



FOP and IACP Announce Support for the “Bipartisan Safer Communities Act”

Washington, D.C. – The Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) and the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) announced their joint support for the “Bipartisan Safer Communities Act,” which will be considered by the Senate this week.

The legislation, which is a uniquely bipartisan effort, contains additional tools and resources for our communities to address the criminal misuse of firearms and strengthens our ability to provide mental health resources and services for those that need it.

The bill provides significant resources to improve crisis intervention systems as well as funding for mental health courts, drug courts and veteran courts. The bill would also increase funding for existing Federal programs on mental health and school security.

The bill includes a provision that both of our organizations have endorsed for several years—criminalizing the act of straw purchasing and firearms trafficking. Lawfully purchasing firearms and then transferring them to violent criminals, drug dealers, and other prohibited persons is more than a “paperwork violation.” It is a serious crime, and this bill would amend Federal law to treat it as such.

The FOP and IACP also support clarifying that juvenile records can and should be provided to the National Instant Background Check System (NICS), which will allow for greater scrutiny of individuals under the age of 21 who purchase firearms.

We commend Senators Cornyn and Murphy for leading this historic effort and all of the Senators who put their shoulders to the wheel to help make our nation and our communities safer. We urge the Senate to pass the bill this week.

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