ILLINOIS GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION COALITION

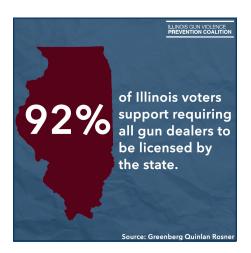
SUPPORT THE GUN DEALER LICENSING ACT

The Gun Dealer Licensing Act gives Illinois the ability to encourage better business practices among gun dealers and hold corrupt dealers accountable. It will help curb a major source of illegally trafficked firearms from entering our communities.

THE PROBLEM

- Gun dealers are the most critical link between gun manufacturers and the public.

 They're also one of the largest sources of illegally trafficked firearms in the nation.
- Federal law requires anyone engaged in the business of dealing firearms to have a license from ATF. However, loopholes in federal law enable dealers to engage in illegal business practices and fly under the radar. ATF lacks the necessary resources and legal authority to go after these negligent gun dealers.
- While the vast majority of gun dealers operate responsibly, a small and unscrupulous group are disproportionately responsible for guns used in crimes. Of the 120 firearms dealers with the most crime guns between 1996 and 2000, 13 were in Illinois, the second highest concentration of any state. Only two of those 13 dealers had been inspected during that period. Four of the dealers had at least 500 crime-gun traces, yet not a single one of those four dealers were inspected by ATF.²



Recent research indicates that 40% of guns used in crimes in Chicago between 2009 and 2014 came from Illinois. Most notably, nearly 17% percent of all guns used in crimes in Chicago were sold by just three of the state's more than 2,400 gun dealers.³

THE SOLUTION

The Gun Dealer Licensing Act gives Illinois the ability to encourage better business practices among gun dealers and hold corrupt dealers accountable. It will help curb a major source of illegally trafficked firearms from entering our communities.

- Background Checks for Licensee and Employees: Gun store employees often
 have access to huge inventories of guns and it is a commonsense practice to
 make sure that the dealer and employees are just as responsible as the buyers.
- Transparency and Accountability: Upon licensure, dealers would have their
 places of business, including all records and inventories, open for inspection by
 IDFPR and law enforcement during all hours of operation.
- 15 STATES

 have enacted gun dealer licensing laws to close these loopholes.4
- Training: The bill would require training to ensure that dealers and their employees know how to conduct background checks, identify and stop straw purchases, and properly store guns to prevent thefts.
- Video Surveillance System & Security Requirements: The legislation codifies industry best practices by requiring 24/7 video surveillance of the business and visible footage of the purchaser in each transaction.
- Business Location Restrictions: The business of a licensee and inventories cannot be within 1,000 feet of any school or daycare facility (with an exemption for densely populated areas) or in violation of any local ordinance.

Increased regulation of gun dealers to prevent straw purchases has been associated with an 84% decrease in the number of guns from those dealers used in crime.⁵

THE ILLINOIS GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION COALITION

ABJ Community Services

All Saints Episcopal—Chicago

Americans for Responsible Solutions

Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital

Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence

Catholic Charities

Center for American Progress

Chicago Board of Rabbis

Chicago Survivors

Chicagoland Brady Chapter

Community of Congregations

Community Renewal Society

Countryside Unitarian Church

Emanuel Congregation

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Faith Community of St. Sabina

Greater Institutional AME Church

Gun Responsibility Advocates

Gun Violence Prevention PAC (G-PAC)

Howard Area Community Center

Illinois Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics

Illinois Conference of Churches

Illinois Council Against Handgun Violence (ICHV)

Increase the Peace Englewood

Jewish Council on Urban Affairs

Joint Action Committee for Political Affairs (JAC PAC)

League of Women Voters of Illinois

National Gun Victims Action Council

Northwest Suburbs Organizing for America

Open Communities

Organizing Catholics for Justice

Organizing for America Chicago North Chapter

Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Parents for Peace and Justice

Peace & Justice Committee Episcopal

Diocese of Chicago

Peaceful Communities

People for a Safer Society

Presbyterian Church USA

Progressive Community Church

Purpose Over Pain

Quinn Chapel AME Church

Saint Joseph Anglican—Springfield

Saving Chicago's Youth

Seabury Western Theological Seminary

St. Felicitas Catholic Church

St. Francis Xavier Parish

St. Joseph Anglican

The Peace & Justice Committee of

St. Edmunds

United Church of Christ

United Church of Rogers Park

United Methodist Church

NOTES

¹ Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, US Department of the Treasury, *Following the Gun: Enforcing Federal Laws Against Firearms Traffickers* ix-x (June 2000).

² Americans for Gun Safety Foundation, "Selling Crime: High Crime Gun Stores Fuel Criminals," 2004.

³ Philip J. Cook et al., "Some Sources of Crime Guns in Chicago: Dirty Dealers, Straw Purchasers, and Traffickers," *J. Crim. L. & Criminology* 104 (2015): 717-759.

⁴ Nathan Irvin et al., "Evaluating the Effect of State Regulation of Federally Licensed Firearm Dealers on Firearm Homicide," *Am. J. Pub. Health* 104, no. 8 (2014): 1384-1386.

⁵ Daniel W. Webster, and Jon S. Vernick, "Spurring Responsible Firearms Sales Practices through Litigation: The Impact of New York City's Lawsuits against Gun Dealers on Interstate Gun Trafficking," in *Reducing Gun Violence in America: Informing Policy with Evidence and Analysis*, eds. Daniel W. Webster and Jon S. Vernick (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2013), 123.