

# New Yorkers Against Gun Violence

Working to Reduce Gun Violence Since 1993

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## House Appropriations Committee Voted Today to Keep Crime Gun Information from Law Enforcement Senate Committee Voted in June to Keep Restrictions on Crime Gun Data and to Imprison Police Officers Who Share Such Data

(New York, NY) Today the House Appropriations Committee once again took the side of criminals and voted to restrict law enforcement access to data on traced crime guns. These so-called "Tiahrt Amendments" remain in the ATF appropriations bill. This data, restricted since 2003 was once available and was instrumental in guiding law enforcement efforts to prevent crime guns from reaching the streets. In June, the Senate passed an even more restrictive version that imprisons police officers for five years if they share crime gun data with other law enforcement officers.

Jackie Kuhls, Executive Director, New Yorkers Against Gun Violence said, "Justifications given for these restrictions are quite simply fabrications. There was never a problem when the information was shared and there was always provision for withholding data if it jeopardized any existing criminal investigations. This is a gift to the gun lobby, and the American people pay a price in terms in thousands of gun deaths and injuries caused by illegal guns".

Congress has kept ATF staffing levels so low (2,500 agents available for policing gun dealers); and federal prosecutorial thresholds for gun dealers so high that it is extremely difficult for the ATF to address even a fraction of the problem gun dealers. A recent study of rogue gun dealers found that of the 20 gun dealers with the most guns traced to crime (an average of 500 crime guns per dealer), all but 3 were operating after a five year period of time. This gap must be filled by state and local law enforcement who have been handcuffed by trace data restrictions.

Kuhls added, "The fact is that illegal guns do not fall from the sky. We know from the days when trace data was available that just 1.2% of gun dealers are responsible for 57% of crime guns. Trace data helps us zero in on this source. The gun lobby and their friends in Congress are keeping those rogue gun dealers in business. The full Senate and House must reject these efforts to protect criminals who traffic in illegal guns".

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