal gun traffickers have no impediments to accessing firearms through private sales where no checks are required. There have been public warnings that terrorists are encouraging sympathizers to target law enforcement, but no action has yet been taken to shut off the free-flowing supply of guns to those who are barred from possessing them.

Enough is enough. It is time to stop the unfettered access and flow of guns to those intent on doing harm. Our fallen heroes courageously did their jobs. It is time for policymakers to exhibit courage and do theirs. All of our lives are in their hands.

[www.lepartnership.org](http://www.lepartnership.org)

[info@lepartnership.org](mailto:info@lepartnership.org)

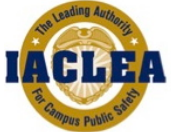
# NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT PARTNERSHIP TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

December 13, 2013

**CONTACT**

info@lepartnership.org



## **STATEMENT BY BALTIMORE COUNTY CHIEF JIM JOHNSON, CHAIR, NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT PARTNERSHIP TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE ON THE ONE YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE SANDY HOOK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL MASSACRE**

A year ago, the nation was shocked by one of the most horrifying and tragic acts of gun violence we have ever witnessed, as 20 first-grade students and six adults were gunned-down at Sandy Hook Elementary School.

At this difficult time, our thoughts are with those whose lives were forever altered by this event, especially the families and friends of the twenty-six whose lives were taken, and all those who survived this senseless act. Tragically, they have been left to cope with the grief and devastation that none should have to bear.

Though the nation was deeply traumatized by this cruel and horrific loss of life, not enough has been done in the year since to protect others from the dangers of firearms in the wrong hands and excessive firepower in our communities. Since that fateful day last December, gun violence has claimed more than 32,000 lives in the United States.

Americans should not have to fear being gunned down in classrooms, work places, movie theaters and other public venues. This nation has no higher priority than the protection of its citizens from the rampant scourge of gun violence that affects all of our communities -- large and small, urban, rural, and suburban.

While we cannot bring back those 26 lost at Sandy Hook, we must do more to save others and prevent such needless suffering. We owe it to those we lost, to their survivors and to all generations to come.

Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA)  
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Police Foundation (PF)

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# NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT PARTNERSHIP TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
June 23, 2016

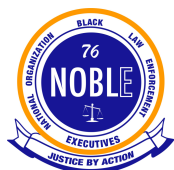
CONTACT:  
[info@lepartnership.org](mailto:info@lepartnership.org)



## STATEMENT OF SUPPORT FOR SENATE AMENDMENT 4814

Baltimore County Chief of Police Jim Johnson

*Chair National Law Enforcement Partnership to Prevent Gun Violence*



We write in support of Senator Susan Colin's **Amendment 4814**, entitled "**Discretionary Authority to Deny Transfers of Firearms or Explosives to Terrorists.**" This amendment prohibits firearm sales to terrorism suspects appearing on either the government's No-Fly List or the "Selectee List," subsets of the Terrorism Screening Database (TSDB). This grants the Attorney General the authority to deny firearm sales to individuals suspected of involvement in terrorist activity. In addition, the amendment would provide a provision ensuring prompt notification to the FBI if individuals listed in the TSDB within the past five years purchase a firearm. We respectfully urge members of the Senate to take action and vote in support of Senator Collin's Amdt 4814. We also continue to encourage Congress to take action to establish universal background checks for all firearm sales.

*The National Law Enforcement Partnership to Prevent Gun Violence ([www.lepartnership.org](http://www.lepartnership.org)) is an alliance of the nation's law enforcement leadership organizations concerned about the unacceptable level of gun violence in the United States. The Partnership is working to address the pervasive nature of gun violence and its horrific impact on community and officer safety.*

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# NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT PARTNERSHIP TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
June 13, 2016

CONTACT:  
info@lepartnership.org



## STATEMENT ON THE ORLANDO TERRORIST EVENT AND MASS SHOOTING

**Baltimore County Chief Of Police Jim Johnson, Chair National Law Enforcement Partnership To Prevent Gun Violence**



**WASHINGTON** – America’s law enforcement community, like our nation as a whole, is shocked and shares in the tremendous grief over the loss of 49 innocent lives and the wounding of 53 others in Orlando, Florida this weekend, making it the worst mass shooting recorded in United States history.



At this difficult time, our thoughts are with those whose lives were forever altered by this event, especially the families and friends of the 49 whose lives were taken, and all those who survived this senseless act. Tragically, they have been left to cope with the grief and devastation that none should have to bear.



This horrific and tragic terrorist attack reminds us that our nation has been deeply traumatized by the cruel and agonizing loss of life before and not nearly enough has been done to protect others from the dangers of firearms in the wrong hands and excessive firepower in our communities.



As we have previously stated, Americans should not have to fear being gunned down in social venues, university and elementary school classrooms, work places, movie theaters and other public places. This nation has no higher priority than the protection of its citizens from the rampant scourge of gun violence that affects all of our communities -- large and small, urban, rural, and suburban. We have, unfortunately, turned our back on this priority for too long.



POLICE EXECUTIVE  
RESEARCH FORUM



While we cannot bring back the 49 innocent lives lost in Orlando or the 26 children and educators lost at Sandy Hook, the thousands of other people who have lost their lives to gun violence in places like Chicago and elsewhere, we must do more to save others and prevent such needless suffering. We owe it to those we lost, to their survivors, the law enforcement officers who risk their lives to confront these criminals and return to these scenes to investigate the carnage, and all generations to come to take action. We repeat what we have said before and urge those with differing views to come together to confront this priority – “enough is enough.”

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# NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT PARTNERSHIP TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE

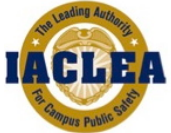


May 22, 2013

Dear Members of Congress:



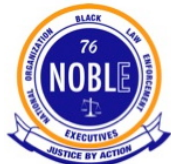
I write to convey the strong support of the National Law Enforcement Partnership to Prevent Gun Violence (the Partnership) for H.R. 1565, the "Public Safety and Second Amendment Rights Protection Act."



The Partnership is an alliance of the nation's law enforcement leadership organizations concerned about the unacceptable level of gun violence in the United States. Our members include the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA); Hispanic American Police Command Officers Association (HAPCOA); International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators (IACLEA); International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP); Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCC); National Association of Women Law Enforcement Executives (NAWLEE); National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE); Police Executive Research Forum (PERF); and the Police Foundation (PF).



We commend Representatives Peter King and Mike Thompson for introducing this legislation that will take two important steps forward in strengthening and expanding the existing background check system. First, extending the federal background check requirement to gun shows, to online advertisements, postings, displays and other listings, and to publications will block prohibited purchasers from acquiring firearms through these additional channels. Second, encouraging states to report all of their disqualifying records to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) will improve checks by ensuring that all prohibited purchasers are in the background check system.



Ideally, the legislation would require background checks for all gun sales, closing more avenues for criminals and the dangerously mentally ill seeking to acquire guns. However, this extension of background checks to all firearm sales at gun shows, and to postings online and in publications is an important step forward.



POLICE EXECUTIVE  
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Background checks for firearm purchasers are highly effective in keeping guns from those too dangerous to possess them. According to the Justice Department's Bureau of Justice Statistics, since the Brady Law took effect in 1994, background checks blocked more than 2 million prohibited purchases

from acquiring guns through federally licensed firearm dealers.

We urge you to support this important public safety measure, and if you have not done so already, we ask that you add your name as a cosponsor to this bill that we in law enforcement know will save lives.

Sincerely,

Chief Jim Johnson, Baltimore County, MD  
Chair, National Law Enforcement Partnership to Prevent Gun Violence

Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA)  
Hispanic American Police Command Officers Association (HAPCOA)  
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## NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT PARTNERSHIP TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE

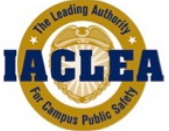


Honorable Peter King  
339 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515



Honorable Mike Thompson  
231 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

May 17, 2013



Dear Representatives King and Thompson:

I write to convey the strong support of the National Law Enforcement Partnership to Prevent Gun Violence (the Partnership) for H.R. 1565, the "Public Safety and Second Amendment Rights Protection Act of 2013."



