STATEMENT OF CHAIRMAN JIM JOHNSON ON GUN TRAFFICKING PREVENTION ACT OF 2017

WASHINGTON, D.C. – On behalf of the National Law Enforcement Partnership to Prevent Gun Violence, I urge you to support The Gun Trafficking Prevention Act of 2017 in the House of Representatives. This forward-thinking bill will prevent felons and other dangerous criminals from acquiring firearms.

There is no Federal law that specifically prohibits trafficking in firearms, despite concerns repeatedly raised by law enforcement officials at all levels of government in testimony before Congress. To fill this critical gap, The Gun Trafficking Prevention Act of 2017 prohibits the purchase or transfer of a firearm if the intent is to deliver the firearm to a person prohibited from possessing a firearm and exposes violators to up to 20 years of imprisonment.

The Gun Trafficking Prevention Act of 2017 strengthens penalties against “straw purchasers” who intentionally provide false or misleading material information when buying guns, including the false statement that he or she is the actual buyer when, in fact, he/she is purchasing the firearm for another person. Enhanced penalties give law enforcement and prosecutors a crucial tool to induce cooperation from straw purchasers when investigating complex gun trafficking schemes.

The Gun Trafficking Prevention Act of 2017 provides additional jail time for “kingpins” of firearms trafficking networks, creating a five-year penalty enhancement for these leaders and organizers of conspiracies. The bill recommends that the Sentencing Commission amend the Sentencing Guidelines to impose enhanced penalties for multiple illegal gun purchases.

The Gun Trafficking Prevention Act of 2017 has no impact on legal gun ownership or purchases. The bill is narrowly focused on individuals who purchase or transfer firearms with the intent of providing them to others not authorized to possess them. The bill includes exceptions for gifts that would not otherwise violate the law and certain transfers at death.
The National Law Enforcement Partnership to Prevent Gun Violence urges you to defend the nation’s police officers and the general public by supporting The Gun Trafficking Prevention Act of 2017. Thank you for your support.

The National Law Enforcement Partnership to Prevent Gun Violence (the Partnership) includes nine national law enforcement organizations dedicated to serving the Nation’s more than 900,000 sworn and civilian law enforcement officers, executives, and professional staff.

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)
International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP)
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)