



THE LEAHY-PASCRELL CRIME GUN TRACING MODERNIZATION ACT: BRINGING LAW ENFORCEMENT CRIME GUN TRACING INTO THE 21ST CENTURY

THE REALITY OF CRIME GUN TRACING TODAY:

- Americans would be shocked to know that the ATF is prohibited *by law* from electronically searching through millions of gun sales records when tracing firearms *used in crimes* across the country.
- As a result of this prohibition, **the ATF is essentially stuck in the 20th century when it comes to investigating and tracing crime guns.**
- Millions of these records are stored on paper, with **thousands of boxes housed in the hallways and in shipping containers in the parking lot** of the National Tracing Center in Martinsburg, West Virginia.



- Every spare square foot of the National Tracing Center is loaded with boxes of records. The ATF has been told **if it places more boxes inside the facility the floor may collapse.**

THE REALITY OF CRIME GUN TRACING TODAY (CONTINUED):

- **With each crime gun, the ATF is forced to manually re-create the chain of custody from the point of manufacturing to the hands of the criminal**, ultimately contacting individual dealers or searching through millions of paper or non-searchable electronic files.
- The National Tracing Center **processed nearly 70 million paper records in 2020, many of which are in terrible condition**. Some have been damaged by floods and fires.



- This laborious process drains resources and threatens serious delays in criminal investigations by federal, state, and local law enforcement authorities—all of whom depend upon the ATF to trace crime guns.
- The ATF receives around 1,700 trace requests each day and is on track to receive **over 550,000 trace requests in FY21—the most requests ever**. The ATF should not be forced to manually search through paper records for each of these crime gun trace requests.

THE LEAHY-PASCRELL CRIME GUN TRACING MODERNIZATION ACT WOULD:

- **Enable the ATF to electronically search sales records already in its possession.**
 - It would *not expand the universe of records the ATF is able to access*.
 - It would only allow searches *for the limited purposes of criminal and national security investigations*.
- **Empower licensed firearms dealers to voluntarily provide the ATF with electronic access to sales records for these limited purposes**, so dealers could choose to not be burdened with maintaining physical possession of all their sales records and manually responding to every ATF crime gun trace request.
- **Strictly prohibit the ATF from electronically searching such records for personally identifiable information**, and only allow searches for firearms identifiable information.

SUPPORT FOR THE CRIME GUN TRACING MODERNIZATION ACT:

- The bill is endorsed by numerous law enforcement groups including the Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCCA), Major County Sheriffs Association (MCSA), the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association (FLEOA), and the Association of Prosecuting Attorneys (APA).