



July 1, 2009

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Office of the Speaker
235 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

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

Re: 400 Mayors Call on Congress to Support H.R.2324/S.843 and Close the Gun Show Loophole

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Majority Leader Reid:

As members of Mayors Against Illegal Guns, a bi-partisan coalition of more than 400 mayors in 44 states representing more than 56 million Americans, we are writing to urge Congress to close the gun show loophole by passing H.R.2324/S.843. For too long, the gun show loophole has provided criminals and other prohibited purchasers easy access to guns by allowing them to sidestep background checks. H.R.2324/S.843, introduced by Representative Mike Castle (R-DE) and Senator Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ), would close this loophole by requiring background checks on all firearm sales at gun shows.

Currently, licensed gun dealers are required to run criminal background checks on all buyers, but criminals can simply avoid these checks by buying from unlicensed gun-sellers. As a result of this loophole, gun shows have become a major venue for illegal gun trafficking.

Closing the gun show loophole should be an urgent priority. Just last month, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) released a report that identified unregulated sales at gun shows as a significant source of guns that “are commonly trafficked to Mexico” and earlier reports by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) identified gun shows as the second leading source of trafficked guns within America. In addition, a report released by our coalition in December 2008 found that states that have not closed the gun show loophole are the sources of crime guns recovered in other states at more than twice the rate of states that have closed this loophole.

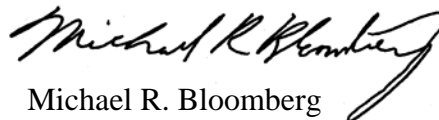
As mayors, public safety remains our highest priority. It is wrong that this glaring gap in our background check system remains open. It is time to close this loophole that has

fueled criminal access to guns and trafficking to Mexico. We urge every member of Congress to take immediate action and vote for H.R.2324/S.843.

Sincerely,



Thomas M. Menino
Mayor of Boston
Coalition Co-Chair



Michael R. Bloomberg
Mayor of New York City
Coalition Co-Chair

Cc: All other members of Congress

Members of Mayors Against Illegal Guns:

Mayor Larry P. Langford, Birmingham, Alabama
Mayor Thomas Henderson, Center Point, Alabama
Mayor Carroll L. Watson, Lincoln, Alabama
Mayor Samuel L. Jones, Mobile, Alabama
Mayor Ron Davis, Prichard, Alabama
Mayor Omar Neal, Tuskegee, Alabama
Mayor Carolyn Floyd, Kodiak, Alaska
Mayor Patrick Hays, North Little Rock, Arkansas
Mayor Carl A. Redus, Pine Bluff, Arkansas
Mayor Jane P. Kennedy, Campbell, California
Mayor Cheryl Cox, Chula Vista, California
Mayor Robert Wasserman, Fremont, California
Mayor Marc Searl, Hemet, California
Mayor Roosevelt F. Dorn, Inglewood, California
Mayor Sukhee Kang, Irvine, California
Mayor Larry Burrola, Irwindale, California
Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, Los Angeles, California
Mayor Rob Schroder, Martinez, California
Mayor Jim Ridenour, Modesto, California
Mayor Paul Eaton, Montclair, California
Mayor Ronald V. Dellums, Oakland, California
Mayor Sue Severson, Orinda, California
Mayor Jean M. Benson, Palm Desert, California
Mayor Pamela Torliatt, Petaluma, California
Mayor Jennifer Hosterman, Pleasanton, California
Mayor Jonathan Harrison, Redlands, California
Mayor Gayle McLaughlin, Richmond, California
Mayor Dennis Donohue, Salinas, California
Mayor Patrick J. Morris, San Bernardino, California
Mayor Jerry Sanders, San Diego, California
Mayor Gavin Newsom, San Francisco, California
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Mayor Miguel Pulido, Santa Ana, California
Mayor Marty Blum, Santa Barbara, California
Mayor Susan Gorin, Santa Rosa, California
Mayor Joseph D. Serrano, Sr., Santa Fe Springs, California
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Mayor Ann Johnston, Stockton, California
Mayor Anthony Spitaleri, Sunnyvale, California

