



## THE UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF MAYORS

1620 EYE STREET, NORTHWEST  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006  
TELEPHONE (202) 293-7330  
FAX (202) 293-2352  
URL: [www.usmayors.org](http://www.usmayors.org)

December 11, 2007

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

Dear Representative Becerra:

On behalf of The United States Conference of Mayors, we are writing to express our support for your National Crime Gun Identification Act of 2007. This legislation will provide law enforcement with a new tool in solving gun crimes through the use of an innovative ballistic identification technology called microstamping, which uses lasers to make precise, microscopic engravings of a gun's make, model and serial number on the firing pin and chamber.

Authorities would no longer have to rely solely on accidental scratches and markings -- or comparisons with other shell casings to identify crime guns. Specifically, semi-automatic pistols that are manufactured or imported into the United States on or after January 1, 2010, must be equipped with microstamping capabilities.

The tragedy of gun violence continues to ravage communities across the country, and too many cities are seeing a rise in their violent crime rates. As stated in our Mayors 10-Point Plan: Strong Cities, Strong Families for a Strong America, our federal government must act to make sure that criminals do not have access to illegal weapons, and that our law enforcement professionals have every tool they need to trace crime guns, solve crimes, and most importantly prevent future violence.

If you have any questions regarding our position on this matter, please contact Ed Somers with the USCM staff at (202) 861-6706 or [esomers@usmayors.org](mailto:esomers@usmayors.org).

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Douglas H. Palmer.

Douglas H. Palmer  
Mayor of Trenton  
President

Handwritten signature of Tom Cochran.

Tom Cochran  
Executive Director