



SUMMARY OF WEAPONS TRAFFICKING LEGISLATION

May 2025

Stop Arming Cartels Act – HR923, S367

International criminal cartels arm themselves by exploiting weak gun laws, as well as the willingness of some U.S. manufacturers and dealers to look the other way as a deadly flow of weapons travels south across the border and through the Caribbean.

The Stop Arming Cartels Act would:

1. Prohibit future nongovernmental manufacture, importation, sale, transfer, or possession of .50 caliber rifles except for those rifles lawfully possessed before the enactment of the Act;
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.

Haiti Criminal Collusion Transparency Act – HR2643, S1854

This bill requires the Department of State to provide an annual report to Congress on ties between criminal gangs and political and economic elites in Haiti, to determine the sources of financial support for the gangs. The bill also requires the President to impose visa- and property-blocking sanctions on certain individuals identified in the report if appropriate under U.S. law. Specifically, the report will:

1. Identify criminal gangs, describe their activities, and describe their geographical area of operation;
2. List Haitian political and economic elites who have ties to criminal gangs and describe their relationship in detail;

3. List each criminal organization assessed to be trafficking Haitians and other individuals to the United States border;
4. Assess the ties between political and economic elites, criminal gangs in Haiti, and transnational criminal organizations;
5. Include an assessment of how this activity threatens the Haitian people as well as the interests of the United States, and offer potential actions that the governments of the United States and Haiti can take to address the findings;
6. Prohibit persons identified in these lists from buying and selling property in the United States or to U.S. citizens and from entering the United States; and
7. Revoke the visa of anyone identified in these lists.

Caribbean Anti-Smuggling of Trafficked Arms Act (CAST Act) - HR2826

This bill, introduced in the House, requires the Joint Interagency Taskforce South (JIATF-South) to provide a report evaluating the expansion of its mission to combat the illegal trafficking of firearms from the United States to the Caribbean. JIATF-South is a Department of Defense task force that conducts detection and monitoring (D&M) operations to curtail drug trafficking and dismantle Transnational Criminal Organizations (TCOs) in the Caribbean region. The CAST Act will require the Department of Defense to produce a report assessing the feasibility and financial implications of expanding JIATF-South's mission to include combating the illegal trafficking of firearms from the United States to the Caribbean. Specifically, the report must include:

1. A summary of the adjustments required to existing treaties, status of forces agreements, or memoranda of agreement to enable such an expansion;
2. The cost of the additional resources required for the expanded mission of JIATF-South and a report on force depletion; and
3. An assessment of the coordination efforts required between JIATF-South and any international, regional, federal, state, or local law enforcement agencies to undertake the expanded mission.