The Partnership is an alliance of the nation's law enforcement leadership organizations concerned about the unacceptable level of gun violence in the United States. Our members include the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA); Hispanic American Police Command Officers Association (HAPCOA); International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators (IACLEA); International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP); Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCC); National Association of Women Law Enforcement Executives (NAWLEE); National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE); Police Executive Research Forum (PERF); and the Police Foundation (PF).



We commend you for your leadership in introducing this legislation that will take two important steps forward in strengthening and expanding the existing background check system. First, extending the federal background check requirement to gun shows, to online advertisements, postings, displays and other listings, and to publications will block prohibited purchasers from acquiring firearms through these additional channels. Second, encouraging states to report all of their disqualifying records to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) will improve checks by ensuring that all prohibited purchasers are in the background check system.



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Background checks for firearm purchasers are highly effective in keeping guns from those too dangerous to possess them. According to the Justice Department's Bureau of Justice Statistics, since the Brady Law took effect in 1994, background checks blocked more than 2 million prohibited purchases from acquiring guns through federally licensed firearm dealers.

We thank you for standing with law enforcement on a measure we know will save lives.

Sincerely,

Chief Jim Johnson, Baltimore County, MD  
Chair, National Law Enforcement Partnership to Prevent Gun Violence

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# APPENDIX B



# NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT PARTNERSHIP TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE

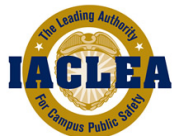


## STRENGTHENING BACKGROUND CHECKS FOR FIREARM PURCHASERS



### HISTORY OF BACKGROUND CHECKS

The 1968 Gun Control Act prohibits anyone from possessing a firearm if he or she is a convicted felon, under indictment, a fugitive from justice, an unlawful user of or addicted to any controlled substance, an illegal alien, adjudicated as a mental defective or committed to a mental institution, dishonorably discharged from the military, or has renounced U.S. citizenship. The Act was later amended to include those under a restraining order for, or convicted of, a crime of domestic violence.



The Brady Law, which became effective on February 28, 1994, established an enforcement mechanism for the 1968 Gun Control Act by requiring background checks for firearm purchases made through federally licensed gun dealers. Initially, the measure established a five-business day waiting period, providing law enforcement time to conduct background checks in a period when record histories were largely not computerized or accessible. It also provided \$200 million to states to improve their criminal record histories and required the Attorney General to establish a National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) within five years of enactment, at which point the federal waiting period requirement ended. NICS became operational on November 30, 1998. Currently, anyone who purchases a firearm through a federally licensed dealer must undergo a background check.



### GUN VIOLENCE IS TAKING ITS TOLL ON AMERICA'S POLICE OFFICERS AND CITIZENS

Gun violence is killing the citizens who police are sworn to protect and is also taking its toll on law enforcement officers, who are increasingly the targets of gun violence.



- Annually in the United States, there are more than 100,000 firearm-related injuries and deaths from homicides, suicides and accidental shootings.<sup>1</sup>
- Over the past decade, firearm-related fatalities have steadily risen. In 2013, the last year for which data are available, an average of 92 Americans per day were killed by firearms, up from an average of 82 per day in 2003.<sup>2</sup>
- According to the most recent data from 2014, guns were used in 8,124 murders, accounting for more than two-thirds of all the murders committed in the U.S.<sup>3</sup>



<sup>1</sup> Philip J. Cook and Jens Ludwig, 2000, *Gun Violence: The Real Costs*, NY: Oxford University Press.

<sup>2</sup> National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, "2013, United States Firearm Deaths and Rates per 100,000: All Races, Both Sexes, 2013" Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, ([http://webappa.cdc.gov/sasweb/ncipc/mortrate10\\_us.html](http://webappa.cdc.gov/sasweb/ncipc/mortrate10_us.html)).

<sup>3</sup> Federal Bureau of Investigation, "Uniform Crime Report: Expanded Homicide Data Table 8," ([https://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/crime-in-the-u.s/2014/crime-in-the-u.s.-2014/tables/expanded-homicide-data/expanded\\_homicide\\_data\\_table\\_8\\_murder\\_victims\\_by\\_weapon\\_2010-2014.xls](https://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/crime-in-the-u.s/2014/crime-in-the-u.s.-2014/tables/expanded-homicide-data/expanded_homicide_data_table_8_murder_victims_by_weapon_2010-2014.xls)).

- Approximately 2,000 children, ages 18 and under, die of firearm-related deaths in the U.S. every year.<sup>4</sup>
- 466,113 persons were victims of a crime committed with a firearm in 2014, an increase of approximately 40 percent from 2013.<sup>5</sup>
- 2011 marked the first time in 14 years that firearms were the leading cause of police officer line of duty deaths.<sup>6</sup> Again in 2014, gunfire was a leading cause of death for officers killed in the line of duty. As of October 20, 2015, officer firearm fatalities have decreased 18 percent compared to the same time period in 2014, but they remain a leading cause of officer line of duty deaths..<sup>7</sup>
- Alarming, 2014 was the fifth year in a row that ambushes of police officers were the leading felonious cause of officers killed in the line of duty, resulting in the deaths of 15 officers.<sup>8</sup>
- Firearms were responsible for 93 percent of homicides of law enforcement officers between 1996 and 2010, according to a 2013 Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health study.<sup>9</sup>
- According to a September 2014 FBI report, active shooter incidents are on the rise. From 2000 to 2013, 160 active shooter incidents resulted in 486 people killed and 557 wounded, not including the shooters. There was an increase in active shooter incidents during the period studied, with an average of 6.4 per year from 2000 to 2006, and an average of 16.4 per year from 2007 to 2013. The FBI report also shows a rise in mass killings by active shooters. Of the 160 active shooter incidents, the FBI characterizes 64 of them as “mass killings.” There were 25 between 2000 and 2006, and 39 between 2007 and 2013 – a 56 percent increase.<sup>10</sup>
- In 2010, the national cost of gun violence was more than \$57 billion. In a single week in 2011, gun crime in just six cities generated a price tag of \$38 million, according to information compiled by the Police Executive Research Forum.<sup>11</sup>

<sup>4</sup> National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, “2003-2013, United States Firearm Deaths and Rates per 100,000: All Races, Both Sexes, Ages 0 to 18,” Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, ([http://webappa.cdc.gov/sasweb/ncipc/mortrate10\\_us.html](http://webappa.cdc.gov/sasweb/ncipc/mortrate10_us.html)).

<sup>5</sup> Bureau of Justice Statistics, “NCVS Victimization Analysis Tool (NVAT) Report: Personal Victimization, Violent Victimization, Serious Violent Victimization, Weapon Category, 1993-2014” (<http://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=nvat>).

<sup>6</sup> National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund, “Firearms-Related Incidents are the Leading Cause of Officer Fatalities in 2011” (<http://www.nleomf.org/assets/pdfs/reports/2011-EOY-Report.pdf>).

<sup>7</sup> National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund, “Preliminary 2015 Fatality Statistics: Preliminary 2015 Law Enforcement Officer Fatalities October 20, 2015 vs. October 20, 2014” (<http://www.nleomf.org/facts/officer-fatalities-data>).

<sup>8</sup> National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund, “126 Law Enforcement Officer Fatalities Nationwide in 2014,” (<http://www.nleomf.org/newsroom/news-releases/eoy-report-2014.html>).

<sup>9</sup> Daniel W. Webster and Jon S. Vernick, ed. “Updated Evidence and Policy Developments on Reducing Gun Violence in America.” Center for Gun Policy and Research. Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. ([http://www.jhsph.edu/research/centers-and-institutes/johns-hopkins-center-for-gun-policy-and-research/resources/digital\\_update\\_Webster\\_Vernick.pdf](http://www.jhsph.edu/research/centers-and-institutes/johns-hopkins-center-for-gun-policy-and-research/resources/digital_update_Webster_Vernick.pdf)).

<sup>10</sup> Percentage calculated by dividing the number of active shooter mass killing deaths between 2000 and 2006 (25) by the number of active shooter mass killing deaths between 2007 and 2013 (39).  
U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation, “A Study of Active Shooter Incidents in the United States Between 2000 and 2013,” (<http://www.fbi.gov/news/stories/2014/september/fbi-releases-study-on-active-shooter-incidents/pdfs/a-study-of-active-shooter-incidents-in-the-u.s.-between-2000-and-2013>).

