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

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)