

Brady Campaign



To Prevent Gun Violence

SENSIBLE GUN LAWS SAVE LIVES

November 14, 2007

The Honorable Sen. Edward M. Kennedy
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator Kennedy:

The Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence, the nation's largest, non-partisan, grassroots organization dedicated to an America free from gun violence, strongly supports your legislation to require that semiautomatic handguns be capable of microstamping ammunition. This legislation would help law enforcement solve firearm crimes and we hope that it will soon be enacted into law.

For many years, law enforcement has used ballistic identification technology to help apprehend and prosecute firearm criminals. In 2002, this technology was instrumental in helping to solve the Washington, D.C. sniper shootings. In that case, the police relied on the unique microscopic markings on the bullets to determine that they had been fired by the same gun.

Microstamping takes ballistic identification technology to another level of reliability and effectiveness. Instead of relying on the random markings made on ammunition by current firing mechanisms, microstamping gives law enforcement more precise and systematic information. With microstamping technology, internal surfaces in the gun etch tiny characters on every fired bullet casing so that officers can identify the make, model and serial number of the gun. When police recover a microstamped bullet casing at a crime scene, they can use it to identify the specific gun that fired it. This will enable police to trace the sales history of the gun without having the gun itself, yielding valuable and immediate crime-solving leads.

Your legislation will help bring gun criminals to justice and save lives. The Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence looks forward to working with you to enact it into law.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Paul'.

Paul Helmke
President