

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**GOVERNOR PRITZKER SIGNS LAW TO COMBAT ILLEGAL GUN TRAFFICKING IN ILLINOIS**

*Newly inaugurated Governor JB Pritzker signs Senate Bill 337 as one of his first official acts in office*

**CHICAGO, IL** - Today Governor JB Pritzker signed SB 337, the Combating Illegal Gun Trafficking Act, as one of his first official acts in office. With that signature, families of victims killed by illegally obtained guns can find peace of mind knowing that lives will be saved by SB 337 becoming the law of the land in Illinois.

The bill gives state authorities and law enforcement the tools to require better business practices among federally licensed gun dealers and hold corrupt dealers accountable in the state to keep guns away from criminals. The signing comes after Governor Rauner recently vetoed a similar bill even after lawmakers and the overwhelming majority of residents across the state called for him to approve it.

“We are thrilled that Governor Pritzker fulfilled his promise to protect children and families in Illinois from gun violence by signing SB 337 into law,” said Kathleen Sances, President and CEO of the Illinois Gun Violence Prevention PAC (G-PAC). “Members of the Illinois Gun Violence Prevention Coalition, especially the parents who have found the strength to turn their unimaginable grief into action, worked tirelessly to fight for its passage. We are grateful to our legislators, notably our bill sponsors Sen. Don Harmon and State Representative Kathleen Willis, who came together in support of this effort. Our streets, communities and families will be safer now that SB 377 is now the law of the land.”

In 2015, as a result of the increasing number of people being killed by gun violence, G-PAC and Giffords joined forces with a broad, statewide, bi-partisan coalition of organizations, advocates and elected officials around a common goal: to help rid Illinois of hundreds of illegal guns that each year end up on our streets and in the hands of those looking to do harm.

G-PAC and the Coalition were responsible for the Our One Job campaign: a historic strategic and targeted social media campaign developed to educate the public about gun violence in Illinois. The campaign reached 4.1 million people and engaged over 62,000 individuals. It was responsible for tens of thousands of contacts -- phone calls, emails, petition signatures, social media shares and in-person visits to lawmakers. It

was the first time that gun violence prevention contacts outnumbered contacts from gun lobby groups into lawmaker offices.

From 2013 to 2016, 40 percent of guns used in crimes in Chicago came from negligent gun dealers within Illinois, according to the 2017 Gun Trace Report. The new measure will require the Illinois State Police to certify dealers and enacts provisions to better record and track private sales. Several key provisions are:

- Requiring criminal background checks for gun dealer employees
- Training and education for gun dealer employees so our criminal background check system can work better
- Giving Law enforcement the authority to inspect inventories, ensuring gun dealers are held accountable for missing firearms
- Increasing security and public safety by requiring video surveillance for brick and mortar, gun dealer locations