FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 15, 2013

STATEMENT OF BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD, CHIEF JIM JOHNSON, CHAIR, NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT PARTNERSHIP TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE, IN SUPPORT OF THE MANCHIN-TOOMEY BACKGROUND CHECK LEGISLATION

The National Law Enforcement Partnership to Prevent Gun Violence (the Partnership) supports the legislation authored by Senators Manchin and Toomey that will expand the current federal background check system to transactions at gun shows, and through the Internet and publications. The legislation also addresses the importance of improving checks by encouraging states to send all their disqualifying records to the National Instant Criminal Background Checks System (NICS).

While the Manchin-Toomey legislation does not cover all firearm purchases, we believe that requiring background checks for all firearm purchases at gun shows, and for transactions through Internet and publications, are important steps forward that will save lives.

Although it is clear Congress will not act at this time to expand the existing background check system to all sales, Partner groups fully intend to continue to fight for making our federal background check system universal so that criminals and other dangerous individuals are blocked from acquiring guns from all sources.

Over the coming days, Partner groups will continue to urge congressional support for the Manchin-Toomey background check legislation, for Senator Leahy’s legislation that addresses gun trafficking and straw purchasers, and for Senator Feinstein’s legislation banning new semiautomatic assault weapons and large capacity ammunition magazines. The Partnership will also actively oppose any attempts to weaken the Manchin-Toomey legislation or our nation’s gun laws.