



Gun Violence Prevention Groups Urge Confirmation of Todd Jones to Head Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives

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New York: States United to Prevent Gun Violence (SUPGV) along with **New Yorkers Against Gun Violence**, Arizonans for Gun Safety, Connecticut Against Gun Violence, Georgians for Gun Safety, Hawaii Firearms Control Coalition, Illinois Council Against Handgun Violence, Iowans for Gun Safety, Maine Citizens Against Handgun Violence, Protect Minnesota, North Carolinians Against Gun Violence, Ohio Coalition Against Gun Violence, Ceasefire Pennsylvania, Texas Gun Sense, Gun Violence Prevention Center of Utah, GunSense Vermont, Wisconsin Anti-Violence Effort, and Women Against Gun Violence are urging the Senate to act quickly and vote to make Todd Jones the permanent director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

“It is past time to confirm a permanent director of the ATF,” said Barbara Hohlt, SUPGV Board Chair, “It’s disgraceful that this important agency has been without a permanent head for seven years.”

Before 2006, the director of the bureau was appointed by the president. But under pressure from the gun lobby, Congress voted to change the law to require Senate confirmation. Since then, the Senate has failed to confirm anyone nominated for the position by either President Bush or President Obama. As a result, the agency has had five acting directors in the past seven years.

“This is a major law enforcement agency, charged with regulating the firearms industry, without a permanent leader their ability to stop gun trafficking by corrupt gun dealers is severely hampered,” added Hohlt.

B. Todd Jones is the current interim acting director of the ATF. He works only part-time at the agency while he also holds down a job in Minnesota as the U.S. Attorney in Minneapolis. President Obama has nominated Jones to be the permanent director. Confirmation hearings are set to begin before the Senate Judiciary Committee on Tuesday, June 11th.

“Mr. Jones has already started the important work of tightening up communications and unity within the organization. The ATF needs a permanent director now so it can get on with the vital work of enforcing gun laws and protecting the American public,” said Hohlt.

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States United to Prevent Gun Violence is a national non-profit organization working to decrease gun death and injury. SUPGV works directly with a network of state-based gun violence prevention organizations. SUPGV believes that all Americans deserve to live in a country free from the fear, threat, and devastation caused by gun violence.

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