<sup>11</sup> Cost estimates developed by Cohen and Piquero, 2008.

## **LAW ENFORCEMENT IS CALLING FOR BACKGROUND CHECKS FOR ALL FIREARM SALES**

The Brady Law requires background checks for firearms purchased through federally licensed dealers. However, no check is required for private sales. An individual can evade a check by going to a gun show or answering an online or print ad, for example.<sup>12</sup> A national survey of inmates found that nearly 80 percent of those who used a handgun in a crime acquired it in a private transfer.<sup>13</sup> Up to 40 percent of firearm transactions are private, which means that criminals, felons, fugitives and other dangerous people are buying guns on the honor system.<sup>14</sup> Allowing these transactions to occur without background checks is tantamount to permitting 40 percent of passengers to board an airplane without going through airline security.

## **BACKGROUND CHECKS WORK: THEY BLOCK DANGEROUS PEOPLE FROM BUYING GUNS**

The effectiveness of the Brady Law is indisputable: background checks work. Federal and state background checks stopped more than 2.4 million prohibited purchases from federally licensed dealers between 1994, when the Brady Law took effect, and December 31, 2012, according to the Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Statistics.<sup>15</sup> Expanding background checks to cover all sales would prevent more prohibited purchasers from acquiring firearms and doing harm in our communities. A background check law would affect only people prohibited by law from buying guns and would have no effect on law-abiding citizens' ability to purchase firearms, as has been demonstrated since 1994.

Data from the FBI shows that, in states that require background checks for all handgun sales, there were 38 percent fewer shooting deaths of women by intimate partners compared to states without this requirement.<sup>16</sup>

Missouri's 2007 reversal of its law requiring a permit-to-purchase for *all* handgun sales was met with an alarming 25 percent increase in gun-related homicides. Additionally, the number of handguns used in crime in Missouri that were originally purchased in Missouri increased as a result of the weakened background check requirements.<sup>17</sup>

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Police Executive Research Forum, "Gun Violence in America: One Week, Six Cities, and the Implications," 26 April 2012 (<http://www.joycefdn.org/assets/1/7/PERFPresentationonGunViolence.pdf>).

<sup>12</sup> Philip J. Cook and Jens Ludwig, "Guns in America: Results of a Comprehensive National Survey on Firearms Ownership and Use," Washington, DC: Police Foundation, January 1997 (<http://www.policefoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/Cook-et-al.-1996-Guns-in-America.pdf>).

<sup>13</sup> Daniel Webster, "The Case for Gun Policy Reforms in America," Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, October 2012 ([http://www.jhsph.edu/research/centers-and-institutes/johns-hopkins-center-for-gun-policy-and-research/publications/WhitePaper020514\\_CaseforGunPolicyReforms.pdf](http://www.jhsph.edu/research/centers-and-institutes/johns-hopkins-center-for-gun-policy-and-research/publications/WhitePaper020514_CaseforGunPolicyReforms.pdf)).

<sup>14</sup> Philip J. Cook and Jens Ludwig, "Guns in America: Results of a Comprehensive National Survey on Firearms Ownership and Use," Washington, DC: Police Foundation, January 1997 (<http://www.policefoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/Cook-et-al.-1996-Guns-in-America.pdf>).

<sup>15</sup> Bureau of Justice Statistics, "Background Checks for Firearms Transfers, 2012 - Statistical Tables," U.S. Department of Justice, December 2014 (<http://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=pbdetail&iid=5157>).

<sup>16</sup> Federal Bureau of Investigation, data compiled by Everytown for Gun Safety, "Background Checks Save Lives," (<http://everytownresearch.org/issue/background-checks/>).

<sup>17</sup> Cassandra Kercher Crifasi, "Repeal of Missouri's Repeal Background Check Law Associated with Increase in State's Murders," Johns Hopkins Center for Gun Policy and Research, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, 14 May 2014 (<http://www.jhsph.edu/news/news-releases/2014/repeal-of-missouris-background-law-associated-with-increase-in-states-murders.html>).

## BACKGROUND CHECKS ARE NEEDED FOR ALL GUN SALES NATIONWIDE

Dangerous people acquiring firearms is a serious problem that demands a federal response. State and local governments cannot go it alone, as ineligible firearm purchasers are able to circumvent the strong laws of some cities and states by obtaining guns in other states or jurisdictions with weaker gun laws where they can avoid a background check. Interstate trafficking is a critical problem, and requiring a background check for every gun sale reduces the flow of guns to criminals.

Of the guns recovered at crime scenes and successfully traced to their source state by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) in 2009, 30 percent had crossed state lines.<sup>18</sup> Using firearm trace data from 2009 to 2013, a 2014 City of Chicago and Chicago Police Department study found that 60 percent of the firearms used in crime in Chicago came from states with weaker gun laws.<sup>19</sup>

According to a 2009 Johns Hopkins analysis of gun trafficking in 53 U.S. cities, intrastate gun trafficking is 48 percent lower where private gun sales are regulated.<sup>20</sup> Of the 20 cities with the *least* intrastate gun trafficking, 18 were located in states that regulated private sales. Of the 20 cities with the *most* intrastate gun trafficking, 17 were located in states that did not regulate private sales. Nationwide background checks for all sales will keep guns out of the wrong hands and combat trafficking.

## EXPANDED BACKGROUND CHECK PROPOSALS EXEMPT MANY TYPES OF TRANSFERS

Expanded background checks will target criminals and other prohibited purchasers rather than law-abiding citizens. Proposals to expand background checks include reasonable exceptions in which the transferee would not require a check. These include gifts between immediate family members, temporary transfers while hunting, and willed firearms, for example.

## ALLOTTED TIME TO COMPLETE BACKGROUND CHECKS MUST BE EXTENDED

When a federal firearm licensee (FFL) submits a background check to NICS, the FFL usually receives a determination within minutes on whether the buyer is legally permitted to possess a firearm, and the sale of the firearm may or may not proceed.<sup>21</sup> In some cases, however, the buyer's identity or background requires additional review and investigation by the FBI before

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<sup>18</sup> Mayors Against Illegal Guns, "Trace the Guns: The Link Between Gun laws and Interstate Gun Trafficking," September 2010 (<http://www.tracetheguns.org/report.pdf>).

<sup>19</sup> City of Chicago-Office of the Mayor, "Tracing the Guns: The Impact of Illegal Guns on Violence in Chicago," 27 May 2014. (<https://www.cityofchicago.org/content/dam/city/depts/mayor/Press%20Room/Press%20Releases/2014/May/05.27.14TracingGuns.pdf>).

<sup>20</sup> Daniel Webster, Jon Vernick, & Maria Bulzacchelli, "Effects of State-Level Firearm Seller Accountability Policies on Firearm Trafficking," *Journal of Urban Health*, July 2009 (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2704273>). To gauge gun trafficking, the authors measured the ratio of likely trafficked guns recovered from crime scenes to the total of guns recovered. A "likely trafficked gun" was defined as having been recovered at a crime scene and not in the possession of its original purchaser within one year of its last legal sale.

<sup>21</sup> Criminal Justice Information Services Division, "National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) Operations 2014," Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Department of Justice. (<https://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/nics/reports/2014-operations-report>).

a background check determination can be made. Under current federal law, a firearm purchase from an FFL can only be delayed for up to three business days, even if the background investigation has not yet concluded.<sup>22</sup>

In 2014, the FBI reports that 2,511 prohibited persons were able to purchase firearms from an FFL because their background checks were not completed within the three-day period.<sup>23</sup> According to a Government Accountability Office report that studied prolonged background investigations over a ten-month period, it took the FBI an average of 25 business days to complete background checks that were not immediately determinative.<sup>24</sup>

This discrepancy between the average amount of time needed to complete an investigation and the maximum time federal authorities can legally delay a firearm purchase can have fatal consequences. This was evident in June 2015 with the devastating loss of nine parishioners after a shooter opened fire at Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, South Carolina. The handgun reportedly used in the attack was purchased by the shooter from an FFL in South Carolina that legally proceeded to sell him the firearm after federal authorities could not complete his background check within the three-day period. Had the FBI been given the necessary time to complete the background investigation, the shooter's disqualifying record would have been verified, and the nine parishioners could be alive today.<sup>25</sup> The FBI must be provided the necessary time to complete background checks when a purchaser's eligibility to possess firearms is not immediately determinative, and firearm sales should not be allowed to proceed until the background check has been concluded.

