NEW YORKERS AGAINST GUN VIOLENCE

Working to Reduce Gun-Related Violence Since 1993

For Immediate Release

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NYAGV CALLS FOR CONGRESS TO STOP PROTECTING GUN DEALERS AND START PROTECTING NEW YORKERS

New York, New York, New Yorkers Against Gun Violence (NYAGV), New York's leading state-wide grassroots gun violence prevention organization stands with Brooklyn community leaders and calls for Congress to take steps to halt the tide of illegal guns that turn day-to-day altercations into deadly tragedies.

Jackie Kuhls, Executive Director, New Yorkers Against Gun Violence said, “Congress has turned its back on the City of New York. The vast majority of illegal guns in New York City come from states with lax gun laws. Instead of ensuring that law enforcement has the resources necessary to apprehend and prosecute gun traffickers, lawmakers in Washington have pushed measures that withhold information from police officers; and even one that expressly allows MORE interstate trafficking. These special interest bills will have deadly consequences in New York.”

A highly efficient and continuous business practice and system exists, that moves guns from legal manufacture and sale to prohibited buyers, making them illegal guns. These illegal guns end up in the hands of criminals, youth and violent people who use them to threaten, maim and kill. The City of New York is disproportionately affected by rogue gun dealers who play a key role in this system since the vast majority of crime guns used in the City come from other states with lax gun laws. Rogue dealers operate with near impunity due to protections afforded them by a series of measures passed in Congress including limitations on the number of law enforcement visits allowed and by absurdly low funding of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms. A 2004 study by Americans for Gun Safety found that of the 120 worst gun dealers in the country, those with an average of 500 crime guns traced to them, 96 of the dealers were still in operation.

Manufacturers could stop supplying these dirty dealers, and they do not. Congress has acted only to protect the dirty dealers and gun traffickers.

Kuhls closed, “Congress must stop acting as special legal counsel for the gun industry. The lives of New Yorkers are at stake.”

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