



**[NYSRPA-alert] Roefaro calls for support of federal gun act**

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<http://www.uticaod.com/news/x1092986282/Roefaro-calls-for-support-of-federal-gun-act>

Mayor David Roefaro asked local residents Monday to support a proposed federal bill he believes could help trace the source of illegal guns from other states.

U.S. Sen. Frank Lautenberg, D-N.J., introduced the federal Gun Background Act of 2009 bill, which has been referred to the Senate Committee on the Judiciary.

The act would require background checks on all sales at gun shows, according to Lautenberg's Web site.

"Illegal guns are running rampant not only here but everywhere throughout this country," Roefaro said, "and we've got to stop it."

Roefaro presented data from the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives that linked illegal guns recovered in New York state with states that don't require background checks at gun shows.

Most illegal guns recovered in New York state come from other states that don't require background checks at gun shows, Roefaro said.

The mayor also encouraged Uticans to call senators from those states – Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Florida – and express their support for the bill. Information is available on the city's Web site.

U.S. Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, D-N.Y., is a co-sponsor of the amendment, but it received a tepid response from U.S. Congressman Michael Arcuri, D-Utica, a former Oneida County district attorney.

"I never had a case involving an illegal gun or gun-related crime that I couldn't prosecute under existing laws," Arcuri said in a released statement. "The fact is that we need to keep the emphasis on enforcing the firearms laws we already have on the books and providing our local communities with the resources to put police on the street and keep us safe."

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