## **RECORD-KEEPING IS AN ESSENTIAL TOOL FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT**

For 40 years, dealers have been required to keep copies of gun sales receipts, and they should continue to do so under an expanded background check system. Sales receipts make it possible for law enforcement officers who recover guns in violent crimes to investigate the chain of custody for that particular gun. For the same reason, the sales receipts protect law-abiding gun owners from liability for crimes committed with guns no longer in their possession. Nothing about these sales receipts currently functions like a national registry, nor would they if they also covered private sales. Stored in a decentralized manner across more than 100,000 federal firearms licensees, these sales receipts do not compromise the privacy of law-abiding gun owners. Unless the sale is denied, the FBI is required to destroy within 24 hours any record of a dealer gun sale that is generated through the background check system.

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<sup>22</sup> Federal Bureau of Investigation, "A NICS Delay", U.S. Department of Justice, October 2010. (<https://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/nics/federal-firearms-licensees/a-nics-delay>).

<sup>23</sup> Criminal Justice Information Services Division, "National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) Operations 2014," Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Department of Justice. (<https://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/nics/reports/2014-operations-report>).

<sup>24</sup> Government Accountability Office, "Gun Control: Implementation of the National Instant Criminal Background Check System", U.S. Congress, February 2000. (<http://www.gao.gov/products/GGD/AIMD-00-64>).

<sup>25</sup> Michael Schmidt, "Background Check Flaw Let Dylann Roof Buy Gun, F.B.I. Says", *The New York Times*, 10 July 2015. ([http://www.nytimes.com/2015/07/11/us/background-check-flaw-let-dylann-roof-buy-gun-fbi-says.html?\\_r=1](http://www.nytimes.com/2015/07/11/us/background-check-flaw-let-dylann-roof-buy-gun-fbi-says.html?_r=1)).



## PUBLIC SUPPORT IS OVERWHELMING – INCLUDING AMONG GUN OWNERS – FOR BACKGROUND CHECKS

Law enforcement and the public, including gun owners, overwhelmingly support background checks. Few public policy matters register near universal support.

- A July 2014 Quinnipiac poll found that **92%** of Americans favor requiring background checks for all gun buyers.<sup>26</sup>
- A January 2013 Gallup poll found that **91%** of Americans favor requiring criminal background checks for all gun sales.<sup>27</sup>
- According to a January 2013 CBS poll, **92%** Americans approve of universal background checks on all potential gun buyers.<sup>28</sup>
- According to an April 2013 Post-ABC poll, **86%** of Americans support a law requiring background checks for gun buyers at gun shows and online.<sup>29</sup>
- According to a May 2013 Pew Research Poll, **81%** of Americans support background checks for private and gun show sales.<sup>30</sup>
- A January 2013 poll confirmed gun owners' strong support, noting **88%** of *gun owners, including 86% of NRA members*, believe that all gun buyers should be required to pass a background check.<sup>31</sup>
- A July 2012 poll found that **85%** of *gun owners, including 87% of NRA members*, agree that "support for 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment rights goes hand-in-hand with keeping illegal guns out of the hands of criminals."<sup>32</sup>

## EXAMPLES OF PROHIBITED PURCHASERS BUYING GUNS ON THE HONOR SYSTEM

On Sunday, August 9, 2015, David Conley allegedly shot and killed his ex-girlfriend, her partner, and her six children in their home in Harris County, Texas. Conley, who had been previously convicted of multiple domestic violence offenses, should have been legally prohibited from possessing or purchasing a firearm due to his criminal history. However, he

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<sup>26</sup> Tim Malloy, "92 Percent Back Background Checks for All Gun Buyers," *Quinnipiac University Poll*, 3 July 2014, ([http://www.quinnipiac.edu/images/polling/us/us07032014\\_ulps31.pdf](http://www.quinnipiac.edu/images/polling/us/us07032014_ulps31.pdf)).

<sup>27</sup> Gallup, January 2013, "Americans Back Obama's Proposals to Address Gun Violence" (<http://www.gallup.com/poll/160085/americans-back-obama-proposals-address-gun-violence.aspx>).

<sup>28</sup> CBS, January 2013, "Majority Support for Many Gun-Related Proposals," ([http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-250\\_162-57564597/poll-majority-of-americans-back-stricter-gun-laws/?pageNum=2](http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-250_162-57564597/poll-majority-of-americans-back-stricter-gun-laws/?pageNum=2)).

<sup>29</sup> Post-ABC, April 2013, "Would you support or oppose a law requiring background checks on people buying guns at gun shows or online?" ([http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/polling/would-background-requiring-support/2013/05/22/23b52c3e-a682-11e2-9e1c-bb0fb0c2edd9\\_page.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/polling/would-background-requiring-support/2013/05/22/23b52c3e-a682-11e2-9e1c-bb0fb0c2edd9_page.html))

<sup>30</sup> Pew Research Center, "A Public Opinion Trend that Matters: Priorities for Gun Policy." 9 January 2015 (<http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2015/01/09/a-public-opinion-trend-that-matters-priorities-for-gun-policy/>)

<sup>31</sup> Douglas E. Schoen, "National Gun Survey," January 2013 ([http://libcloud.s3.amazonaws.com/9/13/a/1088/schoen\\_summary\\_memo\\_-3.pdf](http://libcloud.s3.amazonaws.com/9/13/a/1088/schoen_summary_memo_-3.pdf)).

<sup>32</sup> Mayors Against Illegal Guns, "2012 Frank Luntz National Poll of Gun Owners and NRA Members," 20 October 2012 (<http://everytownresearch.org/2012-polling-on-support-for-background-checks/>).

avoided the background check by purchasing the firearm online through an unlicensed seller who was not legally required to conduct a background check.<sup>33</sup>

On Monday, December 1, 2014, Jody Lee Hunt, a convicted felon, went on a shooting rampage in Monongalia County, WV, killing four people including his ex-girlfriend and three others before turning the gun on himself. According to ATF, Hunt purchased the firearm from a private seller, also from WV, who had posted an ad on Facebook. Hunt, a prohibited purchaser, was able to evade a background check because such checks are not required for private sales.<sup>34</sup>

Radcliffe Houghton answered an Internet ad and purchased a .40 caliber semiautomatic handgun from a private seller, without having to undergo a background check. The next day, on October 21, 2012, he used the gun to shoot eight people at a spa in Brookfield, WI, killing his wife and two others, before turning the gun on himself. Houghton, a prohibited purchaser, had a four-year restraining order against him, issued after he threatened to kill his wife.<sup>35</sup>

On June 29, 2011, Berks County Deputy Sheriff Kyle D. Pagerly was shot and killed by Matthew Connor, with an AK-47 rifle. Connor was a prohibited purchaser under Pennsylvania law, due to a felony conviction as a juvenile. However, because Connor purchased the rifle in a private transaction, he was able to bypass the background check system.<sup>36</sup>

Four Detroit police officers were wounded in 2011 with a 20-gauge Mossberg 500 shotgun that had multiple owners while moving through the secondary market. It is unclear how the officers' assailant, Lamar Moore, obtained the firearm. In the first recorded transaction, convicted felon Elijah Gayden bought the shotgun for \$200 from a man who had purchased it online. The man who sold Gayden the gun said he knew the buyer (Elijah) only as "Eric." Gayden later sold the gun.<sup>37</sup>

In July 2010, Dane Eisenman, a convicted felon, purchased a .30-06 rifle in Connecticut that he found through a classified ad. Eisenman told the seller, who later reported the purchase to the police, that he was buying the gun to protect himself from the "aliens who live under the sun [and] come to Earth to kill humans" every 36,000 years.<sup>38</sup>

John Patrick Bedell, 36, armed with two semiautomatic 9mm handguns, opened fire on two police officers at the Pentagon entrance on March 4, 2010. "[D]espite a history of mental illness and early warnings from family members that he might pose a danger to himself and others," Bedell obtained one of the guns "through an unregulated private sale in Nevada,"<sup>39</sup> a state that does not require a background check for all gun purchasers.<sup>40</sup> He had previously

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<sup>33</sup> Jennifer Mascia, "Mass Family Shooting in Texas Highlights County's Domestic Violence Problem", The Trace, August 12, 2015 (<http://www.thetrace.org/2015/08/texas-domestic-violence-shooting/>).

