

Federal Bureau of Investigation
Agents Association

June 22, 2016

The Honorable Barbara A. Mikulski
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
United States Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
152 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Amendment to H.R. 2578

Dear Senators Mikulski and Leahy:

On behalf of the FBI Agents Association ("FBIAA"), a voluntary professional association representing over 13,000 active duty and retired FBI Special Agents, I write to express our support for your proposed amendment, numbered 4848, to H.R. 2578. The FBIAA supports your amendment because it would provide resources that would aid in the FBI's counterterrorism efforts, and create necessary penalties for individuals who knowingly traffic in weapons connected to violent crimes, terrorism, or drug trafficking.

Your amendment is consistent with the fact that FBI Special Agents are on the front line of our country's battle against terrorists at home and abroad, and combatting these threats will require additional resources. Additionally, the FBIAA is pleased to see that your amendment calls attention to the need to dedicate additional resources to counter domestic terrorism. Given the growing threat posed by "lone wolves" and other domestic terrorists, Congress should ensure that the FBI has the equipment, personnel, and training needed to respond to these terrorists.

Post Office Box 320215 • Alexandria, Virginia 22320

A Non-Governmental Association

(703) 247-2173 Fax (703) 247-2175

E-mail: fbiaa@fbiaa.org

www.fbiaa.org

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The FBIAA also supports the language in your amendment that expands the penalties applicable to individuals who traffic in firearms with reason to know that the firearms will be used to commit acts of terrorism, violence, or drug trafficking. This provision will provide a useful tool to help investigators and prosecutors stop those who enable terrorists and criminals. The FBIAA hopes that Congress will take additional action to make these penalties directly applicable to acts of domestic terrorism, and create specific additional penalties for domestic terrorism.

We appreciate your introduction of this amendment and hope that Congress will include it in H.R. 2578.

If you have any questions, please contact me at rtariche@fbiaa.org or 703-247-2173, or FBIAA General Counsel Dee Martin, dee.martin@bracewellllaw.com, and Joshua Zive, joshua.zive@bracewellllaw.com.

Sincerely,



Reynaldo Tariche
President

Post Office Box 320215 • Alexandria, Virginia 22320

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