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## ***NEWS RELEASE –***

October 5, 2017

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### **DENVER DA BETH MCCANN JOINS FELLOW PROSECUTORS IN OPPOSING LEGISLATION STRIKING REGULATIONS ON GUN SILENCERS**

#### *Current Version of SHARE Act Would Eliminate Safeguards Barring Violent Offenders from Obtaining Silencers*

Denver District Attorney Beth McCann joined fellow members of Prosecutors Against Gun Violence (PAGV) in a letter to congressional leadership in opposition to provisions in the Sportsmen’s Heritage and Recreational Enhancement Act (“SHARE”) Act which would remove existing gun silencer safety regulations from federal law. The full letter is attached.

“There is no rational reason to eliminate the regulation of gun silencers from federal law,” DA McCann said. “The proposal does nothing to preserve and promote the public safety, and is simply a political payoff.”

The SHARE Act would jeopardize not only the safety of the public, but also the safety of the front-line law enforcement officers who work to keep communities safe. The loud and distinctive noise that a gunshot makes allows those who hear gunfire to assess the threat and take steps to protect themselves and those around them. Moreover, current federal law requires all buyers of silencers to pass a background check and comply with other common-sense safety provisions. Thanks to these successful regulations, silencers have been rarely used in connection with criminal activity.

Founded by Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus R. Vance, Jr., and Los Angeles City Attorney Mike Feuer in 2014, PAGV is a nonpartisan coalition of leading prosecutors, from every region of the United States, committed to advancing prosecutorial and policy solutions to the national public health and safety crisis of gun violence.



October 4, 2017

The Honorable Paul Ryan  
Speaker of the House  
Office of the Speaker  
H-232 The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Minority Leader  
Office of the Democratic Leader  
H-204 The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Prosecutors' Opposition to the SHARE Act, H.R. 3668

Dear Speaker Ryan and Leader Pelosi:

We are members of Prosecutors Against Gun Violence (PAGV), a nonpartisan coalition of prosecutors from across this nation, and we write to express our strong opposition to the inclusion of legislation to remove silencer safety regulations as part of the SHARE Act. We were disappointed to see the SHARE Act, which was originally a sportsman's bill, larded up with dangerous gun provisions that would jeopardize not only the safety of the public, but also of the front-line law enforcement officers who work to keep our communities safe.

As prosecutors, we are sworn to uphold public safety in our communities. The SHARE Act would threaten that safety by, amongst other things, removing gun silencers from the National Firearms Act, which for decades has prevented felons, domestic abusers, and other people with dangerous histories from obtaining silencers. Current federal law requires all buyers of silencers to pass a background check and comply with other common-sense safety provisions. And it is because of these very safeguards – the ones that the SHARE Act seeks to do away with – that silencers are rarely used in crimes. If those important safeguards are eliminated, we are concerned that incidents of silencer crimes will increase and threaten the safety of our communities.

Silencers in the wrong hands create serious public safety risks. The loud and distinctive noise that a gun makes is one of its most important features. When people hear and locate gunfire, they are able to assess the threat, and take steps to protect their safety and the safety of those around them. In mass shootings, being able to hear and identify the gunshots can mean the difference between life and death. For law enforcement, distorting the sound of gunfire through a silencer hinders our ability to quickly respond to shootings, and jeopardizes the safety of our front-line

officers. In Southern California in 2013, for example, Christopher Dorner used silencers to murder innocent victims and ambush police officers who were pursuing him. Silencers enabled Dorner to escape and avoid apprehension by law enforcement during one of the largest manhunts in LAPD history. Additionally, silencers would nullify the usefulness of the ShotSpotter system, which detects the location of gunfire and sends that information to law enforcement. ShotSpotter has significantly enhanced our ability to collect evidence and develop stronger cases against dangerous criminals; silencers would take away this powerful tool.

Given the challenges of protecting public safety in our communities—including from horrific mass shootings like the one we experienced this week in Las Vegas—and the increased risks to law enforcement, now is exactly the wrong time for Congress to make it easy for people with dangerous histories to buy silencers. We hope you will listen to the voices of law enforcement and draft legislation that respects the interests of gun owners while ensuring the safety of those who protect and serve. The current version of the SHARE Act falls short of achieving this important balance.

We welcome the opportunity to further discuss this matter with you.

Sincerely,

**Jean Peters Baker**

Jackson County Prosecutor

**Stanley Garnett**

Boulder County District Attorney

**Richard Brown**

Queens County District Attorney

**Eric Gonzalez**

Acting Kings County District Attorney

**John Choi**

Ramsey County Attorney

**Paul Howard**

Fulton County District Attorney

**Darcel Clark**

Bronx County District Attorney

**Jackie Lacey**

Los Angeles County District Attorney

**Dan Conley**

Suffolk County District Attorney

**Barbara LaWall**

Pima County Attorney

**Joyce Dudley**

Santa Barbara County District Attorney

**Nancy O'Malley**

Alameda County District Attorney

**Mara Elliot**

San Diego City Attorney

**Beth McCann**

Denver District Attorney

**Mike Feuer**

Los Angeles City Attorney

**Michael McMahon**

Richmond County District Attorney

**Kimberly Foxx**

Cook County State's Attorney

**Kim Ogg**

Harris County District Attorney

**Barbara Parker**

Oakland City Attorney

**Jill Ravitch**

Sonoma County District Attorney

**Jeff Rosen**

Santa Clara County District Attorney

**Katherine Fernandez Rundle**

Miami-Dade State's Attorney

**Dan Satterberg**

King County Prosecuting Attorney

**Madeline Singas**

Nassau County District Attorney

**Rod Underhill**

Multnomah County District Attorney

**Cyrus Vance**

New York County District Attorney

**Lynneice Washington**

Jefferson County, Bessemer Cutoff District Attorney

**Amy Weirich**

Shelby County District Attorney

**Steven Wolfson**

Clara County District Attorney

**Kym Worthy**

Wayne County Prosecuting Attorney