<sup>34</sup> Erin Beck, "Monogalia County Shooter Got Gun on Facebook," *WV Gazette*, Dec. 6 2014 (<http://www.wvgazette.com/article/20141206/GZ01/141209458/1101>).

<sup>35</sup> Brendan O'Brien, "Estranged Wife of Suspected Wisconsin Spa Gunman Among Dead," *Reuters*, Oct. 22, 2012 (<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/10/22/us-usa-shooting-wisconsin-idUSBRE89K0F620121022>).

<sup>36</sup> Turner, Ford, Oct. 16, 2013 "Advocate: Background check might have spared Berks deputy's life" *Reading Eagle* (<http://readingeagle.com/article.aspx?id=516592>)

<sup>37</sup> Josh White and Sari Horwitz, "Pentagon Shooter's Gun Had Many Previous Owners," *The Washington Post*, March 15, 2010 (<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/03/14/AR2010031401254.html>).

<sup>38</sup> Joseph Wenzel IV, "Police: Felon Bought Rifle to Stop Alien Invasion," *Hartford Courant*, July 4, 2010 ([articles.courant.com/2010-07-04/news/hc-rifle-to-fight-alien-invasion-070520100705\\_1\\_aliens-rifle-police](http://articles.courant.com/2010-07-04/news/hc-rifle-to-fight-alien-invasion-070520100705_1_aliens-rifle-police)).

<sup>39</sup> Josh White and Sari Horwitz, "Pentagon Shooter's Gun Had Many Previous Owners," *The Washington Post*, March 15, 2010 (<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/03/14/AR2010031401254.html>).

<sup>40</sup> "Nevada State Law Summary," Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence, March 6, 2012 (<http://smartgunlaws.org/nevada-state-law-summary>).



attempted to purchase a gun in California, a state with a strong background check system, but the sale was halted because the background check uncovered his mental health history.<sup>41</sup>

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<sup>41</sup> Coalition to Stop Gun Violence, “The Strong Link in the Chain,” (<http://csgv.org/blog/2010/the-strong-link-in-the-chain/>).

# NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT PARTNERSHIP TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
May 21, 2018

**CONTACT:**  
info@lepartnership.org

## STATEMENT ON COMPREHENSIVE GUN SAFETY PROPOSALS - WASHINGTON, D.C.

In the wake of outrage at Santa Fe High School the National Law Enforcement Partnership to Prevent Gun Violence once again strongly urges President Trump and the Congress of the United States to implement the full slate of reforms recommended in the Partnership policy agenda. The majority<sup>1</sup> of partners agree that our national leaders should immediately enact these policies:

<https://www.lepartnership.org/policy-agenda/>

- \* Require [background checks](#) for all firearm purchasers Improve background checks
- \* Ensure that the [National Instant Criminal Background Check System \(NICS\)](#), is accurate and complete.
- \* Limit access to [high-capacity ammunition](#) magazines.
- \* Oppose forcing the states to accept federal concealed carry reciprocity/preemption.
- \* Strengthen penalties for straw purchasing and make firearms trafficking a federal crime.
- \* Ban or regulate [semi-automatic assault weapons](#) and other firearms/accessories designed to circumvent the National Firearms Act of 1934, e.g. bump stocks, trigger activators, firearm suppressors/silencers and other, similar products.

These measures will prevent dangerous people from acquiring firearms, prevent weapons of war from being used to inflict the mayhem we've witnessed in [so often in so many places](#), and support states' rights by preserving their ability to decide who may lawfully carry concealed firearms.

The National Law Enforcement Partnership to Prevent Gun Violence ([www.lepartnership.org](http://www.lepartnership.org)) includes eight national law enforcement organizations dedicated to serving the Nation's more than 900,000 sworn law enforcement officers and professional staff.

### The Partnership:

Hispanic American Police Command Officers Association (HAPCOA)  
International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators (IACLEA)  
International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP)  
Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCCA)  
National Association of Women Law Enforcement Executives (NAWLEE)  
National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE)  
Police Executive Research Forum (PERF)  
Police Foundation (PF)

<sup>1</sup> The International Association of College Law Enforcement Agencies, IACLEA, and International Association of Chiefs of Police IACP chose not to participate in issuing the original statement. This does not necessarily represent disagreement with the views expressed herein.

# NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT PARTNERSHIP TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE



April 15, 2013

Dear Senators:



I write to convey the support of the National Law Enforcement Partnership to Prevent Gun Violence (the Partnership) for the "Stop Illegal Trafficking in Firearms Act."



The Partnership commends Senators Leahy and Collins for their hard work on this legislation that will provide law enforcement officials with the tools we need to investigate gun trafficking and straw purchasing, where an individual buys a firearm for someone else who is prohibited from obtaining one on their own.



Under current law, there is no federal gun trafficking statute, and straw purchasing is treated like a paperwork violation. As law enforcement officials, we know that straw purchasing and trafficking serve one purpose—to put firearms into the hands of those that are prohibited by law from having them. Many are used in violent crimes.



The Stop Illegal Trafficking in Firearms Act also goes after those who traffic in firearms by wrongfully obtaining two or more firearms. We must hold criminals who traffic firearms accountable.



The Partnership is an alliance of the nation's law enforcement leadership organizations concerned about the unacceptable level of gun violence in the United States. Our members include the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA); Hispanic American Police Command Officers Association (HAPCOA); International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators (IACLEA); International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP); Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCC); National Association of Women Law Enforcement Executives (NAWLEE); National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE); Police Executive Research Forum (PERF); and the Police Foundation (PF).



We urge you to support this common-sense measure that will be offered in the form of an amendment by Senators Leahy and Collins on the floor of the U.S. Senate, and urge that you vote against all

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weakening amendments that may be offered. Lives depend on it.

Sincerely,

Chief Jim Johnson, Baltimore County, MD  
Chair, National Law Enforcement Partnership to Prevent Gun Violence

Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA)  
Hispanic American Police Command Officers Association (HAPCOA)  
International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators (IACLEA)  
International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP)  
Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCC)  
National Association of Women Law Enforcement Executives (NAWLEE)  
National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE)  
Police Executive Research Forum (PERF)  
Police Foundation (PF)

# NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT PARTNERSHIP TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE



## IMPROVING RECORDS REPORTING TO THE NATIONAL INSTANT CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK SYSTEM (NICS)

### THE NEED

Background checks have a demonstrated record of success when disqualified purchasers' information is contained in the databases being checked. Overall, federal and state background checks stopped 2,079,000 prohibited purchases from federally licensed dealers between 1994 – when the Brady Law took effect – and 2010, according to the Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Statistics.<sup>1</sup>

Unfortunately, too many purchasers are passing background checks despite being prohibited from possessing a firearm under existing law because critical disqualifying records were never reported to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS). To prevent these unlawful purchases, NICS, which maintains records of those who are legally prohibited from purchasing guns, must be complete. It is essential that states and federal agencies improve submissions to NICS, particularly of mental health and substance abuse records.

### BACKGROUND ON NICS

The Brady Law became effective on February 28, 1994. The measure established a five-business-day waiting period for firearm purchases through federally licensed gun dealers, providing law enforcement time to conduct background checks during a period when record histories were largely not computerized or accessible. The Brady Law also provided \$200 million to states to improve their criminal record histories and required the Attorney General to establish NICS within five years of the law's enactment, at which point the waiting period requirement ended.

