

January 22, 2024

**Board of Directors**

Steven B. Wasserman  
*President*  
(DC)

Adam E. Hanna  
*Vice President*  
(S.D. IL)

Mark Vincent  
*Treasurer*  
(UT)

Karen Escobar  
*Secretary*  
(E.D. CA)

Kevan Cleary  
(E.D. NY)

Joseph Koehler  
(AZ)

Melanie Speight  
(E.D. NY)

Tonya Goodman  
(E.D. PN)

Keith Hollingshead-Cook  
(E.D. TN)

Dear Senators:

On behalf of the National Association of Assistant United States Attorneys (NAAUSA)—representing the interests of over 6,000 Assistant U.S. Attorneys (AUSAs) working in the 94 U.S. Attorney Offices—I write to urge Congress to permanently reauthorize the Undetectable Firearms Act.

Congress passed the Undetectable Firearms Act in 1988 to prohibit owning firearms that can pass through metal detectors unnoticed. Congress did not make the law permanent, but it has been extended twice over the last 25 years. The law lapsed in December 2023.

Historically, this bill has deterred manufacturers from creating undetectable firearms. As a result, very few prosecutions have been pursued under the law. Nonetheless, this deterrent effect has been critical for ensuring undetectable firearms are not created and used in a manner that undermines public safety.

As technology, such as 3D-printing, allows any individual to become a firearms manufacturer, reauthorizing the Undetectable Firearms Act is more important than ever.

Metal detectors are increasingly used as a non-intrusive way to maintain security in large public gatherings. In 2011, the National Football League (NFL) announced that all NFL stadiums would phase in metal detectors to protect fans and employees. Following the tragic Boston Marathon bombings, Major League Baseball, the National Hockey League, and the National Basketball Association all began requiring metal detectors as a protective security measure in their stadiums and arenas. Similarly, nearly every government building across the federal, state, and local levels utilizes metal detectors.

Unfortunately, metal detectors are a pointless security measure if dangerous weapons can pass through undetected.

NAAUSA applauds the U.S. Senate for coming together in July to reauthorize the legislation as part of the National Defense Authorization Act. It is unfortunate the reauthorization was not included in the final bill despite the provision's bipartisan support.

We encourage the House and Senate to once again come together to reauthorize this important legislation. Every day that this law is not reauthorized, the risk of a mass casualty event increases. Thank you for considering NAAUSA's perspective. Please contact NAAUSA's Washington Representative Natalia Castro ([ncastro@shawbransford.com](mailto:ncastro@shawbransford.com)) if you have any additional questions.

**Executive Director**

Kelly Reyes

**Washington Reps.**

Jason Briefel  
Natalia Castro

**Counsel**

Debra Roth

Sincerely,



**Steven Wasserman**

NAAUSA President