



THE CITY OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
NEW YORK, NY 10007

February 27, 2008

The Honorable Edward M. Kennedy
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Xavier Becerra
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Ballistics Identification Technology That Helps Police Catch Gun Criminals

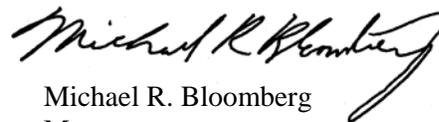
Dear Senator Kennedy and Representative Becerra:

I write to you to offer 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 crime guns. We owe it to our police officers to give them all the tools they need to go after the most dangerous criminals.

I have long said we can both deter gun crimes and prosecute offenders, while at the same time protecting the rights of responsible gun owners – if we just use common sense. Microstamping technology is a perfect example of how innovative new tools can be put to use in common sense ways. As I announced in my State of the City speech last month, the City of New York will follow the lead of California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger in supporting New York State legislation that requires new guns to incorporate microstamping technology.

New York City is far outpacing the nation in crime reduction rates and remains the safest big city in the country according to FBI statistics. We've been able to achieve these historic results by using innovative approaches in preventing and reducing crime. Microstamping technology would contribute greatly to the effectiveness of law enforcement and to the safety of communities across the country. I applaud your leadership in working to pass this important piece of legislation.

Sincerely,



Michael R. Bloomberg
Mayor

MRB;jm

cc: New York State Members of the U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Charles Schumer
The Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton
The Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Steny Hoyer, Majority Leader, U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable John Boehner, Republican Leader, U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Harry Reid, Majority Leader, United States Senate
The Honorable Mitch McConnell, Republican Leader, United States Senate