



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF CHICAGO

RICHARD M. DALEY
MAYOR

March 17, 2008

The Honorable Xavier Becerra
U.S. House of Representatives
Longworth House Office Building 1119
Washington, D.C. 20515

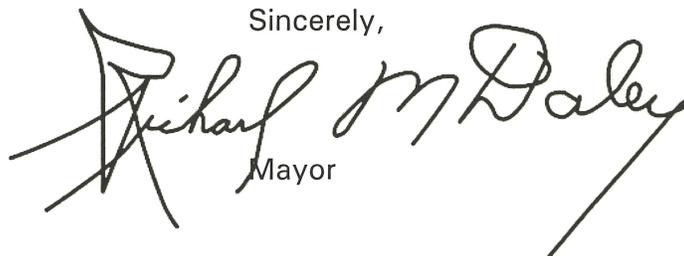
Dear Representative Becerra:

I write to you to express my support for the National Crime Gun Identification Act (S.2605/H.R. 5266), which will provide law enforcement with a new method to solve gun crimes through the use of microstamping technology. This innovative ballistic identification technology enhances the ability of law enforcement officers to trace bullets recovered at crime scenes to the semi-automatic handguns that fired them – and to the criminals themselves.

With such technology in place, law enforcement will no longer have to rely solely on accidental scratches and markings, or comparisons with other shell casings to identify guns used in criminal acts. We owe it to our police officers to provide them with innovative tools to support them in pursuing dangerous criminals.

Chicago's Police Department works to be one of the nations best at keeping guns out of the hands of criminals. With this new technology we can deter gun crimes and prosecute offenders, while protecting the rights of responsible gun owners. Microstamping technology would contribute greatly to the effectiveness of law enforcement and to the safety of communities across the country. Thank you for your leadership in working to pass this legislation.

Sincerely,


Mayor