



October 17, 2007

The Honorable Harry Reid
Senate Majority Leader
528 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Office of the Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Closing the Terror Gap and Combating Gangs and Illegal Guns

Dear Majority Leader Reid and Speaker Pelosi:

This fall, Congress has an opportunity to improve public safety and homeland security by passing a provision that enjoys bipartisan support at every level of government: from the Bush Administration and the Department of Justice, to a bi-partisan group of leaders in the U.S. House and Senate, to our coalition of more than 225 mayors representing more than 50 million Americans. The provision closes a gap in federal law by giving the U.S. Attorney General the ability to prevent terror suspects from buying guns. Six years after the attacks of September 11, the federal government still has no authority to stop gun sales to terror suspects – some of the very people federal investigators have identified as too dangerous to get on an airplane.

It is clear that terrorists, including members of al-Qaeda, are intent on buying guns here in America and using them against us in attacks. A number of training manuals have been discovered in recent years that included detailed instructions on how to buy guns and ammunition and how to store and transport those weapons covertly. In 2005, the FBI and the nonpartisan Government Accountability Office found that people on a terrorist watch list were able to buy guns from licensed dealers on 47 different occasions in less than nine months.

Mayors Against Illegal Guns, a bi-partisan coalition of mayors from around the country committed to preventing guns from falling into the hands of criminals, strongly supports the Denying Firearms and Explosives to Dangerous Terrorists Act (S.1237 and H.R. 2074). This legislation will close this glaring “terror gap” in our gun laws. Giving the Attorney General the ability on a case-by-case basis to block gun sales to terrorism suspects is sound policy. It’s good for public safety and good for homeland security, and that is why mayors, members of Congress and the Bush Administration support it. And we know that the public supports it, too. Earlier this year, the coalition commissioned a survey, jointly conducted by Democratic firm Greenberg Quinlan Rosner Research and Republican firm The Tarrance Group, that polled 803 Americans about a variety of illegal gun issues. The poll found that 86% of Americans, including 88% of gun owners, supported the idea of prohibiting people on the federal terrorism watchlist from purchasing firearms.

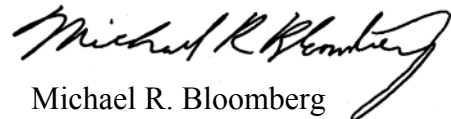
The coalition was pleased to learn that the provision to close the terror gap has been included in the House version of the 2007 Gang Prevention, Intervention and Suppression Act (H.R. 3547). The bill would also allow various gang and gun crimes to be tried in federal court where sentences are tougher, create new federal crimes related to gangs and violence, and authorize funding for many critical law enforcement and crime prevention programs. The most recent report by the FBI shows that violent crime – including violent gun crime – has been increasing nationwide. This bill will help localities reverse that trend, and including the provision to close the terror gap in our gun laws is just common sense.

As Mayors, our highest responsibility is protecting public safety in America's cities and towns. We urge Congress to stand with us in that effort by taking quick action to close the terror gap by passing the Denying Firearms and Explosives to Dangerous Terrorists Act and H.R. 3547.

Sincerely,



Thomas M. Menino
Mayor of Boston



Michael R. Bloomberg
Mayor of New York City

Cc: Senate Minority Leader McConnell
House Minority Leader Boehner
All other members of Congress

Members of Mayors Against Illegal Guns:

Mayor Samuel L. Jones, Mobile, Alabama
Mayor Dan Coody, Fayetteville, Arkansas
Mayor Patrick Hays, North Little Rock, Arkansas
Mayor Marsha Ramos, Burbank, California
Mayor Daniel E. Furtado, Campbell, California
Mayor Cheryl Cox, Chula Vista, California
Mayor Kris Wang, Cupertino, California
Mayor Robert Wasserman, Fremont, California
Mayor Gary Plass, Healdsburg, California
Mayor Beth Krom, Irvine, California
Mayor H. Manuel Ortiz, Irwindale, California
Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, Los Angeles, California
Mayor Rob Schroder, Martinez, California
Mayor Steve Cottrell, Nevada City, California
Mayor Ronald V. Dellums, Oakland, California
Mayor Steven Glazer, Orinda, California
Mayor Pamela Torliatt, Petaluma, California

