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TTY USERS CALL VIA MD RELAY

February 4, 2013

The Hon. Elijah Cummings
US House of Reps.
2235 RHOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Hon. Edward Scott Rigell
US House of Reps.
418 CHOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Hon. Carolyn Maloney
US House of Reps.
2308 RHOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Hon. Patrick Meehan
US House of Reps.
204 CHOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Members:

I write in strong support of the Gun Trafficking Prevention Act of 2013, which will help save lives by keeping guns out of the hands of convicted criminals and other prohibited persons. There is no more important responsibility that any government has than protecting the public safety of its citizens. I urge Congress to pass this common-sense legislation as soon as possible because it will give critical tools to law enforcement officials to help them combat gun trafficking, a major catalyst of crime and violence in our nation.

I am also pleased and proud that a native son of Maryland, Representative Cummings, is a principal co-sponsor of this important legislation. Rep. Cummings is uniquely poised to be a leading voice on this issue. Even as we have worked hard to drive down incidents of violent crime in Maryland to their lowest levels in more than 30 years, there are still parts of our state that struggle every day with the pernicious effects of gun violence. Rep. Cummings knows full well of the carnage that results when straw purchasers divert guns from legitimate commerce into the criminal marketplace.

We, as a nation, need a comprehensive approach to the epidemic of gun violence. President Obama and Vice President Biden have been clear that they expect Congress to take up common-sense proposals that will address gun violence. Efforts at the state level in Maryland and elsewhere to address this issue will be enhanced by proposals, like this, for action at the federal level. Federal gun trafficking legislation needs to be included as a part of any comprehensive effort to address gun violence.

Thank you for this important effort.

Sincerely,

Governor