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PRESS RELEASE

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D.A. DONOVAN CALLS ON CONGRESS TO REJECT GUN BILL WHICH WOULD INCREASE CONCEALED WEAPONS ON S.I. STREETS

******Issues Letter to House and Senate Leaders Opposing "Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act"******

STATEN ISLAND, NY - Richmond County District Attorney Daniel M. Donovan, Jr., today issued a letter to House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid expressing his opposition to S.845/H.R. 1620, the Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act of 2009. According to the District Attorney Donovan, the bill, if passed by both houses of Congress and signed by President Barack Obama, would require each state in the union to respect gun permits issued in any other state.

In the letter, issued on July 17, 2009, District Attorney Donovan wrote to Speaker Pelosi and Senator Reid, "What this necessarily means is that someone ineligible for a concealed carry gun permit in New York State could circumvent New York's rules about gun possession by travelling to another state, obtaining a gun and license in that state, and return to New York immune from prosecution for his possession of the gun."

In support of his position, District Attorney Donovan stated that the bill would essentially create a federal gun licensing scheme that would be determined by the rules of the state with the weakest regulations in place. He specifically cited the state of Mississippi, "In that state, residents can obtain a concealed weapon permit without any training whatsoever, including ever shooting a pistol on a range. The broad discretion afforded by the New York City Police Department to deny permits would be vitiated by this bill because those Mississippi permit holders could carry concealed firearms in New York City without any firearms training whatsoever."

"Historically, our federal system has allowed the individual states to design the most effect framework for combating gun crime and violence. I would encourage all Staten Islanders to contact Senators Charles Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand and Congressman Michael McMahon to urge their opposition to this legislation that endangers our public safety," stated District Attorney Donovan.

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