

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1013

April 18, 2024

The Honorable Brian P. Kemp
Governor
206 Washington Street
111 State Capitol
Atlanta, GA 30334

Dear Governor Kemp,

I write to urge your Administration to take robust and immediate actions to combat gun violence in the state of Georgia. Specifically, I urge you to consider taking executive action to regulate so-called “ghost guns”, 3-D printed firearms, and other 3-D printed gun parts. Stronger regulation can assist Georgia law enforcement agencies trace lethal weapons, ensure individuals prohibited from owning firearms are unable to circumvent the system—and above all else—save precious lives across our state. An overwhelming majority of Georgians support these measures, and it is imperative we do not delay action any longer.

Weapons known as “ghost guns” are firearms which can be assembled at home with the use of a kit or 3-D printer. These gun parts often lack serial numbers and are therefore untraceable. Despite an August 2022 ruling by the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) stating such kits can only be sold by Federal Firearm Licensees and must contain serial numbers, reports show gun dealers and other sellers are already skirting Federal regulations by selling most of a gun’s parts without identifying numbers and giving the recipient the instructions to complete their unregistered firearms.¹ The untraceable nature of these firearms and their ability to evade metal detectors makes them especially dangerous in the hands of those seeking to commit crimes. While I support the ATF’s implementation of the rule, more must be done at the state level to curb the production and possession of these dangerous weapons.

Untraceable firearms are far too prevalent in Georgia and across the nation. Between 2016 and 2021, the ATF reported recovering 45,000 un-serialized weapons, of which 700 could be definitively linked to murders or attempted murders.² This figure represents a 1,000 percent increase over the previous half-decade. Untraceable weapons have contributed to an average annual gun fatality rate of 1,603 people in Georgia, the ninth highest rate in the nation.³ Guns are also the leading cause of death for children and teens in our state, a shameful and preventable statistic.

Equally as concerning, is the creation of dangerous gun modifications, such as auto sears. These modifications can significantly increase the power and fire rate of guns, making them far more

¹ Stephens, Alain. “Dealers Are Already Skirting Biden’s Ghost Gun Rule.” The Trace, 9 Sept. 2022, [access link here](#).

² “ATF Releases National Firearms in Commerce and Trafficking Assessment Report.” Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, 18 May 2022, [access link here](#).

³ “Gun Violence in Georgia.” Every Town for Gun Safety, Jan. 2021, [access link here](#).

lethal in the hands of those seeking to wreak havoc in our communities. The ATF reported the seizure of over 1,500 auto sear devices in 2021—many of them produced with 3-D printers.⁴ As our governor, Georgians are pleading with you and your Administration to work across the aisle and prevent dangerous firearm modifications, including through further regulating illicit 3-D printing and by increasing criminal penalties for illegal firearm modifications.

These weapons are causing significant destruction in our communities. During a 2023 shooting, a 14-year-old Valdosta child was killed by another minor who was able to purchase materials and instructions online to assemble a working handgun.⁵ Officials involved in the case raised concern over the absence of any Georgia statutes specifically restricting untraceable firearms. Another 2021 shooting involved a 13-year-old boy had been making firearms to sell on the street and which ultimately resulted in the tragic loss of his own 14-year-old sister.⁶ The untraceable and unregistered nature of “ghost guns” are especially appealing to minors or criminals who would be unable to obtain firearms legally.

Like most Georgians, I believe in the Constitutional right of Americans to keep and bear arms, provided they do so in a manner which prioritizes accountability and safety. There is no reason for any person living in our great state to have access to an untraceable weapon. “Ghost guns” circumvent the background check process, a qualification for gun purchases supported by 76 percent of Georgia voters.⁷ Moreover, 61 percent of Georgia voters oppose no permit carry, which allows individuals to possess concealed weapons without a background check. The numbers are clear—the people of Georgia support increased transparency for all firearm purchases.

As Governor, you are considered Georgia’s chief law enforcement officer, vested with enormous executive authority to carry out the duties of the office, inclusive of the protection of your constituents. These tragedies are just examples of the immediate need for actions your Administration can take to reduce gun violence and protect our communities from the next mass shooting. With the General Assembly refusing to act, the people of Georgia are relying on your leadership to ensure that they can move through their daily lives without fear of firearms on the streets, in public establishments, and in their homes.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



David Scott
Member of Congress

⁴ Stephens, Alain, and Keegan Hamilton. “The Return of the Machine Gun.” The Trace, 24 Mar. 2022, [access link here](#).

⁵ Richards, Terry. “Ghost Guns: Valdosta Lawsuit Highlights Problem of Untraceable Weapons.” Valdosta Daily Times, 29 Apr. 2023, [access link here](#).

⁶ Stevens, Alexis. “Unregistered Ghost Guns Are Legal to Build and Own but Not to Sell in Georgia.” AJC, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, 7 Dec. 2021, [access link here](#).

⁷ “Sabetai, Isaac. “What Georgians Think about Guns.” AJC, 4 Aug. 2022, [access link here](#).