

ANTONIO R. VILLARAIGOSA
MAYOR

March 18, 2008

The Honorable Edward M. Kennedy
United States Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

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

Re: S. 2605/H.R. 5266

Dear Senator Kennedy and Congressman Becerra:

I write to lend my support for the National Crime Gun Identification Act (S. 2605/H.R.5266) which will strengthen the ability of law enforcement officers to solve gun crimes by using microstamping technology.

As you have indicated and we, at the local level, know all too well, nearly 40% of all homicides nationally go unsolved. And since the vast number of such killings involve the use of guns, increasing law enforcement's ability to tie these crimes to a particular weapon and, in turn, that weapon to an individual will be of great benefit both in crime prevention, as well as in identification and capture.

Your legislation does just this by linking spent bullet cartridges – often the only evidence left at a crime scene – to the gun used to commit the crime. Through microstamping, the serial number of the gun is transferred to the back of the bullet cartridge when the trigger is pulled. As such, we can deter gun crime and prosecute offenders without threatening the rights of responsible gun owners.

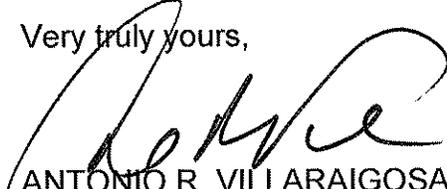
I am pleased that last October, California passed a law which calls for gun microstamping beginning in January 2010. We hope that California's action will spur increased national interest in your vital legislation.



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I salute your leadership on this issue. Please let me know if I can be of any assistance in furthering your efforts to bring this legislation into law.

Very truly yours,



ANTONIO R. VILLARAIGOSA
Mayor

ARV:jbc

cc: Los Angeles area Congressional delegation
Sen. Dianne Feinstein
Sen. Barbara Boxer
House Speaker Nancy Pelosi
House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer
House Minority Leader John Boehner
Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid
Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell