



International Association of
Chiefs of Police

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March 15, 2016

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
United States Senate
437 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Susan Collins
United States Senate
413 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Leahy and Collins:

On behalf of the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), I am writing to express our strong support for the Stop Illegal Trafficking in Firearms Act of 2016, S. 2544.

As a nation, we have made great strides toward ensuring that guns are only acquired by law-abiding citizens. However, the straw purchasing of firearms presents an extreme safety hazard, both for the public and America's law enforcement officers. Unfortunately, in cities large and small, straw purchasing has become part of criminals' standard operations. Federal estimates put the number of illegally trafficked guns on the order of tens of thousands.

The provisions of S. 2544 would aid law enforcement in reducing that number. For example, the tough criminal offenses created by the Stop Illegal Trafficking in Firearms Act would both deter people from straw purchasing weapons, and ensure that those engaging in the illegal and dangerous trafficking of firearms are kept off the street. In addition to increasing sanctions, this bill provides law enforcement agencies with vitally important tools to investigate and prosecute straw purchasers and other traffickers.

As illegal firearm traffickers become more creative, so too must our laws. This bill represents an innovative approach to solving the emerging problem of firearm straw purchasing.

On behalf of our over 26,000 members, we applaud you for introducing this important legislation. The IACP looks forward to working with you to ensure enactment of the Stop Illegal Trafficking in Firearms Act of 2016.

Thank you again for your efforts on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Terrence Cunningham
President
International Association of Chiefs of Police