



## NATIONAL SHOOTING SPORTS FOUNDATION, INC.

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LAWRENCE G. KEANE  
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT &  
GENERAL COUNSEL

February 8, 2010

The Honorable Carl Levin  
Russell Senate Office Building  
SR-269  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Levin:

Regarding your press release, "Free Gun Locks," of February 2, the National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF), the firearms industry's trade association, would like to bring to your attention that *Project ChildSafe* is, in fact, a program developed by NSSF and funded by the Department of Justice in conjunction with the firearms industry. *Project ChildSafe* is designed to help prevent tragic firearms-related accidents, particularly among children.

Enclosed you will find a letter that I sent to your office back in October of 2008 outlining the efforts that NSSF has taken over the years to address firearms safety. As mentioned in that letter, I would again like to point out the education efforts of the industry that have contributed to a steady, record-setting decline in firearm accidents in the United States.

America's firearms industry has long been committed to the safe and responsible use of its products and, through NSSF, has developed many initiatives that promote firearm safety education. Working with law enforcement partners and elected officials at the state and local level, *Project ChildSafe* encourages law-abiding gun owners to safely handle and properly store firearms in the home so that children and other unauthorized persons cannot access and misuse them. *Project ChildSafe's* safety education message is reaching millions of gun owners across America, reminding citizens that while they have the right to own a firearm in America, with that right comes the responsibility to keep firearms safely in the home.

*Project ChildSafe* has formed partnerships with nearly every law enforcement agency (over 15,000) in the country, plus elected officials such as governors, lieutenant governors and mayors, U.S. Attorneys, hunter education teachers and concerned civic groups, all of whom help advance the program's message and distribute firearm safety kits to gun owners across America. NSSF's most recent partnership is with the Veterans Administration, which is distributing Project ChildSafe firearm safety kits to our service men and women. Over the last ten years, approximately 35,000,000 *Project ChildSafe* safety kits have been distributed nationwide, establishing *Project ChildSafe* as a leading go-to resource for firearm safety. Additionally, program partners have used press conferences and other media outreach to achieve a broader public awareness about the importance of safe handling and storage of firearms in the home.

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Over ten years after its initial inception, *Project ChildSafe* continues to experience strong nationwide demand from law enforcement agencies for gun lock safety kits. We consider *Project ChildSafe* to be one of the country's premiere safety efforts and a program worthy of all the attention it receives given its widespread support among its partners and the program's important contribution to continue to reduce firearms-related accidents.

Thank you, Senator Levin, for supporting *Project ChildSafe* in Michigan. Should you or your staff have questions about *Project ChildSafe*, I am available to answer questions

Sincerely yours,



Lawrence G. Keane

LGK/jm/mas



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LAWRENCE G. KEANE  
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT &  
GENERAL COUNSEL

October 2, 2008

The Honorable Carl Levin  
Russell Senate Office Building  
SR-269  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Levin:

In response to your press release dated September 26, 2008, Firearms and Suicide, The National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF), the firearm industry's trade association, would like to bring to your attention the efforts by the industry to decrease these numbers along with the encouraging news about the steady, record-setting decline in firearm accidents in the United States.

The firearms industry has, for many years, taken a responsible approach to firearms safety. In fact, firearm accidents have decreased by over 60 percent in the last 25 years and now account for less than 1 percent of all fatal accidents nationwide. Additionally, the homicide rate has steadily been declining since the early 1990's to levels not seen since the 1960's.

With 40 percent of American homes having firearms it is always important to reinforce firearm safety. Members of the firearms industry have for decades advocated the safe and responsible use and storage of firearms through their product manuals, by voluntarily providing free locking devices with each new firearm they ship and by support for safety programs like "Project ChildSafe," that has distributed over 35 million firearm safety kits including a free gun locks all across America. For years **federal law has required dealers** to make locks available at the checkout counter and now requires **dealers to provide a lock with each handgun sold** (Kohl Amendment which was not opposed by industry).

The significant and continuing reduction in accidents is the result of a number of factors including firearm safety education efforts by groups like the National Rifle Association, 4-H, Future Farmers of America, American Legion, the Boy Scouts of America and state-affiliated hunter education programs all across America. The firearms industry remains dedicated to providing leadership and education on issues concerning the safe use and storage of our products.

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Ultimately, of course, responsible firearms owners themselves are the best guarantee that these favorable trends will continue and we will continue to help promote safe and responsible firearms use.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lawrence G. Keane".

Lawrence G. Keane

*The National Shooting Sports Foundation is the trade association of the firearms industry.*