



**International Association of  
Chiefs of Police**

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September 9, 2010

The Honorable Steve King  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative King:

On behalf of the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), I am writing you to express our strong opposition to H.R. 2296, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives Reform and Firearms Modernization Act.

This legislation would replace the Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms Bureau's (ATF) revocation powers with minimal fines and temporary license suspensions that the agency could impose only if it proved that a dealer deliberately intended to violate federal law, a very high standard. Any other violation in which it could not prove that the licensee specifically intended to break the law would be considered "non-serious." For example, this includes violations in which dealers fail to maintain records for hundreds or thousands of firearm sales. Currently, the ATF can revoke licenses for such an offense, but under the bill, they would be deemed non-serious.

This legislation will make it extremely difficult for ATF to sanction dealers who fail to keep proper records of their firearms. If dealers are not required to properly maintain records, it will make it harder for law enforcement to determine if firearms are missing or if the dealer is deliberately failing to keep proper records of firearms transactions.

This legislation would severely limit the ability of ATF to revoke the licenses of gun dealers who violate federal law. As a result, the IACP believes this legislation will significantly impede criminal investigations and diminish the ability of law enforcement to protect their communities from the crime and violence associated with the illegal use of firearms.

Should you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact our Legislative Affairs office, 703-836-7226 or [WardM@theiacp.org](mailto:WardM@theiacp.org).

Sincerely,

*Michael J. Carroll*

Michael J. Carroll  
President

CC Rep. Bobby Scott