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Dear Senator:

I am writing on behalf of the American Bar Association to express our strong support for S.1807, The Gun Show Loophole Closing Act of 2003, and to urge you to support it when it reaches the Senate floor.

S.1807 would ensure that firearm sales at gun shows are subject to a criminal background check. Introduced by Senators John McCain, Jack Reed, Mike DeWine and Joe Lieberman, S.1807 will close a loophole in our gun safety laws that has been exploited by criminals, terrorists, juveniles and illegal aliens to evade the criminal background check required for firearm purchases from firearms dealers. Under current law, licensed dealers are required to run criminal background checks at gun shows, while unlicensed sellers are not. The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives has reported that gun shows are the second leading source of firearms recovered in illegal gun trafficking investigations. This common-sense measure will prevent many prohibited purchasers from buying guns at the thousands of gun shows that take place all across America every year.

We urge you to support S.1807 and to help close this dangerous loophole and make certain that law enforcement has the tools necessary to keep guns out of the hands of criminals and other prohibited purchasers. The ABA joins with a broad array of law enforcement, gun violence prevention and civic organizations in asking you to support this legislation and to urge the Senate leadership to bring S.1807 to a vote before the end of this Congressional session.

Sincerely,

Robert D. Evans