

April 11, 2023

Dear Senators and Representatives:

On behalf of law enforcement officers within the State of Alabama, the undersigned Sheriffs and Chiefs of Police write to support Senate Bill 143 (by Sen. Will Barfoot of Montgomery) and House Bill 191 (by Rep. Allen Treadaway of Birmingham). We call upon the Legislature to expeditiously consider and pass this important tool in combating the rise of gang activity in our communities. Gang violence is a cancer and tough sentences are the antidote.

Currently, Alabama has no law on the books to specifically combat or deter gang activity and gang violence. Borrowing from the laws of several states and the United States Code, Senate Bill 143 and House Bill 191 will ensure that the punishments for crimes committed in the name of a gang and gang-related activities involving firearms are both certain and severe.

First, any felony committed to promote the interests of a gang will be automatically enhanced to the next highest offense level. We know that gang activity spreads with criminal acts designed to benefit the gang, and automatic enhancements will help stem its expansion.

Second, any use of a firearm intended to promote gang activity will be met with tough mandatory sentences. Gang-related gunplay will result in no less than five years and up to thirty years mandatory imprisonment. Plus, sentences for gang-related gunplay must run *consecutively* to any other related term of imprisonment. We applaud legislation that finally recognizes, and duly punishes, senseless gun crime that is so often tied to gang-related conflict.

Finally, juveniles who commit adult crime must do adult time. This bill recognizes the undeniable connection between juvenile delinquency and gang activity. No longer can gangs be allowed to recruit younger and younger members in the hope that juveniles will escape punishment for their adult crimes. Thus, anyone sixteen years of age or older, charged under this statute, will automatically be certified as an adult, and serve adult time for adult crime.

In sum, our communities have had enough. We must refuse to succumb to the swell of gang-related crime that is plaguing so many cities and states in our nation. It is time to reinvigorate the rule of law and hold gang members accountable for their actions. This legislation does exactly that. We urge your swift enactment of Senate Bill 143 and House Bill 191.

Respectfully,



Chief Erik N. Cabrera
Abbeville Police Department



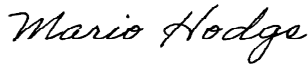
Chief Scott Thurmond
Birmingham Police Department



Chief Brett Rodgers
Addison Police Department



Chief Tommy Taylor
Samford University
Police Department – Birmingham



Chief Mario Hodge
Central Alabama Community College
Police Department - Alexander City



Chief Richard Lee Henegar
Bridgeport Police Department



Chief Chad Duffell
Lurleen B. Wallace Community
College Police Department –
Andalusia, Greenville, Luverne, Opp



Chief Larry Woods
Brighton Police Department



Chief Roy A. Busler, Jr.
Argo Police Department



Chief Henry Irby, III
Brookside Police Department



Chief Floyd Johnson
Athens Police Department



Chief Sam Green
Brundidge Police Department



Chief Al Tolbert
Bay Minette Police Department



Chief Keldric Powell
Camden Police Department



Chief Krimson Culverson
Cordova Police Department



Chief Clark Sanford
Carbon Hill Police Department



Chief David Nassetta
Cullman Police Department



Chief Brody Moses
Cedar Bluff Police Department



Chief Jonathan L. Floyd
Dadeville Police Department



Chief Kirk Blankenship
Centre Police Department



Chief Brian Gulsby
Daphne Police Department



Chief Rodney Smith
Centreville Police Department



Chief Anthony Nelms
Dothan Regional Airport
Police Department



Chief Kevin Koss
Childersburg Police Department



Chief Patrick C. Champion
Coffeetown Police Department



Chief Harold Staley
Elba Police Department



Chief Andrew Brown
Collinsville Police Department



Chief Brandon Booker
Elberta Police Department



Chief Michael G. Moore
Enterprise Police Department



Chief Theophilus E. Smith
Harpersville Police Department



Chief Julius Hunter
Fairfield Police Department



Chief Ross McGlaughn
Heflin Police Department



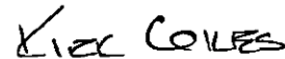
Chief David Davis
Fort Payne Police Department



