



March 5, 2008

The Honorable David R. Obey  
Chairman  
United States House of Representatives  
Committee on Appropriations  
H-218, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jerry Lewis  
Ranking Member  
United States House of Representatives  
Committee on Appropriations  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Alan B. Mollohan  
Chairman  
United States House of Representatives  
Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,  
Science and Related Agencies  
H-310, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen  
Ranking Member  
United States House of Representatives  
Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,  
Science and Related Agencies  
H-310, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

**Re: Full Funding for the NICS Improvement Amendments Act of 2007**

Dear Chairmen Obey and Mollohan and Ranking Members Lewis and Frelinghuysen:

We write in support of full funding for the NICS Improvement Amendments Act of 2007 (Public Law No. 110-180), which authorizes funds for states to update the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS).

Particularly, in the wake of the tragic events at Virginia Tech last year, it is clear we need to strengthen the integrity of our federal background check system and enforce the laws that prevent guns from falling into the hands of prohibited buyers. Unfortunately, many states today do not have the resources to effectively update and maintain criminal history and mental health records in NICS, allowing a number of prohibited gun purchasers to slip through the cracks.

The NICS Improvement Amendments Act of 2007, which was passed unanimously by the House and Senate and signed into law by President Bush on January 8, 2008, is a step in the right direction. This common sense law, if fully funded, can prevent future tragedies by simply providing states with the resources to update NICS. This law deserves the funds it requires.

As mayors, public safety is our highest priority. On behalf of the over 275 mayors who are members of the bipartisan coalition of Mayors Against Illegal Guns, representing more than 50 million Americans, we urge the Committee to appropriate full funding to implement the NICS Improvement Amendments Act of 2007.

Sincerely,

Thomas M. Menino  
Mayor of Boston

Michael R. Bloomberg  
Mayor of New York City

cc: The Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives  
The Honorable John Boehner, Republican Leader, U.S. House of Representatives  
The Honorable Carolyn McCarthy, U.S. House of Representatives  
The Honorable John Dingell, U.S. House of Representatives