

SUPPORT SB 1657

Senator Don Harmon & Representative Kathleen Willis
THE GUN DEALER LICENSING ACT



The Gun Dealer Licensing Act gives Illinois the ability to encourage better business practices among gun dealers and hold corrupt dealers accountable. It will help curb a major source of illegally trafficked firearms from entering our communities.

THE PROBLEM

- Gun Dealers are the most critical link between gun manufacturers and the public. **They're also one of the largest sources of illegally trafficked firearms in the nation.¹**
- Federal law requires anyone engaged in the business of dealing firearms to have a license from ATF. However, loopholes in federal law enable dealers to engage in illegal business practices and fly under the radar. ATF lacks the necessary resources and legal authority to go after these negligent gun dealers.
- While the vast majority of gun dealers operate responsibly, a few bad apple gun dealers are disproportionately responsible for guns used in crimes. **Of the 120 firearms dealers with the most crime guns between 1996 and 2000, 13 were in Illinois, the second highest concentration of any state.** Only two of those 13 dealers had been inspected during that period. Four of the dealers had at least 500 crime-gun traces, yet not a single one of those four were inspected by ATF.²
- Recent research indicates that 40% of guns used in crimes between 2009 and 2014 came from Illinois.

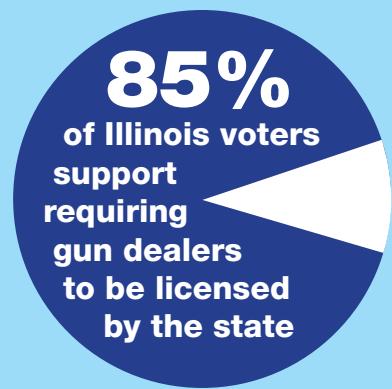
THE SOLUTION

The Gun Dealer Licensing Act gives Illinois the ability to encourage better business practices and hold corrupt dealers accountable. It will help curb a major source of illegally trafficked firearms from entering our communities by enforcing:

- **Background Checks for Licensees & Employees:** Gun store employees often have access to huge inventories of guns and it is a common sense practice to require that dealers and their employees are as responsible as the buyers.
- **Transparency and Accountability:** Upon licensure, dealers would have their places of business open for inspection by the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation (IDFPR) and law enforcement during hours of operation.
- **Training:** The legislation would require training to ensure that dealers and their employees know how to conduct background checks, identify and stop straw purchases, and properly store guns to prevent thefts.
- **Security Requirements to Protect Our Communities:** The bill codifies industrywide best practices by requiring video security for brick and mortar locations and requiring that a copy of every purchaser's FOID or ID card be kept on record.
- **Safe Business Location Requirements:** The law would prevent the business of any new licensee from being within 1000 feet of any school or being in violation of any local ordinance.

Have other states
or jurisdictions
enacted similar
legislation ?

YES! 26 states
have enacted some sort
of dealer regulation to
fill gaps in federal
firearms laws.



**Increased
regulation of dealers
to prevent straw
purchases has been
associated with an
84% decrease
in the number of guns
from those dealers
used in crimes.³**



