

Do Not Stand Idly By

Take Action • Change the Gun Industry • Save Lives

www.donotstandidlyby.com

A Campaign of
**Metro
IAF**

DNSIB FAQ *November 2014*

Why did Metro IAF initiate this campaign?

The manufacturers of firearms have the power to help make Americans safer and reduce the number of deaths and injuries from shootings in America. But gun manufacturers have been coddled by Congress, protected by “grass roots” organizations they fund, and insulated from any real accountability and scrutiny. Through citizens’ action across the nation, we hope to engage the manufacturers in a productive conversation about how they can make a difference.

What can gun manufacturers do?

Since launching this effort in the spring of 2013, Metro IAF has done intensive research on this question. We’ve met with more than 100 law enforcement officials, public officials, gun policy experts, gun owners, and developers of gun safety technologies. We’ve identified three main areas where manufacturers can make practical, life-saving changes: 1) They can set standards for the dealers they do business with, in order to limit the flow of guns to criminals and other dangerous individuals. 2) They can develop gun safety technologies and bring them to market – particularly personalized guns, which can only be fired by authorized users. 3) They can cooperate fully with law enforcement in efforts to trace firearms used in crimes.

How can we move gun manufacturers to act?

Through the market power of the public sector. Law enforcement agencies buy 15% of the guns and ammunition sold in America; the military buys 25%. Combined, the public sector buys 40%. By using this taxpayer-funded purchasing power, we can get gun manufacturers to respond to the growing demand for safer technologies and more responsible practices in their industry.

What are we asking of public officials?

Metro IAF is working with mayors, police chiefs, sheriffs, governors and other public officials to form a Gun Buyers’ Research Group, which will initiate discussions with the gun manufacturers. The first step in this process is a Request for Information (RFI) from manufacturers to be submitted by officials this fall. The RFI will seek specific information on companies’ distribution practices, safety technologies, and cooperation with law enforcement. Manufacturers’ responses will help guide future purchasing decisions.

How are officials responding?

To date, officials from 57 jurisdictions in 13 states have signed on, representing more than 22 million Americans. These officials include Governors Patrick Quinn of Illinois and Dannel Malloy of Connecticut; the sheriffs of two major urban counties, Cook County, Illinois and Cuyahoga County, Ohio; and mayors or other top officials in Columbus, Cleveland, Atlanta, Pittsburgh, Sacramento, Oakland, Jersey City, Hartford and other municipalities small and large. Participating officials are urban and suburban, Democratic and Republican. The U.S. Conference of Mayors is supporting *Do Not Stand Idly By* by asking mayors across the nation to sign on.

What contact has Metro IAF had with gun manufacturers regarding dealer standards and stopping the flow of illegal guns?

Because three of the largest providers of guns to the U.S. public sector are based in Europe, leaders of Metro IAF have traveled to Europe twice seeking meetings with top gun company executives. After getting no responses, Metro IAF leaders rented a booth at Europe's largest gun show – in Nuremberg, Germany in March – and were able to have face-to-face discussions with top executives of Glock and SIG Sauer. Regarding the dealers they do business with, both the CEO of SIG Sauer and the CFO of Glock take the same position: Setting standards for gun dealers is the job of government – not the gun industry.

What discussions have we had with “smart gun” manufacturers?

Metro IAF leaders have visited the headquarters of Armatix, the German company that leads the industry in developing personalized firearms. We've met extensively with the company's top leadership, seen demonstrations of their products, and have been quite impressed with what we have seen. We have also met with the director of the “smart gun” research program at New Jersey Institute of Technology, and had initial discussions with one leading U.S.-based company with a “smart gun” prototype. We've met with investors interested in financing the manufacture of personalized guns. Our assessment: Personalized gun technology will do for guns what seat belts and air bags have done for cars – preventing tens of thousands of senseless deaths in decades to come.

How can states and municipalities encourage the development of a market for “smart guns” and other safety technologies?

We don't see new legal mandates for personalized guns as helpful at this stage. The best approach, we believe, is for government at all levels to encourage a “race to the top” among manufacturers – a competition to bring the safest technologies to market, rather than the current “race to the bottom” based on ever-increasing lethality and firepower. Government agencies should evaluate gun safety technologies as they become available, including testing their reliability and suitability for law enforcement and military use. Public officials should encourage gun retailers to make personalized guns available for sale, despite the campaign of intimidation being waged against them by “gun rights” extremists who oppose personalized guns.