



National District Attorneys Association
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September 10th, 2019

The Honorable Susan Collins
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Collins & Senator Leahy,

I am reaching out as President of the National District Attorneys Association (NDAA), the oldest and largest national organization representing state and local prosecutors in the country. With more than 5,300 members representing over two thirds of the state and local prosecutors' offices, NDAA is recognized as the leading source of national expertise on the prosecution function and is a valuable resource for the media, academia, government, and community leaders. NDAA's mission is to provide state and local prosecutors with the knowledge, skills, and support they need to ensure that justice is done and that public safety rights are protected. Today, I write in support of S. 2376, the "Stop Illegal Trafficking in Firearms Act."

As you know, the United States has been impacted by frequent incidents of targeted violence. Law enforcement and prosecutors face the daunting task of responding to these tragedies and ensuring justice for the victims. Currently, gaps in federal law limit the ability of prosecutors to bring meaningful charges against individuals who abuse lawful purchases of firearms to provide dangerous weapons to criminals who, in turn, harm the communities we protect. Without the appropriate tools to prosecute these "straw purchasers," repeat offenders will continue to arm gangs and other criminal organizations at the expense of lawful gun owners and law enforcement throughout the country.

NDAA is confident that your legislation takes important steps to ensure the safety of our communities by closing loopholes that allow violent criminals and gangs to obtain firearms through straw purchasing and trafficking. Specifically, the legislation criminalizes the practice of "straw purchasing" by adding firearms trafficking to the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupted Organizations Act (RICO), establishing forfeiture provisions allowing courts to impose fines based on the criminal conduct, and authorizing the use of electronic surveillance in the course of investigating straw purchasers. Further, the bill strengthens criminal penalties for individuals who know or reasonably believe that they are transferring a firearm to someone who is prohibited from possessing the weapon. Importantly, these changes do not impact lawful purchases of firearms from Federal Firearm Licensees (FFL).

We appreciate your commitment to make our communities safer and look forward to working alongside your staff to move this bipartisan legislation forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Duffie Stone". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "D" and "S".

Duffie Stone,
President