Mayor David Durant, Pleasant Hill, California
Mayor Jennifer Hosterman, Pleasanton, California
Mayor Thomas D. Long, Rancho Palos Verdes, California
Mayor Gayle McLaughlin, Richmond, California
Mayor Heather Fargo, Sacramento, California
Mayor Patrick J. Morris, San Bernardino, California
Mayor Jerry Sanders, San Diego, California
Mayor Gavin Newsom, San Francisco, California
Mayor Chuck Reed, San Jose, California
Mayor Miguel Pulido, Santa Ana, California
Mayor Marty Blum, Santa Barbara, California
Mayor Joseph D. Serrano, Sr., Santa Fe Springs, California
Mayor Bob Blanchard, Santa Rosa, California
Mayor Paul Miller, Simi Valley, California
Mayor Edward Chavez, Stockton, California
Mayor Otto O. Lee, Sunnyvale, California
Mayor Antonio "Tony" Cartegena, Walnut, California

Mayor Christopher Cabaldon, West Sacramento, California
Mayor Anthony Intintoli, Vallejo, California
Mayor Morris Vance, Vista, California
Mayor John Hickenlooper, Denver, Colorado
Mayor John Fabrizi, Bridgeport, Connecticut
Mayor Eddie Perez, Hartford, Connecticut
Mayor John DeStefano, New Haven, Connecticut
Mayor Richard A. Moccia, Norwalk, Connecticut
Mayor Dannel P. Malloy, Stamford, Connecticut
Mayor Scott Slifka, West Hartford, Connecticut
Mayor Adrian Fenty, Washington, DC
Mayor Vance A. Funk, III, Newark, Delaware
Mayor James M. Baker, Wilmington, Delaware
Mayor Scott J. Brook, Coral Springs, Florida
Mayor Joy Cooper, Hallandale Beach, Florida
Mayor Julio Robaina, Hialeah, Florida
Mayor Mara Giulianti, Hollywood, Florida
Mayor John Peyton, Jacksonville, Florida
Mayor Manuel Diaz, Miami, Florida
Mayor Kevin Burns, North Miami, Florida
Mayor Frank C. Ortis, Pembroke Pines, Florida
Mayor Patricia Christensen, Port St Lucie, Florida
Mayor John Marks, III, Tallahassee, Florida
Mayor Beth Talabisco, Tamarac, Florida
Mayor Heidi Davison, Athens-Clarke County, Georgia
Mayor Shirley Franklin, Atlanta, Georgia
Mayor Jack Ellis, Macon, Georgia
Mayor Jere Wood, Roswell, Georgia
Mayor Otis Johnson, Savannah, Georgia
Mayor Mufi Hannemann, Honolulu, Hawaii
Mayor Richard Daley, Chicago, Illinois
Mayor Lorraine Morton, Evanston, Illinois
Mayor Rita Mullins, Palatine, Illinois
Mayor John A. Spring, Quincy, Illinois
Mayor Lawrence J. Morrissey, Rockford, Illinois
Mayor Richard H. Hyde, Waukegan, Illinois
Mayor Graham Richard, Fort Wayne, Indiana
Mayor Stephen Luecke, South Bend, Indiana
Mayor Kay Halloran, Cedar Rapids, Iowa
Mayor Edwin Winborn, Davenport, Iowa
Mayor T.M. Franklin Cownie, Des Moines, Iowa
Mayor Elaine Walker, Bowling Green, Kentucky
Mayor Butch Callery, Covington, Kentucky
Mayor Jerry Abramson, Louisville, Kentucky
Mayor Thomas L. Guidugli, Newport, Kentucky
Mayor Melvin "Kip" Holden, Baton Rouge, Louisiana
Mayor Ray Nagin, New Orleans, Louisiana
Mayor Cedric B. Glover, Shreveport, Louisiana
Mayor Nicholas Mavodones, Jr., Portland, Maine
Mayor Ellen Moyer, Annapolis, Maryland
Mayor Sheila Dixon, Baltimore, Maryland
Mayor Thomas Menino, Boston, Massachusetts
Mayor James E. Harrington, Brockton, Massachusetts
Mayor Kenneth E. Reeves, Cambridge, Massachusetts
Mayor Jim Fiorentini, Haverhill, Massachusetts
Mayor Michael J. Sullivan, Holyoke, Massachusetts