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Mayor April Capone Almon, East Haven, Connecticut
Mayor Eddie Perez, Hartford, Connecticut
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Mayor Debby Eisinger, Cooper City, Florida
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Mayor Charles Sanders, Greenwood, Florida
Mayor Joy Cooper, Hallandale Beach, Florida
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Mayor Roseann Minnet, Lauderdale By the Sea, Florida
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Mayor Bill Barnett, Naples, Florida
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Mayor Randall Wise, Niceville, Florida
Mayor Raymond Marin, North Miami Beach, Florida
Mayor David Norris, North Palm Beach, Florida
Mayor Darla Lauer, Oak Hill, Florida
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Mayor Fred Costello, Ormond Beach, Florida
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Mayor Gary Bruhn, Windermere, Florida
Mayor John F. Bush, Winter Springs, Florida
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Mayor Jere Wood, Roswell, Georgia
Mayor Otis Johnson, Savannah, Georgia
Mayor John Fretti, Valdosta, Georgia
Mayor Donnie Henriques, Woodstock, Georgia
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Mayor Tom Jones, Linton, Indiana
Mayor Stephen Luecke, South Bend, Indiana
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Mayor John Link, Edgewood, Kentucky
Mayor Jerry Abramson, Louisville, Kentucky
Mayor Susan Barto, Lyndon, Kentucky
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Mayor Ray Nagin, New Orleans, Louisiana
Mayor Cedric B. Glover, Shreveport, Louisiana
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Mayor Michael Sullivan, Lawrence, Massachusetts
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Mayor Chris Coleman, Saint Paul, Minnesota
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Mayor Johnny DuPree, Hattiesburg, Mississippi
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Mayor Steven Weinstein, Fair Lawn, New Jersey
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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 Eugene Kulick, Little Falls, New Jersey
Mayor Frank W. Minor, Logan Township, New Jersey

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Mayor Michael Fressola, Manchester Twnshp, New Jersey
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Mayor Peter C. Massa, North Arlington, New Jersey
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Mayor Samuel Rivera, Passaic, New Jersey
Mayor Jose Torres, Paterson, New Jersey
Mayor Jack Killion, Pennsauken, New Jersey
Mayor Harry L. Wyant, Phillipsburg, New Jersey
Mayor Gary Giberson, Port Republic, New Jersey
Mayor Pasquale Menna, Borough of Red Bank, New Jersey
Mayor Earl Gage, Salem, New Jersey
Mayor Emilia Siciliano, Shrewsbury, New Jersey
Mayor Douglas Palmer, Trenton, New Jersey
Mayor Betty Simmons, Victory Gardens, New Jersey
Mayor Robert Romano, Vineland, New Jersey
Mayor Shing-Fu Hsueh, West Windsor, New Jersey
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Mayor Bill Bell, Durham, North Carolina
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Mayor Patricia C. Dunn, Greenville, North Carolina
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Mayor Donald Plusquellic, Akron, Ohio
Mayor Merle S. Gorden, Beachwood, Ohio
Mayor Daniel Pocek, Bedford, Ohio
Mayor Fletcher Berger, Bedford Heights, Ohio
Mayor John Licastro, Bratenahl, Ohio
Mayor Samuel J. Alai, Broadview Heights, Ohio

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Mayor Frank E. Link, New Kensington, Pennsylvania
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Mayor Morris S. Williams, Pine Gove, Pennsylvania
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Mayor Tom McMahan, Reading, Pennsylvania
Mayor Walter Niedermeyer, Slatington, Pennsylvania

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Mayor Charles Baughman, Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania
Mayor Luke Duignam, Tatamy, Pennsylvania
Mayor Jay R. Stover, Telford, Pennsylvania
Mayor Pamela Murphy, Thompsontown, Pennsylvania
Mayor Dale W. Deiter, Tower City, Pennsylvania
Mayor Adam R. Forgie, Turtle Creek, Pennsylvania
Mayor Mary Jane Haskins, Ulysses, Pennsylvania
Mayor Emerson Fazekas, Versailles, Pennsylvania
Mayor John Andzelik, West Mifflin, Pennsylvania
Mayor Shane J. Keller, West Reading, Pennsylvania
Mayor Thomas M. Leighton, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania
Mayor John A. Thompson, Wilkinsburg, Pennsylvania
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Mayor Larry Markel, Windsor, Pennsylvania
Mayor Jacqueline B. Mosley, Yeadon, Pennsylvania
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Mayor Tom Beehan, Oak Ridge, Tennessee
Mayor A C Wharton, Shelby County, Tennessee
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Mayor Bill White, Houston, Texas
Mayor Richard Ward, Hurst, Texas
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Mayor Bill Baarsma, Tacoma, Washington
Mayor Royce E. Pollard, Vancouver, Washington
Mayor David Edler, Yakima, Washington
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Mayor Jeff R. Speaker, Brookfield, Wisconsin
Mayor Thomas M. Taylor, Franklin, Wisconsin
Mayor James J. Schmitt, Green Bay, Wisconsin
Mayor Dave Cieslewicz, Madison, Wisconsin
Mayor Tom Barrett, Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Mayor Richard Johns, Rhinelander, Wisconsin
Mayor Al Richards, Saint Francis, Wisconsin
Mayor Andrew Halverson, Stevens Point, Wisconsin
Mayor David Ross, Superior, Wisconsin
Mayor Kristine M. Deiss, West Bend, Wisconsin
Mayor Ronald J. Krueger, Watertown, Wisconsin
Mayor Larry Nelson, Waukesha, Wisconsin