NICS became operational on November 30, 1998. Federal firearms dealers submit purchaser information to NICS, either over the telephone or Internet. The NICS check involves running the purchaser's identifying information through three national databases managed by the FBI: the Interstate Identification Index (III), which maintains criminal history records; the National Crime Information Center (NCIC); and the NICS Index, which contains records of prohibited purchasers falling into other categories.<sup>2</sup> Dealers usually receive a response within minutes. Some states, called Point of Contact states, run their own checks.

<sup>1</sup> Bureau of Justice Statistics, "Background Checks for Firearms Transfers, 2010 - Statistical Tables," U.S. Department of Justice, February 2013 (<http://bjs.ojp.usdoj.gov/index.cfm?ty=pbdetail&iid=4596>).

<sup>2</sup> David Cuthbertson, "Statement Before the Senate Judiciary Committee, Subcommittee on Crime and Terrorism," Federal Bureau of Investigation, 15 November 2011 (<http://www.fbi.gov/news/testimony/the-fix-gun-checks-act-better-state-and-federal-compliance-smarter-enforcement>).

## THE NICS IMPROVEMENT AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2007

In the wake of the Virginia Tech tragedy, Congress amended the Brady Law, passing the NICS Improvement Amendments Act of 2007 (NIAA). Signed into law on January 8, 2008, the NIAA gave more authority to the Attorney General to acquire prohibited purchaser information from federal departments and agencies. It also provided incentives for states, tribes, and court systems to provide their records to NICS through the NICS Act Record Improvement Program (NARIP), which implements the grant provisions of the NIAA.

Between 2009 and 2013, more than \$60 million in NARIP funds have been distributed in 22 states.<sup>3</sup> In 2012, NICS expanded its index to include state prohibited purchaser records. By the end of 2013, the NICS database contained more than 11.1 million unique records, up more than 2.8 from the previous year.<sup>4</sup> Between 2011 and 2014, the number of mental health records in NICS tripled to more than 3.6 million.<sup>5</sup> Despite progress, significant challenges remain and the records, particularly mental health records, are far from complete.

## MISSING INFORMATION

Millions of records identifying prohibited purchasers with mental health disqualifications are still missing from the system, according to a May 2014 Everytown for Gun Safety report, “Closing the Gaps: Strengthening the Background Check System to Keep Guns Away from the Dangerously Mentally Ill.”<sup>6</sup>

Too many states have had abysmal reporting of mental health disqualifying records to NICS. In November 2011, 23 states and the District of Columbia had submitted fewer than 100 mental health disqualifying records to NICS. In 2012 that number fell to 19 states, and by November 2013, 12 states had submitted fewer than 100 mental health disqualifying records.<sup>7</sup>

Some large states are responsible for the significant increase in the number of mental health disqualifying records reported to NICS. By the end of 2013, Pennsylvania had submitted more than 670,000 mental health records to NICS, up from only one record in 2011. Other states, including New Jersey, Oregon, and California also showed significant improvement in mental health records reporting. Virginia, which became one of the top mental health record reporters to NICS after the Virginia Tech tragedy, blocked 47 percent more firearm sales to individuals with mental health disqualifiers between 2010 and 2013, demonstrating how effective a strong background check system is to keeping guns out of the wrong hands.<sup>8</sup>

In October 2012, of 61 federal agencies reviewed, only nine had reported mental health disqualifying records to NICS.<sup>9</sup> In 2013, federal agencies were directed to “make all relevant records,” including criminal histories and mental health disqualifying records available to NICS.

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<sup>3</sup> Bureau of Justice Statistics, “NICS Act Record Improvement Program (NARIP) Awards FY 2009-2013,” (<http://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=tp&tid=491>).

<sup>4</sup> Federal Bureau of Investigation, “National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) Operations 2013” (<http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/nics/reports/2013-operations-report>).

<sup>5</sup> Federal Bureau of Investigation, “Active Records in the NCIS Index,” 30 September 2014 (<http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/nics/reports/nics-index.pdf>).

<sup>6</sup> Everytown for Gun Safety, “Closing the Gaps: Strengthening the Background Check System to Keep Guns Away from the Dangerously Mentally Ill,” 22 May 2014 (<http://everytown.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/ClosingTheGaps.pdf>).

<sup>7</sup> Mayors Against Illegal Guns, “New FBI Data Shows Gun Background Checks Still Undermined By Information Gaps,” 25 May 2012 ([http://www.mayorsagainstillegalsguns.org/html/media-center/pr\\_052512.shtml](http://www.mayorsagainstillegalsguns.org/html/media-center/pr_052512.shtml)).

and  
Everytown for Gun Safety, “Closing the Gaps: Strengthening the Background Check System to Keep Guns Away from the Dangerously Mentally Ill,” 22 May 2014 (<http://everytown.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/ClosingTheGaps.pdf>).

<sup>8</sup> Everytown for Gun Safety, “Closing the Gaps: Strengthening the Background Check System to Keep Guns Away from the Dangerously Mentally Ill,” 22 May 2014 (<http://everytown.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/ClosingTheGaps.pdf>).

<sup>9</sup> Mayors Against Illegal Guns, “Fatal Gaps: Can Dangerous People Buy Guns in Your State?,” 31 October 2012 (<http://www.demandaplan.org/fatalgaps>).



Within nine months of the directive, federal agencies provided NICS with more than 1.2 million disqualifying records. This represented an approximate 23 percent increase in the number of records reported by federal agencies.<sup>10</sup>

Substance abuse records have been reported with even less frequency than mental health disqualifying records. As of October 2011, 44 states had submitted fewer than ten substance abuse disqualification records to NICS, with 33 of the 44 states submitting none. In addition, the majority of federal agencies failed to report any substance abuse records as of October 2011. Only the FBI, the U.S. Coast Guard, and the Court Services and Offenders Supervision Agency had submitted any substance abuse records to NICS.<sup>11</sup>

## PREVENTABLE TRAGEDIES

The following are examples in which incomplete records allowed prohibited purchasers to pass background checks, buy firearms, and wreak havoc.

- On January 8, 2011, Jared Loughner went on a shooting spree that killed six and wounded 13, including Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords. Loughner had been rejected by the U.S. Army after admitting to habitual drug use. Despite drug use being a disqualification for possessing firearms under existing law, Loughner's records were never reported to NICS.<sup>12</sup>
- At Virginia Tech on April 16, 2007, Seung Hui Cho killed 32 people, injured 17, and then turned the gun on himself. Cho carried out the massacre with two guns – a Walther P22 .22 caliber pistol, which he purchased online from TGSCOM, Inc., a store in Green Bay, WI, and retrieved at a pawnshop in Virginia (where the background check was conducted), and a Glock 19 9mm pistol, which he purchased at a store in Virginia. The Virginia Tech Review Panel found that although Cho was a prohibited firearm purchaser under federal law, he passed background checks because his disqualifying mental health history had not been entered into the background check system. In 2005, a Montgomery County, Virginia, General District Court special justice had found that Cho was a danger to himself. But in spite of this, the panel said, "Cho, a person disqualified from purchasing firearms, was readily able to obtain them."<sup>13</sup>
- On January 2, 2004, Farron Barksdale was able to pass a background check and purchase a rifle even though he had been involuntarily committed to a mental hospital at least twice. Two days after purchasing the firearm, he shot and killed two Alabama police officers.<sup>14</sup>
- On July 24, 1998, Russell Weston shot and killed two police officers in the U.S. Capitol with a .38-caliber handgun he purchased after passing a background check. Weston should have been flagged as a prohibited purchaser because he "had an extensive history of mental illness and had been involuntarily committed to a Montana mental hospital in 1996."<sup>15</sup>

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<sup>10</sup> Office of the Press Secretary, "Fact Sheet: Strengthening the Federal Background Check System to Keep Guns out of Potentially Dangerous Hands," The White House, 3 January 2014 (<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2014/01/03/fact-sheet-strengthening-federal-background-check-system-keep-guns-out-p>).

<sup>11</sup> Mayors Against Illegal Guns, "Fatal Gaps: How Missing Records in the Federal Background Check System Put Guns in the Hands of Killers," November 2011 ([http://www.mayorsagainstillegalguns.org/downloads/pdf/maig\\_mimeo\\_revb.pdf](http://www.mayorsagainstillegalguns.org/downloads/pdf/maig_mimeo_revb.pdf)).

