



October 4, 2017

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker of the House
Office of the Speaker
H-232 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
Office of the Democratic Leader
H-204 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Prosecutors' Opposition to the SHARE Act, H.R. 3668

Dear Speaker Ryan and Leader Pelosi:

We are members of Prosecutors Against Gun Violence (PAGV), a nonpartisan coalition of prosecutors from across this nation, and we write to express our strong opposition to the inclusion of legislation to remove silencer safety regulations as part of the SHARE Act. We were disappointed to see the SHARE Act, which was originally a sportsman's bill, larded up with dangerous gun provisions that would jeopardize not only the safety of the public, but also of the front-line law enforcement officers who work to keep our communities safe.

As prosecutors, we are sworn to uphold public safety in our communities. The SHARE Act would threaten that safety by, amongst other things, removing gun silencers from the National Firearms Act, which for decades has prevented felons, domestic abusers, and other people with dangerous histories from obtaining silencers. Current federal law requires all buyers of silencers to pass a background check and comply with other common-sense safety provisions. And it is because of these very safeguards – the ones that the SHARE Act seeks to do away with – that silencers are rarely used in crimes. If those important safeguards are eliminated, we are concerned that incidents of silencer crimes will increase and threaten the safety of our communities.

Silencers in the wrong hands create serious public safety risks. The loud and distinctive noise that a gun makes is one of its most important features. When people hear and locate gunfire, they are able to assess the threat, and take steps to protect their safety and the safety of those around them. In mass shootings, being able to hear and identify the gunshots can mean the difference between life and death. For law enforcement, distorting the sound of gunfire through a silencer hinders our ability to quickly respond to shootings, and jeopardizes the safety of our front-line

officers. In Southern California in 2013, for example, Christopher Dorner used silencers to murder innocent victims and ambush police officers who were pursuing him. Silencers enabled Dorner to escape and avoid apprehension by law enforcement during one of the largest manhunts in LAPD history. Additionally, silencers would nullify the usefulness of the ShotSpotter system, which detects the location of gunfire and sends that information to law enforcement. ShotSpotter has significantly enhanced our ability to collect evidence and develop stronger cases against dangerous criminals; silencers would take away this powerful tool.

Given the challenges of protecting public safety in our communities—including from horrific mass shootings like the one we experienced this week in Las Vegas—and the increased risks to law enforcement, now is exactly the wrong time for Congress to make it easy for people with dangerous histories to buy silencers. We hope you will listen to the voices of law enforcement and draft legislation that respects the interests of gun owners while ensuring the safety of those who protect and serve. The current version of the SHARE Act falls short of achieving this important balance.

We welcome the opportunity to further discuss this matter with you.

Sincerely,

Jean Peters Baker

Jackson County Prosecutor

Stanley Garnett

Boulder County District Attorney

Richard Brown

Queens County District Attorney

Eric Gonzalez

Acting Kings County District Attorney

John Choi

Ramsey County Attorney

Paul Howard

Fulton County District Attorney

Darcel Clark

Bronx County District Attorney

Jackie Lacey

Los Angeles County District Attorney

Dan Conley

Suffolk County District Attorney

Barbara LaWall

Pima County Attorney

Joyce Dudley

Santa Barbara County District Attorney

Nancy O'Malley

Alameda County District Attorney

Mara Elliot

San Diego City Attorney

Beth McCann

Denver District Attorney

Mike Feuer

Los Angeles City Attorney

Michael McMahon

Richmond County District Attorney

Kimberly Foxx

Cook County State's Attorney

Kim Ogg

Harris County District Attorney

Barbara Parker
Oakland City Attorney

Jill Ravitch
Sonoma County District Attorney

Jeff Rosen
Santa Clara County District Attorney

Katherine Fernandez Rundle
Miami-Dade State's Attorney

Dan Satterberg
King County Prosecuting Attorney

Madeline Singas
Nassau County District Attorney

Rod Underhill
Multnomah County District Attorney

Cyrus Vance
New York County District Attorney

Lynneice Washington
Jefferson County, Bessemer Cutoff District
Attorney

Amy Weirich
Shelby County District Attorney

Steven Wolfson
Clara County District Attorney

Kym Worthy
Wayne County Prosecuting Attorney