Mayor Scott Lang, New Bedford, Massachusetts
Mayor Clare Higgins, Northampton, Massachusetts
Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone, Somerville, Massachusetts
Mayor Charles V. Ryan, Springfield, Massachusetts
Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick, Detroit, Michigan
Mayor Steve Lampi, Brooklyn Park, Minnesota
Mayor Gary F. Van Eyll, Chaska, Minnesota
Mayor Herb W. Bergson, Duluth, Minnesota
Mayor R.T. Rybak, Minneapolis, Minnesota
Mayor Chris Coleman, Saint Paul, Minnesota
Mayor Mark Schiffman, Waconia, Minnesota
Mayor Andrew G. Humprey, Wayzata, Minnesota
Mayor Johnny DuPree, Hattiesburg, Mississippi
Mayor Frank Melton, Jackson, Mississippi
Mayor Phillip West, Natchez, Mississippi
Mayor Matthew J. Avara, Pascagoula, Mississippi
Mayor Francis Slay, St. Louis, Missouri
Mayor Ron Tussing, Billings, Montana
Mayor Chris Beutler, Lincoln, Nebraska
Mayor Mike Fahey, Omaha, Nebraska
Mayor Kevin G. Sanders, Asbury Park, New Jersey
Mayor Joseph V. Doria, Jr., Bayonne, New Jersey
Mayor Jason J. Varano, Berkeley Township, New Jersey
Mayor Gwendolyn A. Faison, Camden, New Jersey
Mayor Sophie Heymann, Borough of Closter, New Jersey
Mayor Carol Foster, Corbin City, New Jersey
Mayor James Carroll, Demarest, New Jersey
Mayor Chester Riland, Downe Township, New Jersey
Mayor Joseph R. Smith, East Newark, New Jersey
Mayor Robert L. Bowser, East Orange, New Jersey
Mayor Jun Choi, Edison, New Jersey
Mayor J. Christian Bollwage, Elizabeth, New Jersey
Mayor David Delle Donna, Guttenberg, New Jersey
Mayor Beth Ann Haven, Haddon Heights, New Jersey
Mayor Glen D. Gilmore, Hamilton, New Jersey
Mayor James C. DiNardo, Hazlet Township, New Jersey
Mayor Meryl Frank, Highland Park, New Jersey
Mayor Wayne Smith, Irvington, New Jersey
Mayor Jerramiah Healy, Jersey City, New Jersey
Mayor Gregg David, Kenilworth, New Jersey
Mayor James Burke, Kingwood, New Jersey
Mayor Brian A. Reid, Lacey Township, New Jersey
Mayor Eugene Kulick, Little Falls, New Jersey
Mayor Frank W. Minor, Logan Township, New Jersey
Mayor Mary C. Garvin, Longport, New Jersey
Mayor Walt Craig, Lower Township, New Jersey
Mayor Michael Fressola, Manchester Township, New Jersey
Mayor Frank M. North, Merchantville, New Jersey
Mayor James A. Gallos, Borough of Milford, New Jersey
Mayor Donald Cresitello, Morristown, New Jersey
Mayor James Manning, Jr., Neptune Township, New Jersey
Mayor Cory Booker, Newark, New Jersey
Mayor Peter C. Massa, North Arlington, New Jersey
Mayor Randy George, North Haledon, New Jersey
Mayor Janice G. Allen, North Plainfield, New Jersey
Mayor Michael Luther, Parsippany-Troy Hills, New Jersey

