



THE UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF MAYORS

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September 4, 2015

The Honorable Elijah E. Cummings
Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
U.S. House of Representatives
2157 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Ranking Member Cummings:

I write to register the strong support of The U.S. Conference of Mayors for the Gun Trafficking Prevention Act of 2015 and our appreciation of your efforts to introduce again this important bipartisan legislation. We are very pleased that joining you in this effort are Representatives Carolyn Maloney, Robin Kelly, Pat Meehan, Michael Fitzpatrick, Peter King, and Daniel Donovan.

The U.S. Conference of Mayors has been calling for sensible gun laws to protect the public for more than 40 years. Mayors and police chiefs from cities of all sizes have worked together in this effort over the years.

The legislation that you are proposing is consistent with our adopted policy. It is particularly timely because it directly responds to what mayors and police chiefs have been calling for to reduce the current spike in homicides and other violent crimes occurring in some of our cities. It would provide a dedicated federal statute prohibiting illegal gun trafficking, make gun trafficking a federal crime, and create stronger penalties for straw purchasers who buy firearms for criminals and felons who are prohibited from purchasing them on their own. It would also strengthen penalties for organizers or managers of firearms trafficking networks.

Be assured that the nation's mayors will work with you in your efforts to see Gun Trafficking Prevention Act of 2015 enacted into law.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Cochran". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tom Cochran
CEO and Executive Director