Chief Tim Ross
Homewood Police Department



Chief Ivan Keith Gray
Gordon Police Department



Chief Kirk Giles
Huntsville Police Department



Chief Chris Bearden
Grant Police Department



Chief Maurice Staples
Oakwood University
Police Department - Huntsville



Chief Justin Lovvorn
Greenville Police Department



Chief Jeremy Hamlet
Jackson's Gap Police Department



Chief Daniel F. Gibson Jr.
Grove Hill Police Department



Chief Marcus Wood
Jacksonville Police Department



Chief Edward Delmore
Gulf Shores Police Department



Chief Shane Fulmer
Jemison Police Department



Chief Jamie Chatman
Leesburg Police Department



Chief Johnny K. Summers, Jr.
Level Plains Police Department



Chief Darren Britton
Lincoln Police Department



Chief Cody W. Cross
Linden Police Department



Chief Richard Bickerstaff
Lineville Police Department



Chief Johnny L. Gandy
Madison Police Department



Chief Nick Reed
McIntosh Police Department



Chief P.K. Johnson
Millbrook Police Department



Chief Lawrence Battiste
Mobile Police Department



Chief Tonikos Vandiber
Bishop State Community College
Police Department – Mobile



Chief Darryl J. Albert
Montgomery Police Department



Chief Reece Smith
Moody Police Department



Chief Erik Richardson
Notasulga Police Department



Chief Charles Clifton
Oneonta Police Department



Chief Glenn Walton
Odenville Police Department



Chief Steve Brown
Orange Beach Police Department

Jason Dobbins

Chief Jason Dobbins
Owens Cross Roads Police Department

Bill Partridge

Chief Bill Partridge
Oxford Police Department

Charles R. Ward

Chief Charles R. Ward
Ozark Police Department

Danny Woodard

Chief Danny Woodard
Parrish Police Department

Raymond J. Smith

Chief Raymond J. Smith
Phenix City Police Department

Nathan Johnson

Chief Nathan Johnson
Piedmont Police Department

Shannon D. Brewster

Chief Shannon D. Brewster
Pisgah Police Department

Daniel G. Reid

Chief Daniel G. Reid
Pleasant Grove Police Department

Gage Wilson

Chief Gage Wilson
Powell Police Department

Jerry Holmes

Chief Jerry Holmes
Priceville Police Department

Camp Yancey

Chief Camp Yancey
Rainbow City Police Department

Glen Stiles

Chief Glen Stiles
Ranburne Police Department

Kyle Adams

Chief Kyle Adams
River Falls Police Department

Jake Heath

Chief Jake Heath
Riverside Police Department

Jonathan Caldwell

Chief Jonathan Caldwell
Roanoke Police Department

George Fanning

Chief George Fanning
Rockford Police Department



Chief Chris Hargett
Russellville Police Department



Chief Jeremy Ake
Sylvania Police Department



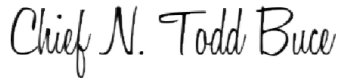
Chief William Alexander
Sardis City Police Department



Chief Diane Thomas
Talladega Police Department



Chief Richard Byrd
Selma Fire – Rescue
Arson Investigation



Chief N. Todd Buce
Tallasse Police Department



Chief Kenta Fulford
Selma Police Department



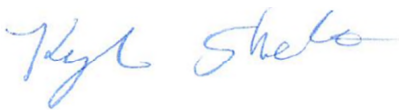
Chief Randy Hughes
Trinity Police Department



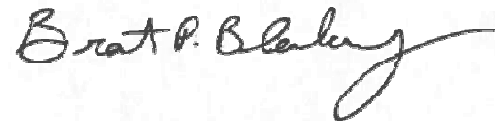
Chief Ricky Terry
Sheffield Police Department



Chief Randall Barr
Troy Police Department



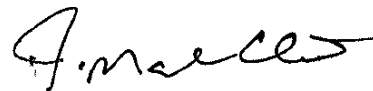
Chief Kyle Shelton
Skyline Police Department



Chief Brent P. Blankley
Tuscaloosa Police Department



Chief Keith Hornbuckle
Somerville Police Department



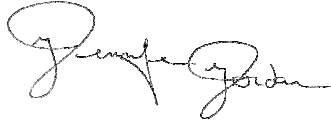
Chief J. Mark Cline
Shelton State Community College
Police Department – Tuscaloosa



