U.S. MAYORS URGE QUICK PASSAGE OF MCCARTHY, LAUTENBERG LEGISLATION TO BAN LARGE CAPACITY MAGAZINES

Washington, D.C. – The nation’s mayors emerged from last week’s 79th Annual Winter Meeting of the U.S. Conference of Mayors (USCM) in Washington, D.C. calling for quick action on legislation that would ban large high-capacity ammunition magazines, such as those used in the tragic January 8 shooting in Tucson.

The Conference adopted a policy resolution, sponsored by its Second Vice President Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter, which registers the organization’s strong support for the Large Capacity Ammunition Feeding Device Act (H.R. 308) and pledges to mobilize mayors across the nation to work toward prompt passage of this legislation. The resolution also calls for strengthening the national background check system and can be found on the USCM website at http://usmayors.org/resolutions/79th_Winter_Conference/GunSafety_Winter11.pdf.

Referring to the legislation, Mayor Nutter said, “Banning high capacity magazines is a matter of public safety. They are not used for hunting and have no place on the streets of our cities. For 10 years, these magazines were banned by federal law. All we are calling for is the reinstatement of this law to help ensure the safety of all Americans.”

Last week New York Representative Carolyn McCarthy introduced legislation that would ban magazines of more than 10 rounds and close a loophole in the previous ban in which magazines manufactured before the law went into effect could be sold or transferred. This week New Jersey Senator Frank Lautenberg is expected to introduce the same legislation in the Senate.

Quickly following up on the resolution, U.S. Conference of Mayors CEO and Executive Director Tom Cochran wrote all mayors asking them to contact their House and Senate members as quickly as possible and urging them to support and co-sponsor this legislation. “It is important that we help build strong bipartisan support for Representative McCarthy’s and Senator Lautenberg’s bills right away,” he said.

Also in response to the Tucson shooting, the mayors who gathered in Washington signed a Civility Accord, which was proposed by Tucson Mayor Robert Walkup and the USCM leadership at the very start of the Winter Meeting. The complete text of the Civility Accord, which so far has been signed by nearly 150 mayors, can be found at usmayors.org.

The U.S. Conference of Mayors is the official nonpartisan organization of cities with populations of 30,000 or more. There are 1,139 such cities in the country today. Each city is represented in the Conference by its chief elected official, the mayor. For a more information, please visit www.usmayors.org.

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