

New Clinton Administration Firearms Initiatives

March 5, 1996

Announcement:

Today, President Clinton announced 3 measures that he is taking to protect our children, neighbors, and law enforcement from gun violence and accidents:

- 1) Issued a Directive to all Federal Agencies and Departments requiring child safety locks and proper instructions with every handgun issued to a law enforcement agent;
- 2) Instituted important changes to Federal firearms law requiring greater proof of residency before purchasing a firearm; and
- 3) Announced that he would send to Congress legislation banning "Cop Killer" bullets.

Child Safety Locks

- The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) estimate that nearly 1.2 million unsupervised children have access to loaded and unlocked firearms in their homes. A child safety lock is a trigger lock or other safety device designed to prevent the unauthorized use of a firearm. The President's Anti-Gang Bill would expand the use of child safety locks by requiring all Federal Firearms Dealers to provide a child safety lock device with every handgun they sell. Today's Directive would take the first step in that direction by making this a universally-adopted safety policy for all Federal law enforcement agents.

Tighter Regulations on Gun Sales

As a result of the recent Empire State Building tragedy, President Clinton directed Treasury Secretary Rubin report back on whether and how to restrict gun access to foreign visitors and, more broadly, to tighten up residency requirements. Rubin's recommendations are:

- 1) Amend the form all gun purchasers must complete by requiring purchasers to attest that they are, in fact, residents of the state in which they are purchasing the firearm. Aliens would have to meet the 90 day residency requirement currently stipulated in the regulations.
- 2) Amend the regulations governing the establishment of residency to require all gun purchasers to prove residency through a photo identification and the use of substantiating documentation (e.g. utility bills). To reflect current law, aliens would also have to establish 90 days of residency.

President Clinton also announced his support for the Kennedy-Durbin/Schumer Bill, which would prohibit foreign visitors to the United States from buying or carrying firearms.

Cop Killer Bullets

- President Clinton's legislation directs the Secretary of Treasury to promulgate regulations that will prohibit the manufacture, importation, and distribution of handgun ammunition that can pierce standard bullet-proof vests.