

## **LAW ENFORCEMENT AND OTHER GROUPS SUPPORT FIRST BIPARTISAN HOUSE BILL TO COMBAT GUN TRAFFICKING**

H.R. 452, The Gun Trafficking Prevention Act of 2013, which was introduced by Reps. Carolyn Maloney (D-NY), Scott Rigell (R-VA), Elijah Cummings (D-MD), and Patrick Meehan (R-PA), has the strong support of law enforcement organizations and others because it is a critical step to stopping the flow of guns into the hands of criminals while protecting the rights of law abiding gun owners. Some groups and officials who support the legislation include:

**Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association:** the largest nonpartisan, nonprofit professional association representing more than 25,000 federal law enforcement officers from over 65 different agencies.

- “We applaud the bipartisan effort to draft important legislation that targets, a/k/a Straw Purchaser[s], and allows for critical sentencing enhancements.”
- “We are optimistic that this legislation may prevent future atrocities such as the tragic slaying of two firefighters in Webster, New York, which was facilitated by an accused straw purchaser.”

**Association of Prosecuting Attorneys:** the only national organization representing and supporting all prosecutors, including appointed and elected prosecutors, city attorneys, tribal prosecutors, district attorneys, state’s attorneys, attorneys general, or United States Attorneys.

- “On behalf of APA, I am pleased to have the opportunity to offer our assistance in efforts underway in Congress to address the serious problem of firearms violence including trafficking of these weapons both interstate and internationally.”
- “Due to the lack of a dedicated federal statute prohibiting illegal gun trafficking, large numbers of guns are diverted from legitimate commerce into the criminal marketplace every year.”

**Major Cities Chiefs Association:** an organization representing the 63 largest police departments in the nation.

- “On behalf of Major Cities Chief Association, representing the 63 largest police departments in the Nation, I am writing to convey our strong support for the bipartisan Gun Trafficking Prevention Act of 2013.”
- Measures to prohibit straw purchasing and impose harsher penalties will impact both individual gun purchases as well as major trafficking operations.”
- “This is an important first step in what should be a comprehensive legislative strategy.”
- “We stand with you to advocate the introduction of your bill, and look forward to its enactment.”

**Police Foundation:** the nation's oldest non-profit police research organization.

- “On behalf of the Police Foundation ... I am writing to express the Foundation's support for the Gun Trafficking Prevention Act of 2013.”
- “Changes in legislation like this are significant steps forward to reducing criminal access to firearms that results in tragic acts of violence.”
- “The Police Foundation applauds your bipartisan efforts to help make American communities safer through this Act.”
- “This legislation furthers that idea in a way that is based on common sense, the realities of combating crime and disorder and does not abrogate the constitutional rights of law-abiding citizens.”

**Police Executive Research Forum:** a nonprofit police research organization and provider of management services, technical assistance, and executive-level education to support law enforcement agencies.

- “[We] express the Police Executive Research Forum's support for the gun trafficking legislation.”
- “Thank you for your efforts to help police departments to reduce the unacceptable level of gun violence in America.”

**United States Conference of Mayors:** the official non-partisan organization of cities with populations of 30,000 or more.

- “We write to register the strong support of The U.S. Conference of Mayors for the Gun Trafficking Prevention Act of 2013 and our appreciation of your efforts to develop this important legislation.”
- “The legislation which you are proposing ... would provide a dedicated 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.”
- “Be assured that the nation's mayors will work with you to see Gun Trafficking Prevention Act of 2013 enacted into law.”

**International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators:** an organization representing over 1,200 institutions of higher education, including campus law enforcement staff, criminal justice faculty members, and municipal chiefs of police that advances public safety for educational institutions around the world.

- “On behalf of more than 1200 institutions of higher education, the International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators lends its support to the Cummings bipartisan bill to address gun trafficking.”
- “The legislation proposed ... would prohibit the purchase or transfer of a firearm if the purchaser intends to transfer the firearm to someone already legally excluded from having a firearm under federal or state law. This just makes sense.”

- “Campus public safety officers have learned first hand about the unthinkable tragedies some individuals with guns can cause – from Virginia Tech to Northern Illinois University.”
- “Keeping guns out of the wrong hands is a worthwhile start to addressing this complex problem and one Congress can act on quickly.”
- “We urge support of the ... bill to close the gaps in gun purchases to help limit opportunities for those who should not be armed to obtain arms.”

**Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police:** a non-profit professional membership association comprised of more than 600 active and retired federal, state, local, and private law enforcement and criminal justice agency executives, administrators, and managers.

- “A large number of firearms are diverted from legal commerce and into the hands of criminals each year due in part to the lack of federal and state statutes that prohibit illegal firearms trafficking.”
- “Specifically, the issue of ‘straw purchases’ of weapons is of great concern, as it is considered a serious threat to public safety.”
- “The Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police is pleased to work with you and the leaders of both parties to make the Gun Trafficking Act of 2013 become law.”

**Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association:** an organization representing more than 1,200 command level law enforcement officers, including chiefs of police, superintendents, and commissioners, as well as the commanding officers of federal, state, and industrial agencies.

- “On behalf of the membership of the Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association, I am writing to express our support for the Gun Trafficking Prevention Act of 2013.”
- “Large numbers of firearms are regularly diverted from legal commerce and end up in the hands of “straw purchases.”
- “The Gun Trafficking Prevention Act of 2013 will provide another tool for law enforcement to use in order to more effectively address the “straw purchase” of weapons, which poses a serious threat to public safety.”

**Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association:** a non-profit entity representing members of law enforcement across the state of Massachusetts.

- “The Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association is pleased to support the Gun Trafficking Prevention Act of 2013.”
- “We view straw purchasing and weapons trafficking as a public safety threat as well as threat to law enforcement.”

**Mark Glaze, Director of Mayors Against Illegal Guns:** a coalition of over 850 mayors who support a number of gun control initiatives to fight illegal gun trafficking and gun violence in the United States.

- "Every year, we see hundreds of thousands of guns diverted from legitimate commerce to the criminal marketplace -- all because our weak federal laws treat gun trafficking as little

more than a paperwork violation. This legislation will put a tangible dent in gun violence by giving prosecutors the tools they need to put gun runners behind bars. Congress must pass these tough penalties for trafficking rings. We are grateful to the lead Sponsors for their hard work on this bill.”

**Governor Martin O’Malley of Maryland:**

- “I write in support of the Gun Trafficking Prevention Act of 2013, which will help save lives by keeping guns out of the hands of convicted criminals and other prohibited persons.”
- “I urge Congress to pass this common-sense legislation as soon as possible because it will give critical tools to law enforcement officials to help them combat gun trafficking, a major catalyst of crime and violence in our nation.”
- “Federal gun trafficking legislation needs to be included as a part of any comprehensive effort to address gun violence.”

**Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, City of Baltimore:**

- “I commend this Bill for addressing this important issue that law enforcement agencies at the local, state and federal levels all agree will be a necessary tool to stop the influx of illegal guns that flood into Baltimore and cities across the Country.”
- “I support this legislation which I believe is desperately needed and long overdue.”

**Connecticut Attorney General George Jepsen:**

- “I commend you for bringing this legislation forward to take action against those who knowingly put firearms in the hands of individuals who are by law prohibited from owning them.”
- “I’m hopeful that your bipartisan approach to solving the problem of illegal guns can serve as an example as we continue an important discussion in order to make our communities safer.”