Earl Marsh, Jr.
Supreme Court of Alabama
Marshal's Department



Chief Carla Longmire
Stillman College Police Department
Tuscaloosa



Chief Jennifer C. Jordan
Tuskegee Police Department



Chief Ronnie Felder
Union Springs Police Department



Interim Chief Willie Walton
Uniontown Police Department




Chief Danny P. Rary
Vestavia Hills Police Department



Chief Robert T. Taylor, Jr.
Wedowee Police Department

 04.11.23

Mark Harrell | Date
Sheriff, Autauga County

 04.11.23

Huey "Hoss" Mack | Date
Sheriff, Baldwin County

 04.11.23


Tyrone Smith | Date
Sheriff, Barbour County

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Jody Wade | Date
Sheriff, Bibb County

 04.11.23

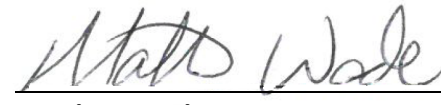
Mark Moon | Date
Sheriff, Blount County

 04.11.23

Buck Rodgers | Date
Sheriff, Bullock County

 04.11.23


Danny Bond | Date
Sheriff, Butler County

 04.11.23

Matthew Wade | Date
Sheriff, Calhoun County

 04.11.23

Jeff Nelson | Date
Sheriff, Chambers County

 04.11.23

Jeff Shaver | Date
Sheriff, Cherokee County

 04.11.23

John Shearon | Date
Sheriff, Chilton County

 04.11.23

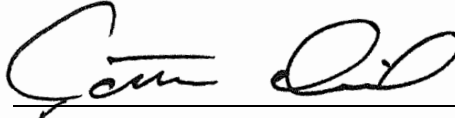
Scott Lolley | Date
Sheriff, Choctaw County

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DeWayne Smith | Date
Sheriff, Clarke County

 04.11.23

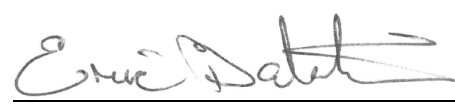
Henry Lambert | Date
Sheriff, Clay County

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Jon Daniel | Date
Sheriff, Cleburne County

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Scott Byrd | Date
Sheriff, Coffee County

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Eric Balentine | Date
Sheriff, Colbert County

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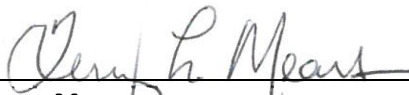
Randy Brock | Date
Sheriff, Conecuh County

 04.11.23

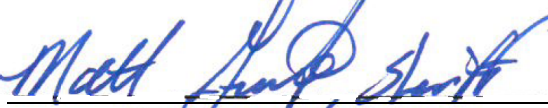
Michael Howell | Date
Sheriff, Coosa County

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Blake Turman | Date
Sheriff, Covington County


Terry Mears
Sheriff, Crenshaw County

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| Date


Matt Gentry
Sheriff, Cullman County

04.11.23
| Date


Mason Bynum
Sheriff, Dale County

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Michael Granthum
Sheriff, Dallas County


04.11.23
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Nicholas Welden
Sheriff, DeKalb County

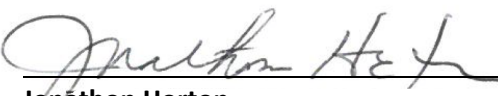
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Bill Franklin
Sheriff, Elmore County

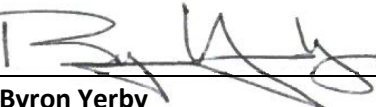
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Heath Jackson
Sheriff, Escambia County

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Jonathon Horton
Sheriff, Etowah County

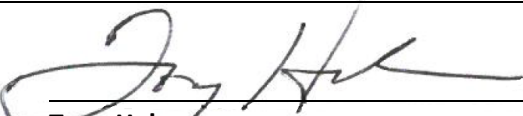
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Byron Yerby
Sheriff, Fayette County


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Shannon Oliver
Sheriff, Franklin County

04.11.23
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Tony Helms
Sheriff, Geneva County


04.11.23
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Joe Benison
Sheriff, Greene County

04.11.23
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Michael Hamilton
Sheriff, Hale County


04.11.23
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Eric Blankenship
Sheriff, Henry County


04.11.23
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Donald Valenza
Sheriff, Houston County


04.11.23
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Martin Gottwald
Sheriff, Lamar County

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Joe Hamilton
Sheriff, Lauderdale County


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Max Sanders
Sheriff, Lawrence County