<sup>12</sup> Daniel Gonzalez and Ronald J. Hansen, "Arizona Shooting Suspect Allowed to Buy Gun, Despite his Past," The Arizona Republic, 18 January 2011 (<http://www.azcentral.com/news/articles/2011/01/18/20110118gabrielle-giffords-arizona-shooting-gun-sale-laws.html>).

<sup>13</sup> Virginia Tech Review Panel "Mass Shootings at Virginia Tech: Report of the Review Panel," August 2007 (<http://www.governor.virginia.gov/tempcontent/techPanelReport-docs/FullReport.pdf>).

<sup>14</sup> Mayors Against Illegal Guns "Fatal Gaps: How Missing Records in the Federal Background Check System Put Guns in the Hands of Killers," November 2011 ([http://www.mayorsagainstillegalguns.org/downloads/pdf/maig\\_mimeo\\_revb.pdf](http://www.mayorsagainstillegalguns.org/downloads/pdf/maig_mimeo_revb.pdf)).

<sup>15</sup> Mayors Against Illegal Guns, "Fatal Gaps: How Missing Records in the Federal Background Check System Put Guns in the Hands of Killers," November 2011 ([http://www.mayorsagainstillegalguns.org/downloads/pdf/maig\\_mimeo\\_revb.pdf](http://www.mayorsagainstillegalguns.org/downloads/pdf/maig_mimeo_revb.pdf)).



# NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT PARTNERSHIP TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE



## **PROTECTING COMMUNITIES FROM ASSAULT WEAPONS AND HIGH-CAPACITY AMMUNITION MAGAZINES**



### **BACKGROUND ON ASSAULT WEAPONS AND HIGH-CAPACITY AMMUNITION MAGAZINES**

Assault weapons were designed for the battlefield and have no place in our communities. These weapons were developed to enable a shooter to rapidly spray-fire multiple rounds at an enemy in combat, not to gun down small children, moviegoers, firefighters – or the law enforcement officers protecting them. This kind of excessive firepower has particular utility in the hands of dangerous people intent on wreaking havoc.



Each of the combat hardware features on assault weapons has a military purpose. For example, a pistol grip stabilizes the weapon and enables the shooter to spray-fire from the hip; a barrel shroud cools the barrel when multiple rounds are fired, preventing the weapon from overheating and allows the shooter to grasp the barrel; a threaded barrel accommodates military accessories such as a flash suppressor or grenade launcher; and a telescoping, folding or detachable stock allows for easier concealment.



High-capacity ammunition magazines dramatically increase a shooter's ability to massacre large numbers of people. Prohibiting the manufacture, transfer and importation of high-capacity magazines that hold more than ten rounds would reduce the number of bullets a shooter could use before having to stop to reload. Reloading can provide a critical window of time in which to take down a shooter, as we saw in Tucson.



### **ASSAULT WEAPONS AND HIGH-CAPACITY AMMUNITION MAGAZINES ARE THE INSTRUMENTS OF MASS SHOOTERS**

Horrific mass shootings are happening all too often all across our nation. Last December, Adam Lanza forced his way into a Newtown, CT, elementary school and opened fire with a .223 caliber Bushmaster AR-15 semiautomatic assault weapon and multiple 30-round ammunition magazines, killing 26 people, including 20 small children. In July of last year, James Holmes entered an Aurora, CO, movie theater and allegedly used an AR-15 assault weapon equipped with a 100-round drum

magazine to mow down moviegoers, killing 12 and wounding 58 others.<sup>1</sup>

It is hard to imagine a gunman using a firearm equipped with a magazine holding fewer than ten rounds causing the devastation that resulted from an assault weapon equipped with a 100-round drum magazine. A semiautomatic assault rifle with a 100-round drum magazine – or a pistol equipped with a

<sup>1</sup> Goode, Erica, "Rifle Used in Killings, America's Most Popular, Highlights Regulation Debate," *New York Times*, Dec. 16, 2012 (<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/12/17/us/lanza-used-a-popular-ar-15-style-rifle-in-newtown.html?pagewanted=all&r=0>) and Kleinfeld, N.R., "Gunman Took Big Supply of Ammunition to School After Killing Mother at Home," *New York Times*, Dec. 16, 2012 (<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/12/17/nyregion/sandy-hook-school-shooting-in-newtown.html?ref=us>)..

30-round magazine – has one purpose: to kill as many people as possible as quickly as possible.

The devastating effects of these weapons are felt by law enforcement as criminals up the ante with firepower in excess of what police officers typically use. Reports from law enforcement leaders around the country indicate that assault weapons are increasingly being used against law enforcement officers. Current restrictions on the release of Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) trace data make it impossible to know exactly how often these firearms are being used in crimes.<sup>2</sup> But according to the Department of Justice, high-capacity ammunition magazines are used in 31 to 41 percent of fatal police shootings, varying across cities analyzed.<sup>3</sup>

## **EFFECTIVENESS OF THE 1994 ASSAULT WEAPONS AND HIGH-CAPACITY AMMUNITION MAGAZINE BAN**

The 1994 assault weapons ban prohibited the manufacture, transfer, sale or possession of new semiautomatic assault weapons and high-capacity ammunition magazines in excess of ten rounds. The ban expired in 2004.

Studies show the 1994 assault weapons ban worked:

- A 2004 University of Pennsylvania study found that, in the nine years after the ban took effect, the percentage of gun crimes involving assault weapons decreased by 70 percent.<sup>4</sup>
- In 1998, four years after the assault weapons and high-capacity ammunition magazine ban was enacted, the percentage of firearms with large-capacity magazines recovered by Virginia police decreased and continued to drop until it hit a low of 9 percent in 2004, the year the ban expired. That figure more than doubled since the ban's expiration, hitting a high of 20 percent in 2010, according to a Washington Post analysis.<sup>5</sup>
- After the ban expired in 2004, 37 percent of police agencies saw increases in criminals' use of assault weapons, and 38 percent reported a noticeable increase in criminals' use of high-capacity magazines, according to a 2010 Police Executive Research Forum survey.<sup>6</sup>

## **NEW LEGISLATION**

The Partnership calls on Congress to pass S.150, the Assault Weapons Ban of 2013, introduced by Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) in the U.S. Senate, and the companion bill, H.R.437, introduced by Representative Carolyn McCarthy (D-NY) in the House of Representatives. The legislation bans the sale, transfer, manufacture and importation of:

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<sup>2</sup> International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), *Taking a Stand: Reducing Gun Violence in Our Communities*, Sept. 2007 (<http://www.theiacp.org/PublicationsGuides/TopicalIndex/tabid/216/Default.aspx?id=893&v=1>).

<sup>3</sup> Koper, Christopher S., "An Updated Assessment of the Federal Assault Weapons Ban," National Institute of Justice, U.S. Department of Justice, June 2004 (<https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/204431.pdf>).

<sup>4</sup> Koper, Christopher S., "An Updated Assessment of the Federal Assault Weapons Ban: Impacts on Gun Markets and Gun Violence, 1994-2003" ([http://www.sas.upenn.edu/jerrylee/research/aw\\_final2004.pdf](http://www.sas.upenn.edu/jerrylee/research/aw_final2004.pdf)).

<sup>5</sup> Fallis, David S. and Grimaldi, James V., "In Virginia, High-Yield Clip Seizures Rise," *Washington Post*, January 23, 2011 (<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2011/01/22/AR2011012204046.html>).

<sup>6</sup> Police Executive Research Forum, *Guns and Crime: Breaking New Ground By Focusing on the Local Impact*, May 2010 ([policeforum.org/library/critical-issues-in-policing.../GunsandCrime.pdf](http://policeforum.org/library/critical-issues-in-policing.../GunsandCrime.pdf)).

