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November XX, 2003

Dear Senator:

The undersigned organizations, representing a broad array of law enforcement, gun violence prevention, public health, faith-based, education, child advocacy, civil rights, and victim's rights organizations, support S.1807, The Gun Show Loophole Closing Act of 2003.

S. 1807 ensures 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 prevent criminals, juveniles, and other prohibited purchasers from buying firearms at gun shows. Under current federal law, licensed dealers are required to run criminal background checks at gun shows, while unlicensed dealers 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 prohibited purchasers from buying guns at the thousands of gun shows that take place all across America every year.

Please 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. We ask that you support S 1807, and urge the Senate leadership to bring S. 1807 to a vote before the end of this Congressional session.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

American Ethical Union
American Academy of Suicidology
The American Jewish Committee
American Public Health Association
Americans for Gun Safety
Brethren Witness/Washington Office
Campaign for a Progressive Future
Coalition to Stop Gun Violence
Committee for the Silent March: Americans Against Gun Violence
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America
HELP Network
League of Women Voters of the U.S.
Loretto Community
National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)
National Association of School Psychologists
National Council of Jewish Women
National Education Association
Physicians for a Violence-free Society
Presbyterian Church (USA) Washington Office
Society for Public Health Education (SOPHE)