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Sheriff, Lawrence County

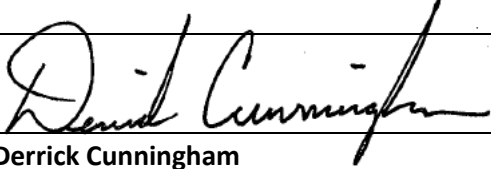
04.11.23
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Max Sanders
Sheriff, Lawrence County

04.11.23
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Jay Jones
Sheriff, Lee County

04.11.23
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Derrick Cunningham
Sheriff, Montgomery County


04.11.23
| Date


Joshua McLaughlin
Sheriff, Limestone County


04.11.23
| Date


Ron Puckett
Sheriff, Morgan County

04.11.23
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Chris West
Sheriff, Lowndes County


04.11.23
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Billy Jones
Sheriff, Perry County

04.11.23
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André Brunson
Sheriff, Macon County

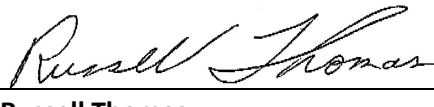
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Jordan Powell
Sheriff, Pickens County

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Kevin Turner
Sheriff, Madison County

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Russell Thomas
Sheriff, Pike County

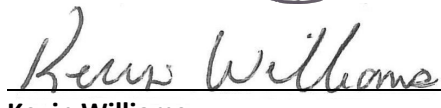
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Robert Alston
Sheriff, Marengo County

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David Cofield
Sheriff, Randolph County

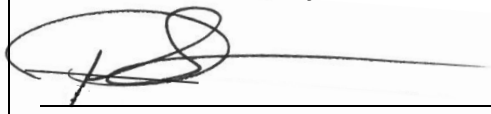
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Kevin Williams
Sheriff, Marion County

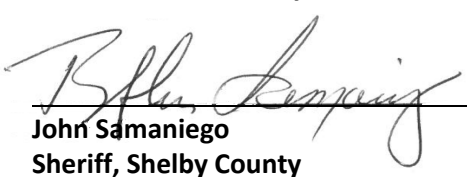
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Heath Taylor
Sheriff, Russell County


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Phil Sims
Sheriff, Marshall County

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John Samaniego
Sheriff, Shelby County

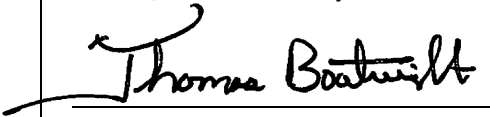
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Paul Burch
Sheriff, Mobile County

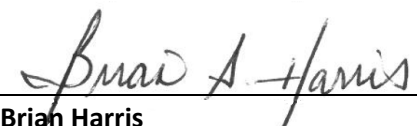
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Billy Murray
Sheriff, St. Clair County

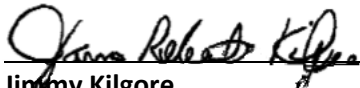
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Thomas Boatwright
Sheriff, Monroe County

04.11.23
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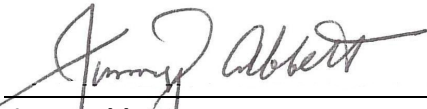

Brian Harris
Sheriff, Sumter County

04.11.23
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Jimmy Kilgore
Sheriff, Talladega County

04.11.23
| Date



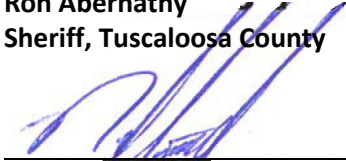
Jimmy Abbett
Sheriff, Tallapoosa County

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| Date



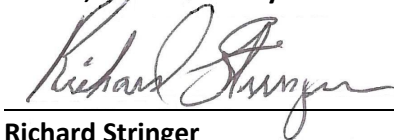
Ron Abernathy
Sheriff, Tuscaloosa County

04.11.23
| Date



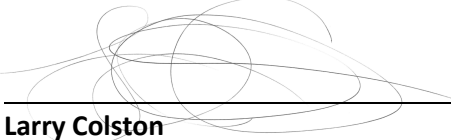
Nicholas Smith
Sheriff, Walker County

04.11.23
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Richard Stringer
Sheriff, Washington County

04.11.23
| Date



Larry Colston
Sheriff, Wilcox County

04.11.23
| Date



Caleb Snoddy
Sheriff, Winston County

04.11.23
| Date