



CITY OF BOSTON • MASSACHUSETTS

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
THOMAS M. MENINO

November 5, 2007

The Honorable Edward M. Kennedy
315 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Kennedy:

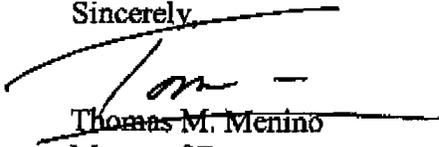
I am writing to express my support for federal legislation that would prohibit firearm dealers from manufacturing, importing or transferring certain pistols that are not capable of micro-stamping ammunition. As you may know, I have filed similar legislation with the General Court requiring micro-stamping on guns sold in Massachusetts.

The process of micro-stamping leaves an imprint on a shell case of a bullet, showing the make, model and serial number of the gun from which it was fired. This would be a powerful crime solving tool for several reasons. First, often times at a crime scene a bullet or shell casing is recovered but not the weapon. This technology would enable the police to identify the gun from which it was fired. Second, micro-stamping provides vital information to law enforcement agencies who are analyzing trafficking channels and prosecuting illegal gun dealers by reviewing information from shell casing that was previously only available from recovered guns. Third, America's illegal gun market ignores state borders therefore by federalizing this requirement it will be harder for traffickers to evade detection.

Here in Boston, we are working hard to identify every tool and resource available to use in our fight against gun violence. Micro-stamping will clearly define where illegal guns are coming from and will allow us to be more effective in our efforts to shut down illegal gun dealers and get guns out of the hands of criminals and make our streets safer.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter and for your tireless efforts in helping to ensure the safety of the citizens of Boston and the Commonwealth.

Sincerely,



Thomas M. Menino
Mayor of Boston