



Office of the San Diego City Attorney

Mara W. Elliott
City Attorney

July 7, 2021

Chairman Dick Durbin
U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary
711 Hart Senate Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: S.1558 (Blumenthal): Untraceable Firearms Act of 2021 – Support

Dear Chairman Durbin:

The San Diego City Attorney's Office is pleased to support S.1558, the Untraceable Firearms Act of 2021.

The Untraceable Firearms Act of 2021 would close a dangerous loophole that allows “ghost guns” and the kits to assemble them to proliferate and move freely into the hands of those who wish to do harm to our communities.

By adding a necessary definition for a “frame or receiver,” the Untraceable Firearms Act would subject gun-making kit manufacturers, distributors, sellers, and buyers to the exact same federal laws and regulations that now govern the manufacture, distribution, sale, and purchase of completed firearms, including licensing, background checks, and serialization requirements.

Ghost guns are hand-built from a variety of components, and lack serial numbers, making them nearly impossible to trace. Gun-making kits can be purchased online without any oversight, and the parts are often created using 3D printing technology. The blueprints for making them and the downloadable code can even be found online.

These guns, and the parts used to build them, have become the weapons of choice across the nation for those involved in criminal activity. There is no reason to possess a ghost gun other than to commit crimes and evade justice.

In January, sales of firearms surged by 80 percent across the nation, compared to the previous year. The number of ghost guns on the streets is also rapidly increasing, and we’ve seen evidence of this in our region. The San Diego Police Department reported in May that now one in four firearms it recovers is an untraceable weapon, and SDPD officers have confiscated 169 percent more ghost guns this year than during a comparable time period last year.

Chairman Dick Durbin

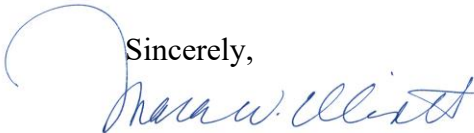
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I have made implementing an aggressive gun safety agenda a top priority of the San Diego City Attorney's Office, and have advocated for legislative change at the local, state, and federal levels. My Office worked closely with Sen. Dianne Feinstein on the Extreme Risk Protection Order Act of 2019, which encouraged states to enact "red flag" laws that remove access to firearms from individuals who pose a threat to themselves and others. My Office knows first-hand how effective these laws can be – we've used California's Gun Violence Restraining Order law to intervene in more than 500 dangerous situations to save lives.

The Untraceable Firearms Act would close loopholes in the current law that have allowed individuals to purchase and possess ghost guns, and ensure that these firearms are serialized and can be tracked.

This legislation will protect our communities from devastating acts of gun violence committed with untraceable weapons. For these reasons, my Office strongly supports the Untraceable Firearms Act of 2021 and urges its swift passage by the Senate Committee on the Judiciary.

Sincerely,

Mara W. Elliott