Mayor Samuel Rivera, Passaic, New Jersey
Mayor Jose Torres, Paterson, New Jersey
Mayor Harry L. Wyant, Phillipsburg, New Jersey
Mayor Gary Giberson, Port Republic, New Jersey
Mayor Mohamed Khairullah, Prospect Park, New Jersey
Mayor Pasquale Menna, Borough of Red Bank, New Jersey
Mayor Earl Gage, Salem, New Jersey
Mayor Emilia Siciliano, Shrewsbury, New Jersey
Mayor Barry H. Zagnit, Borough of Spotswood, New Jersey
Mayor Douglas Palmer, Trenton, New Jersey
Mayor Betty Simmons, Victory Gardens, New Jersey
Mayor Shing-Fu Hsueh, West Windsor, New Jersey
Mayor John E. McCormac, Woodbridge, New Jersey
Mayor David Coss, Santa Fe, New Mexico
Mayor Gerald Jennings, Albany, New York
Mayor Byron Brown, Buffalo, New York
Mayor Ernest D. Davis, Mt. Vernon, New York
Mayor Noam Bramson, New Rochelle, New York
Mayor Michael Bloomberg, New York, New York
Mayor Robert Duffy, Rochester, New York
Mayor Matthew J. Driscoll, Syracuse, New York
Mayor Philip Amicone, Yonkers, New York
Mayor Terry Bellamy, Asheville, North Carolina
Mayor Kevin Foy, Chapel Hill, North Carolina
Mayor Bill Bell, Durham, North Carolina
Mayor Keith A. Holliday, Greensboro, North Carolina
Mayor Charles Meeker, Raleigh, North Carolina
Mayor Dennis Walaker, Fargo, North Dakota
Mayor Dan Pillow, Addyston, Ohio
Mayor Donald Plusquellic, Akron, Ohio
Mayor Joseph Harper, Arlington Heights, Ohio
Mayor Mark Mallory, Cincinnati, Ohio
Mayor Frank Jackson, Cleveland, Ohio
Mayor Danny Stacy, Cleves, Ohio
Mayor Michael Coleman, Columbus, Ohio
Mayor Rhine McLin, Dayton, Ohio
Mayor Theodore Shannon, Fairfax, Ohio
Mayor Jim Lawler, Forest Park, Ohio
Mayor Thomas J. Longo, Garfield Heights, Ohio
Mayor Joseph C. Hubbard, Glendale, Ohio
Mayor Alan Zaffiro, Golf Manor, Ohio
Mayor Daniel Gieringer, Harrison, Ohio
Mayor Deborah Seay, Lincoln Heights, Ohio
Mayor Jim Brown, Lockland, Ohio
Mayor Lydia J. Reid, Mansfield, Ohio
Mayor Michael O. Ciaravino, Maple Heights, Ohio

Mayor Thomas E. O'Grady, North Olmsted, Ohio
Mayor Judith Rawson, Shaker Heights, Ohio
Mayor John Smith, Silverton, Ohio
Mayor Carleton S. Finkbeiner, Toledo, Ohio
Mayor Marcia L. Fudge, Warrensville Heights, Ohio
Mayor Barry Porter, Wyoming, Ohio
Mayor Jay Williams, Youngstown, Ohio
Mayor Kathy Taylor, Tulsa, Oklahoma
Mayor Rob Drake, Beaverton, Oregon
Mayor Ed Pawlowski, Allentown, Pennsylvania
Mayor John B. Callahan, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania
Mayor Helen Thomas, Darby, Pennsylvania
Mayor Joseph Sinnott, Erie, Pennsylvania
Mayor J. Richard Gray, Lancaster, Pennsylvania
Mayor John Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Mayor Luke Ravenstahl, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Mayor Tom McMahon, Reading, Pennsylvania
Mayor F. Raymond Shay, Upper Darby, Pennsylvania
Mayor John S. Brenner, York, Pennsylvania
Mayor David Cicilline, Providence, Rhode Island
Mayor Joseph Riley, Charleston, South Carolina
Mayor Dave Munson, Sioux Falls, South Dakota
Mayor A C Wharton, Shelby County, Tennessee
Mayor Bill Haslam, Knoxville, Tennessee
Mayor Will Wynn, Austin, Texas
Mayor Bill White, Houston, Texas
Mayor Richard Ward, Hurst, Texas
Mayor Rocky Anderson, Salt Lake City, Utah
Mayor William B. Euille, Alexandria, Virginia
Mayor Paul D. Fraim, Norfolk, Virginia
Mayor Annie M. Mickens, Petersburg, Virginia
Mayor James W. Holley III, Portsmouth, Virginia
Mayor L. Douglas Wilder, Richmond, Virginia
Mayor Peter B. Lewis, Auburn, Washington
Mayor Greg Nickels, Seattle, Washington
Mayor Bill Baarsma, Tacoma, Washington
Mayor James J. Schmitt, Green Bay, Wisconsin
Mayor John M. Antaramian, Kenosha, Wisconsin
Mayor Dave Cieslewicz, Madison, Wisconsin
Mayor Tom Barrett, Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Mayor Gary Becker, Racine, Wisconsin
Mayor Andrew Halverson, Stevens Point, Wisconsin
Mayor David Ross, Superior, Wisconsin
Mayor Larry Nelson, Waukesha, Wisconsin
Mayor Theresa M. Estness, Wauwatosa, Wisconsin