

**Statement of Senator Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.),  
Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee,  
March 14, 2013**

Last Thursday we had a bipartisan vote for the Stop Illegal Trafficking in Firearms Act, S.54. This Tuesday we had a bipartisan vote for the School Safety Enhancements Act, S.146, and also reported the Protecting Responsible Gun Sellers Act, S.374. We have now acted upon legislative proposals to make gun trafficking and straw purchasing crimes, to enhance the safety of our children's schools and to close loopholes in the background check system for firearm purchases.

Today we should finally complete action on Senator Feinstein's proposal, which in addition to reinstating an assault weapons ban, would place limitations on high capacity ammunition magazines that have proven so destructive in recent tragedies.

After an opportunity for discussion two weeks ago and lengthy statements and debate last Thursday, we had to recess before completing action on the few remaining amendments. We were unable to find a time on Tuesday during which the senior Senator from California and the senior Senator from Texas could both attend a meeting. We are now able to return to Senator Cornyn's remaining amendments at a time when both Senators can both be present.

After brief opening remarks by our ranking member, I intend to turn to Senator Cornyn to offer his remaining amendments and to Senator Feinstein.

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