



May 6, 2024

TO: Members of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives

RE: Vote Yes on HB 335 (Greater Enforcement in Banning Machine Gun Conversion Devices) and HB 2206 (Enhancing the Ability to Trace Crime Guns)

Dear Representative,

We strongly urge you to vote **YES** on **HB 335** and **HB 2206** to help prevent violent crimes that endanger Pennsylvanians lives. **The first measure** would enable state and local law enforcement agencies to prosecute individuals for possession of machine gun conversion devices, simple pieces that turn handguns and long guns into automatic fire weapons. **The second measure** would give law enforcement time-sensitive information about potential firearm trafficking rings by moving most of them to an electronic system reducing the administrative backlog for Pennsylvania State Police (PSP) officials.

No Machine Gun Converters

Machine Gun Conversion Devices (MCDs) or "switches" are about the size of a nickel and fit right into a handgun to allow the weapon to fire off an entire magazine in a single pull of the trigger at the staggering rate of 1,200 rounds per minute. They were used at a shooting in [Kennywood last year](#) and a shooting at a [Philadelphia bus stop](#). In other states, they've been used to kill police officers in Mississippi and Texas.

MCDs are becoming increasingly popular for three primary reasons:

- ❖ They enable criminals to carry compact weapons with a greater capacity for carnage
- ❖ They can be made on 3-D printers.
- ❖ They can be readily purchased online from China and Russia.
- ❖ They cost as little as \$20.00 to purchase.

According to the ATF, the number of guns with switches seized has increased more than five times for a total of 31,000 recovered switches in the last five years, including within our commonwealth. **HB 335**, if enacted into law, would enable law enforcement to be better positioned to enforce the current federal ban that exists for these devices. It should also be noted that red states like Indiana and Louisiana have recently adopted such legislation, which should signal that this is an issue that transcends political partisanship.

Prevent Firearm Trafficking

HB 2206 moves Pennsylvania into the 21st Century by requiring most licensed gun dealers to use the electronic records of sale system to transmit information to the Pennsylvania State Police (PSP) in an expedited manner. This will enable law enforcement to identify gun traffickers, rather than waiting months for paper records to be inputted manually. And once those traffickers are stopped, it means fewer crime guns hurting Pennsylvanians.

In addition, this legislation would significantly reduce PSPs existing administrative backlog so that the agency can make a more efficient use of its resources. It is this backlog that prolongs investigations relating to where crime guns are sourced (Especially when it comes to straw purchases). More specifically, if a legally purchased gun is used in a crime shortly after it is purchased, the data from the paper version of the record of sale/transfer may not be input into the system and shared with the proper law enforcement agencies until months after the crime-gun was used/recovered. As of this writing, less than half of firearm dealers are transmitting electronic records of firearm sales/transfers, which creates a landscape that fuels proliferation of crime guns across our commonwealth.

In addition, it should also be noted that **HB 2206** was drafted in consultation with officials from PSP.

It is for the above reasons that we urge you to make Pennsylvania a safer place to both live and thrive by voting **YES** on **HB 335 and HB 2206** when these measures are brought up for a full floor vote in the House chamber.

Should you have any questions about this or other gun violence prevention policies, please reach out to me at (267) 515-1220/adam.garber@ceasefirepa.org or Deputy Director for Government Affairs, Brandon Flood, at brandon@ceasefirepa.org or 717-623-2432.

Sincerely,
Adam Garber, Executive Director
CeaseFirePA Action