

SUPPORT THE GUN DEALER LICENSING ACT

The Gun Dealer Licensing Act gives Illinois the ability to encourage better business practices among gun dealers and hold corrupt dealers accountable. It will help curb a major source of illegally trafficked firearms from entering our communities.

THE PROBLEM

- Gun dealers are the most critical link between gun manufacturers and the public. **They're also one of the largest sources of illegally trafficked firearms in the nation.¹**
- Federal law requires anyone engaged in the business of dealing firearms to have a license from ATF. However, loopholes in federal law enable dealers to engage in illegal business practices and fly under the radar. ATF lacks the necessary resources and legal authority to go after these negligent gun dealers.
- While the vast majority of gun dealers operate responsibly, a small and unscrupulous group are disproportionately responsible for guns used in crimes. **Of the 120 firearms dealers with the most crime guns between 1996 and 2000, 13 were in Illinois, the second highest concentration of any state.** Only two of those 13 dealers had been inspected during that period. Four of the dealers had at least 500 crime-gun traces, yet not a single one of those four dealers were inspected by ATF.²
- Recent research indicates that 40% of guns used in crimes in Chicago between 2009 and 2014 came from Illinois. **Most notably, nearly 17% percent of all guns used in crimes in Chicago were sold by just three of the state's more than 2,400 gun dealers.³**



THE SOLUTION

The Gun Dealer Licensing Act gives Illinois the ability to encourage better business practices among gun dealers and hold corrupt dealers accountable. It will help curb a major source of illegally trafficked firearms from entering our communities.

- **Background Checks for Licensee and Employees:** Gun store employees often have access to huge inventories of guns and it is a commonsense practice to make sure that the dealer and employees are just as responsible as the buyers.
- **Transparency and Accountability:** Upon licensure, dealers would have their places of business, including all records and inventories, open for inspection by IDFPR and law enforcement during all hours of operation.
- **Training:** The bill would require training to ensure that dealers and their employees know how to conduct background checks, identify and stop straw purchases, and properly store guns to prevent thefts.
- **Video Surveillance System & Security Requirements:** The legislation codifies industry best practices by requiring 24/7 video surveillance of the business and visible footage of the purchaser in each transaction.
- **Business Location Restrictions:** The business of a licensee and inventories cannot be within 1,000 feet of any school or daycare facility (with an exemption for densely populated areas) or in violation of any local ordinance.

15 STATES
have enacted gun dealer licensing laws to close these loopholes.⁴

Increased regulation of gun dealers to prevent straw purchases has been associated with an 84% decrease in the number of guns from those dealers used in crime.⁵

THE ILLINOIS GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION COALITION

ABJ Community Services	Gun Violence Prevention PAC (G-PAC)	Diocese of Chicago
All Saints Episcopal—Chicago	Howard Area Community Center	Peaceful Communities
Americans for Responsible Solutions	Illinois Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics	People for a Safer Society
Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children’s Hospital	Illinois Conference of Churches	Presbyterian Church USA
Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence	Illinois Council Against Handgun Violence (ICHV)	Progressive Community Church
Catholic Charities	Increase the Peace Englewood	Purpose Over Pain
Center for American Progress	Jewish Council on Urban Affairs	Quinn Chapel AME Church
Chicago Board of Rabbis	Joint Action Committee for Political Affairs (JAC PAC)	Saint Joseph Anglican—Springfield
Chicago Survivors	League of Women Voters of Illinois	Saving Chicago’s Youth
Chicagoland Brady Chapter	National Gun Victims Action Council	Seabury Western Theological Seminary
Community of Congregations	Northwest Suburbs Organizing for America	St. Felicitas Catholic Church
Community Renewal Society	Open Communities	St. Francis Xavier Parish
Countryside Unitarian Church	Organizing Catholics for Justice	St. Joseph Anglican
Emanuel Congregation	Organizing for America Chicago North Chapter	The Peace & Justice Committee of St. Edmunds
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America	Our Lady of Perpetual Help	United Church of Christ
Faith Community of St. Sabina	Parents for Peace and Justice	United Church of Rogers Park
Greater Institutional AME Church	Peace & Justice Committee Episcopal	United Methodist Church
Gun Responsibility Advocates		

NOTES

¹ Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, US Department of the Treasury, *Following the Gun: Enforcing Federal Laws Against Firearms Traffickers* ix-x (June 2000).

² Americans for Gun Safety Foundation, “Selling Crime: High Crime Gun Stores Fuel Criminals,” 2004.

³ Philip J. Cook et al., “Some Sources of Crime Guns in Chicago: Dirty Dealers, Straw Purchasers, and Traffickers,” *J. Crim. L. & Criminology* 104 (2015): 717-759.

⁴ Nathan Irvin et al., “Evaluating the Effect of State Regulation of Federally Licensed Firearm Dealers on Firearm Homicide,” *Am. J. Pub. Health* 104, no. 8 (2014): 1384-1386.

⁵ Daniel W. Webster, and Jon S. Vernick, “Spurring Responsible Firearms Sales Practices through Litigation: The Impact of New York City’s Lawsuits against Gun Dealers on Interstate Gun Trafficking,” in *Reducing Gun Violence in America: Informing Policy with Evidence and Analysis*, eds. Daniel W. Webster and Jon S. Vernick (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2013), 123.