Dear Majority Leader McConnell, Minority Leader Reid, Speaker Ryan, and Minority Leader Pelosi:

We write to urge you to address the terror gap in our gun laws by supporting Senator Dianne Feinstein’s S.Amdt.4720 to the Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations Bill (S.2837) and by rejecting the alternative proposal that would, by virtue of its requirements, continue to allow those suspected of involvement in terrorist activity to be able to purchase firearms.

Under current law, the Department of Justice does not have the authority to stop gun sales to those on the terror watch lists so long as these individuals are not otherwise prohibited. This is a loophole that must be closed immediately for public and officer safety.

S.Amdt.4720 would address this loophole by allowing the Department of Justice to stop gun sales if the buyer is a terror suspect.

A counter-proposal by Senator Cornyn (S.Amdt.4749 to S.2837) would fail to address this problem, because it creates an unworkable and untimely process for the government to implement in order to stop these sales. Specifically, the Cornyn Amendment would require law enforcement seeking to stop a gun sale to first prove that the terror suspect will commit an act of terror or has conspired to do so. Not that the person is suspected of terror ties and is likely to use the firearm in connection with terror, but that he or she will actually commit terrorism or has conspired to do so. The legislation would give the government only 3 business days to bring the suspected terrorist to court and meet this incredible standard—or else the FBI would be unable to block the sale. In light of this, the Cornyn amendment would continue to leave the terror gap open.

We ask you to honor the victims of Orlando and to improve public and officer safety by voting for Senator Feinstein’s Amdt 4720.

Sincerely,
Chief Jim Johnson, Baltimore County, MD
Chair, National Law Enforcement Partnership to Prevent Gun Violence
The National Law Enforcement Partnership to Prevent Gun Violence (www.lepartnership.org) is an alliance of the nation’s law enforcement leadership organizations concerned about the unacceptable level of gun violence in the United States. The Partnership is working to address the pervasive nature of gun violence and its horrific impact on community and officer safety.

The Partnership Includes:

- Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA)
- Hispanic American Police Command Officers Association (HAPCOA)
- International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators (IACLEA)
- Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCCA)
- National Association of Women Law Enforcement Executives (NAWLEE)
- National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE)
- Police Executive Research Forum (PERF)
- Police Foundation (PF)

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