ILLINOIS GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION COALITION

MEMBERS

ABJ Community Services
Action for a Better Tomorrow - Northern Suburbs
AIDS Foundation of Chicago
All Saints Episcopal Church-Chicago
Alls Saints Episcopal Church - Western Springs
Am Yisrael, Northfield
Americans for Responsible Solutions
Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago
Annunciation of Our Lady Episcopal Church - Lake Villa
Berkeley - Hillside Presbyterian Church
Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence
Catholic Charities, Rev. Msgr. Michael M. Boland, Pres. & CEO
Center for American Progress
Chicago Area Peace Action
Chicago Board of Rabbis
Chicago Parks Foundation
Chicago Survivors
Chicago Women Take Action
Chicagoland Brady Chapter
Christ Episcopal Church - Winnetka
Church of the Holy Spirit (Episcopal) - Lake Forest
Community of Congregations
Community Presbyterian Church - Clarendon Hills
Community Presbyterian Church - Broadview
Community Renewal Society
Compassionate Care Network
Council of Religious Leaders of Greater Metropolitan Church
Countryside Unitarian Church
Elgin Cooperative Ministry
Emanuel Congregation - Chicago, Rabbi Michael Zedek
Emanuel Lutheran, Rockford
Episcopal Diocese of Chicago, Jeffrey D. Lee, Bishop of Chicago
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Metropolitan Chicago Synod, Bishop Wayne N. Miller
Faith Community of St. Sabina
Faith Lutheran Church - Glen Ellyn
First Presbyterian Church - Deerfield
First Presbyterian Church - Homewood
First Presbyterian Church - LaGrange
First United Church of Oak Park
First United Methodist Church
Flossmoor Community Church
Fourth Presbyterian Church - Chicago
G-PAC
Generation Progress
Good Shepard Presbyterian Church - Chicago
Grace Seeds Ministry
Greater Institutional AME Church
Gun Responsibility Advocates
Gun Violence Prevention Action Committee
Gun Violence Prevention Task Force @ First United Methodist Church at Chicago Temple
Hustle Mommies
Illinois Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
Illinois Conference of Churches
Illinois Council Against Handgun Violence
Illinois Tenth Congressional Democrats
Illinois Justice Project
Increase the Peace Englewood
Ivanhoe Congregational Church, UCC - Mundelein
Jewish Council on Urban Affairs
Jewish United Fund of Metropolitan Chicago
Joint Action Committee for Political Affairs (JAC PAC)
Kenilworth Union Presbyterian Church
Kids Off the Block
Lake Forest Friends Meeting
Lake Street Church of Evanston
League of Women Voters of Illinois
Live Free Chicago
Mennonite Central Committee
Moms Rising
National Council of Jewish Women Chicago North Shore
National Gun Victims Action Council
National Youth Advocate Program
National Youth Art Program
Northwest Suburbs Organizing for Action
Open Communities
Or Tikvah, Grayslake
Organizing Catholics for Justice
Organizing for Action Chicago North Chapter
Our Lady of Perpetual Help
Parents for Peace and Justice
Peace & Justice Committee Episcopal Diocese of Chicago
Peace & Justice Committee - St. Giles, Oak Park
Peace & Justice Committee of St. Edmund Catholic Church - Oak Park
Peaceful Communities
People for a Safer Society
Planned Parenthood
Presbyterian Church of Barrington
Presbytery of Chicago
Prince of Peace Lutheran Church - Woodbridge
Progressive Community Church - Chicago
Pullman Presbyterian Church - Chicago
Purpose Over Pain
Quinn Chapel AME Church - Chicago
Seabury Western Theological Seminary
Second Unitarian Church of Chicago
St. Augustine's Episcopal Church - Wilmette
St. Felicitas Catholic Church - Chicago
St. Francis Xavier Parish
St. James Cathedral Episcopal Church Chicago
St. James the Less Episcopal Church - Northfield
St. John Anglican
St. Joseph Anglican Church - Springfield
St. Luke Presbyterian Church - Downers Grove
St. Mark's Episcopal Church - Barrington Hills
St. Nicholas Catholic Church - Evanston
St. Titus One Youth Anti-Violence & Mentoring Program
St. Vincent De Paul Presbyterian Church - Chicago
Southminster Presbyterian Church - Glen Ellyn
Strengthening Chicago's Youth
Switch Lanes
Temple Beth Israel - Skokie
The Black Star Project
UCAN
United Church of Christ
United Church of Rogers Park
United Methodist Church
Women Enuff, Inc.
Xperience Church of Englewood

¹Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, US Department of Treasury, *Following the Gun: Enforcing Federal Laws Against Firearms Traffickers* ix-x (June 2000).

²Americans for Gun Safety Foundation, "Selling Crime: High Crime Gun Stores Fuel Criminals," 2004.

³Daniel Webster and Jon S. Vernick, "Spurring Responsible Firearms Sales and Practices through Litigation: The Impact of New York City's Lawsuits against Gun Dealers on Interstate Trafficking," in *Reducing Gun Violence in America: Informing Policy with Evidence and Analysis*, eds. Daniel W. Webster and Jon S. Vernick (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2013), 123.