



ARMAS Act Advocacy Days

stop the flow of weapons. stop the violence.

September 29 - 30



End Illegal Trafficking of Weapons and Ammunition from the United States to Latin America and the Caribbean

Haiti is facing a catastrophic human rights crisis, with criminal gangs in control of 90% of the capital as well as the country's infrastructure. In Mexico, at least 70% of the firearms seized and traced originated in the United States. Each year, it is estimated that over 135,000 firearms are trafficked into Mexico from the U.S. Cartel violence destabilizes countries throughout Latin America and the Caribbean, leading to gang violence, human rights violations, and ultimately, migration. Transnational criminal organizations involved in drug and human trafficking depend on weapons illegally obtained in the United States due to lenient gun laws. To address the root causes of migration and promote regional stability, curbing arms trafficking from the United States must be a top priority.

The Americas Regional Monitoring of Arms Sales Act (ARMAS Act)

H.R. 6736 / S. 3508

The ARMAS Act will disrupt firearms trafficking from the United States to Latin America and the Caribbean and implement stronger transparency, accountability, and oversight for U.S. arms exports.

In 2020, small arms export authority was transferred from the State Department to the Commerce Department, creating fewer registration requirements, less oversight, and more exemptions. Insufficient oversight and accountability mechanisms for arms sales have allowed an increasing number of U.S. weapons to end up in the hands of criminal actors in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The ARMAS Act will:

- Transfer small arms authority from the Department of Commerce back to the Department of State to ensure greater accountability and transparency;
- Require the development of a comprehensive interagency strategy and program to disrupt arms trafficking;
- Provide congressional notification, review, and oversight of certain small arms exports;
- Require the submission of an annual report by the State Department and relevant agencies that will allow Congress to understand the challenges and successes of current efforts to address illegal arms trafficking and inform future strategies;
- Increase the adoption of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms' e-Trace platform by foreign law enforcement agencies to improve tracing the origin of captured weapons;
- Prohibit the Department of Commerce from promoting small arm sales globally throughout the transfer of authority period.





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Stop Arming Cartels Act - H.R. 923 / S. 367

The Stop Arming Cartels Act seeks to stem the high volume of firearms trafficking from the United States to Mexico and other nations. Transnational criminal cartels exploit weak gun laws, and some U.S. manufacturers and dealers to look the other while a deadly flow of weapons travels south across the border and through the Caribbean.

The Stop Arming Cartels Act will:

1. Prohibit future nongovernmental manufacture, importation, sale, transfer, or possession of .50 caliber rifles;
2. Regulate existing .50 caliber rifles under the National Firearms Act, with a fee waiver and 12-month grace period for registration on the National Firearms Registration and Transfer Record for those who lawfully possess them under current law;
3. Create an exception to the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act (PLCAA), allowing victims of gun violence to sue manufacturers and dealers who engage in firearm transactions prohibited under the Foreign Narcotics Kingpin Designation Act (the "Kingpin Act");
4. Prohibit the sale or transfer of firearms to individuals sanctioned under the Kingpin Act and add Kingpin Act designations to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS); and
5. Require firearms dealers to report multiple sales of rifles to state and local law enforcement agencies, as they must currently do for handguns.

