

10/23/06

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DISTRICT ATTORNEYS ASSOCIATION OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

October 18, 2006

The Honorable George E. Pataki  
Governor, New York State  
Executive Chamber  
Albany, New York

Re: S8467/A12042

Dear Governor Pataki:

I write on behalf of the District Attorneys of New York State to urge you to act quickly to sign the above-referenced bill into law.

This important legislation would raise possession of a loaded firearm outside the home or place of business from the class D violent felony of Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the Third Degree to the C violent felony of Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the Second Degree. Combined with the legislation that you signed at the end of last year, this bill gives prosecutors strong and effective tools to combat the serious problem of illegal guns in New York. As police and prosecutors put these new laws to good use, we hope to create an environment where criminals will find it much more difficult to obtain guns and much riskier to carry them. These laws will help reduce gun violence and better protect all New Yorkers.

The effective date of this vital legislation is November 1. If the bill is not signed into law by that date, it will not take effect until November 1, 2007. This delay would prevent us from utilizing the benefits of its provisions for an entire year. In our view, the protections afforded by this legislation should not be delayed. While we recognize that there are some technical corrections that need to be made, these can be accomplished by chapter amendments after the bill is signed.

We urge you to take immediate action to sign this bill so that it will take effect on November 1, 2006.

Respectfully,

*Michael E. Bongiorno*

Michael E. Bongiorno  
President

1 SOUTH MAIN STREET, 5TH FLOOR  
NEW CITY, NY 10956  
TEL: (845) 638-5012 FAX: (845) 638-5057