

SCOTT A. PETRI, MEMBER
178th LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

HARRISBURG OFFICE:
B15 MAIN CAPITOL BUILDING
PO BOX 202178
HARRISBURG, PA 17120-2178
PHONE: (717) 787-9033
FAX: (717) 705-1802

EMAIL: SPETRI@PAHOUSEGOP.COM
WEBSITE: REP.PETRI.COM

DISTRICT OFFICE:
THE WEATHER VANE
95 ALMSHOUSE ROAD, SUITE 303
RICHMOND, PA 18954
PHONE: (215) 364-3414
FAX: (215) 364-8626



House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

December 10, 2007

COMMITTEES
APPROPRIATIONS
LIQUOR CONTROL
SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN ON MARKETING
LOCAL GOVERNMENT
URBAN AFFAIRS
SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN ON 1st CLASS
CITIES AND COUNTIES

CAUCUS
LIFE SCIENCE, CO-CHAIR

COMMISSIONS
PA HISTORICAL MUSEUM COMMISSION, MEMBER

William J. Wicca, Webmaster
Lehigh Valley Firearms Coalition
PO Box 25
New Tripoli, PA 18066

Dear Mr. Wicca:

I am writing to you regarding your letter dated October, 19, 2007.

I believe that the Right to Bear Arms is a fundamental right in our United States and Pennsylvania Constitutions. As you note, there are a number of proposed pieces of legislation which could have the impact of abridging those rights for law abiding individuals.

The Governor has asked the legislature for assistance in controlling gun related crimes. In that regard, I have sponsored two bills to deal the straw purchases and to increase mandatory minimum sentences regarding certain gun related crimes.

- **House Bill 784:** Under current law, knowingly selling a firearm with the intention that it go to a criminal is a felony of the third degree and results in a three year revocation of a license to sell firearms. This legislation would increase the penalty for this offense, imposing a mandatory 5 year prison sentence and permanently revoking any license to sell a firearm. This increased penalty is aimed at both crooked gun dealers as well as individuals who buy guns for criminals, often called straw purchasers.
- **House Bill 785:** At present, Commonwealth law imposes a mandatory prison sentence of 5 years if an individual commits a crime of violence:
 - While visibly in possession of a firearm,
 - Whether or not the firearm was loaded or functional, and
 - Which firearm placed the victim in fear of serious injury or death.

William J. Ricca
Page 2
November 20, 2007

This also includes fake or toy guns, if the victim thought they were real. Crimes of violence include such offenses as murder, rape, kidnapping and robbery of a motor vehicle.

This legislation would provide for a mandatory minimum sentence of 7 years for any individual who either:

- Discharges a firearm during a crime of violence, or
- Commits a crime of violence with a stolen or illegally purchased/transferred firearm.

I look forward to discussing this legislation and other proposed legislation which directs its emphasis at those who ignore existing laws and which will curtail gun related crimes.

Sincerely,

SCOTT PETRI
State Representative
178th Legislative District