- New semiautomatic rifles that can accept a detachable magazine and have at least one military feature, such as pistol grip; forward grip; folding, telescoping, or detachable stock; grenade launcher or rocket launcher; barrel shroud; or threaded barrel.
- New semiautomatic pistols that can accept a detachable magazine and have at least one military feature, including threaded barrel; second pistol grip; barrel shroud; capacity to accept a detachable magazine at some location outside of the pistol grip; or semiautomatic version of an automatic firearm.
- New semiautomatic shotguns that have a folding, telescoping, or detachable stock; pistol grip; fixed magazine with the capacity to accept more than five rounds; ability to accept a detachable magazine; forward grip; grenade launcher or rocket launcher; or shotgun with a revolving cylinder.
- New high-capacity ammunition feeding devices that have the capacity to hold more than ten rounds of ammunition that come in many forms, including a magazine, belt, drum, or feed strip.

The 2013 Assault Weapons Ban excludes any weapon that is lawfully possessed when the bill is enacted; any firearm manually operated by a bolt, pump, lever or slide action; assault weapons used by military, law enforcement, and retired law enforcement; and antique weapons. It also excludes 2,258 legitimate hunting and sporting rifles and shotguns by specific make and model.

Additionally, the new legislation strengthens the provisions of the expired 1994 law by banning dangerous devices designed to circumvent the law, including bump or slide fire stocks, which are modified stocks that enable semi-automatic weapons to fire at rates similar to fully automatic machine guns; “bullet buttons” that allow rapid replacement of ammunition magazines, frequently used as a workaround to prohibitions on detachable magazines; and thumbhole stocks, a type of stock that was created as a workaround to avoid prohibitions on pistol grips.

The 2013 Assault Weapons Ban addresses the millions of assault weapons and large-capacity magazines currently in existence by requiring a background check on all sales or transfers of grandfathered assault weapons and prohibiting the sale or transfer of high-capacity ammunition feeding devices lawfully possessed on the date of enactment of the bill.

## **OUTLAWING ASSAULT WEAPONS AND HIGH-CAPACITY MAGAZINES DOES NOT INFRINGE ON THE SECOND AMENDMENT**

The Assault Weapons Ban would affect only a particularly dangerous class of weapons, and law-abiding citizens will continue to be able to choose from and acquire the vast array of firearm models on the market. In the 2008 case of *District of Columbia v. Heller*, the United States Supreme Court ruled that the Second Amendment protects an individual’s right to possess a firearm. The ruling, however, recognized that “like most rights, the right secured by the Second Amendment is not unlimited,” and listed several categories of restrictions that are presumptively constitutional, such as: laws prohibiting convicted felons or the mentally ill from possessing firearms; laws prohibiting the carrying of firearms in government buildings or schools; laws prohibiting possession of “dangerous and unusual” weapons that are not “in common use at the time.”<sup>7</sup>

## **EXAMPLES OF THE DEVASTATION CAUSED BY ASSAULT WEAPONS AND HIGH-CAPACITY AMMUNITION MAGAZINES**

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<sup>7</sup> *District of Columbia v. Heller*, 554 U.S. 570 (2008).

- In Newtown, CT, on December 14, 2012, Adam Lanza allegedly shot and killed 26 people, including 20 first-grade children, at Sandy Hook Elementary School with an assault weapon and multiple 30-round magazines.
- On August 5, 2012, in Oak Creek, WI, Wade Michael Page killed six people and wounded three others at a Sikh temple with a semiautomatic handgun and three 19-round magazines.
- In Aurora, CO, on July 20, 2012, James Holmes allegedly shot and killed 12 people and injured 58 others at a movie theater. Holmes allegedly used two semiautomatic handguns, a shotgun and an assault weapon equipped with a 100-round drum magazine.
- On January 8, 2011, Jared Loughner shot and killed six people and wounded 13 others in Tucson, AZ, including U.S. Representative Gabrielle Giffords. Loughner fired all 33 rounds from a semiautomatic handgun with a 33-round magazine before being tackled while trying to reload another magazine.
- In Fort Hood, TX, on November 5, 2009, Major Nidal Hasan allegedly shot and killed 13 people and wounded 34 others during a rampage at the Fort Hood military installation. He allegedly used a semiautomatic handgun and 20- and 30-round magazines.
- On April 3, 2009, Jiverly Wong shot and killed 13 people and injured four others at the American Civic Association in Binghamton, NY, firing 99 rounds from two semiautomatic handguns. A 30-round capacity magazine was found at the scene.

## **AMERICANS SUPPORT FOR A BAN ON ASSAULT WEAPONS AND HIGH-CAPACITY AMMUNITION MAGAZINES**

- In a December 2012 poll, 81 percent of registered voters – including 71 percent of gun owners – supported renewing the federal ban on assault weapons.<sup>8</sup>
- In the same December 2012 poll, 72 percent of voters, including 59 percent of gun owners, supported a ban on the sale of high-capacity magazines.<sup>9</sup>
- In a Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health survey, 69 percent of respondents supported a ban on the sale of military-style assault rifles.<sup>10</sup>
- In a January 2013 Washington Post-ABC poll, 58 percent of Americans said they supported a nationwide ban on the sale of assault weapons.<sup>11</sup>

<sup>8</sup> Douglas E. Schoen, “National Gun Survey,” January 2013 ([http://libcloud.s3.amazonaws.com/9/13/a/1088/schoen\\_summary\\_memo\\_-3.pdf](http://libcloud.s3.amazonaws.com/9/13/a/1088/schoen_summary_memo_-3.pdf)).

<sup>9</sup> Douglas E. Schoen, “National Gun Survey,” January 2013 ([http://libcloud.s3.amazonaws.com/9/13/a/1088/schoen\\_summary\\_memo\\_-3.pdf](http://libcloud.s3.amazonaws.com/9/13/a/1088/schoen_summary_memo_-3.pdf)).

<sup>10</sup> Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health Survey, “Majority of Americans Support Dozens of Policies to Strengthen U.S. Gun Laws,” Jan. 28, 2013 (<http://www.jhsph.edu/news/news-releases/2013/Barry-Majority-of-Americans-Support-Policies-to-Strengthen-Gun-Laws.html>).

<sup>11</sup> ABC News/Washington Post Poll, “On Eve of Newtown Recommendations, Most Back New Gun Control Measures, Jan. 14, 2013 (<http://www.langerresearch.com/uploads/1146a1GunControl.pdf>).

# NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT PARTNERSHIP TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE

May 24, 2016



Dear Members of Congress:

I write on behalf of the National Law Enforcement Partnership to Prevent Gun Violence (the Partnership) to share our strong opposition to the national concealed carry reciprocity proposals currently proposed or being considered in a number of amendments and bills in Congress, including H.R. 986 and S. 498.



As we have previously stated, these national concealed carry reciprocity proposals would severely undermine state concealed carry licensing systems by allowing out of state visitors to carry concealed firearms even if those visitors have not met – or cannot meet – the standards for carrying a concealed weapon in the state they are visiting.



The current proposals would preempt state concealed carry laws, which vary widely. Not all require background checks or safety training, for instance. States and localities should have the right to legislate concealed carry laws that best fit the needs of their communities.



National concealed carry reciprocity as currently proposed and referenced above could create potentially life-threatening situations for law enforcement officers and others. During traffic stops, it would be nearly impossible for police to verify the validity of nearly 50 different carry permits, forcing officers to make split-second decisions for their own safety in an already dangerous situation.



Lastly and very importantly, we strongly oppose the provision in H.R. 986 that makes law enforcement agencies and officers civilly liable for investigative stops and detentions of armed subjects, which may be necessary and appropriate for investigative and officer safety purposes.



POLICE EXECUTIVE  
RESEARCH FORUM



We respectfully urge every member of Congress to respect state laws and protect and support our nation's police officers and the citizens they serve by opposing these national concealed-carry reciprocity proposals.

Sincerely,

Chief Jim Johnson, Baltimore County, MD  
Chair, National Law Enforcement Partnership to Prevent Gun Violence

*The Partnership is an alliance of the nation's law enforcement leadership organizations concerned about the unacceptable level of gun violence in the United States. Our members include the Hispanic American Police Command Officers Association (HAPCOA); International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators (IACLEA); International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP); Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCC); National Association of Women Law Enforcement Executives (NAWLEE); National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE); Police Executive Research Forum (PERF); and the Police Foundation (PF).*

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