

ARMAS ACT ADVOCACY

Call or Visit your Congressperson

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Talking Points

Our Ask to Legislators

We support passage of the **AMERICAS REGIONAL MONITORING ARMS SALES (ARMAS) ACT of 2025, HR.6736/S.3508**, which seeks to disrupt firearm trafficking from the US to Latin America and the Caribbean.

WE ASK OUR LEGISLATORS TO SIGN ON & CO-SPONSOR THE LEGISLATION.

Why We are Interested

PeaceWorks was founded in the immediate aftermath of the US-sponsored mercenary war in Nicaragua in the 1980s. Decades later, Nicaraguans continue to grapple with the war's impacts – extreme poverty, economic hardship and political repression and violence. Surrounded by countries awash in illegal firearms, we fear that Nicaragua is in danger of being sucked into the vortex of gun trafficking and gun violence as was Ecuador, which until recently was a peaceful country.

As Latin America and the Caribbean grapple with rising violence and insecurity exacerbated by the increasing presence and aggression of transnational organizations, US-sourced weapons are playing an outsized role in furthering these crises. For example, the Government Accountability Office and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives reported that **75% of firearms recovered from the Dominican Republic and 70% of those from Mexico were trafficked from the US**.

Under the first Trump administration, small arms authority was transferred from the State Department to the Commerce Department. The NRA released the following statement: "America's exporting manufacturers are [now] free to run more
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competitively among the global markets." This transfer of oversight has corresponded to skyrocketing arms sales with an **82% annual rise in exports to Latin America and the Caribbean**.

Public reporting has found that firearms trafficked from the United States significantly contribute to political repression, gang violence, and human rights violations. **This violence is spurring the influx of immigration we've seen in recent years.** US policy has been incoherent – under this current administration, we are arming the very cartels that we claim to be targeting on Latin America's Caribbean and Pacific coasts. In the interest of the peace and prosperity of the region, we believe that curbing arms trafficking must be treated as a priority by the US Government.

The ARMAS Act

1. Transfers small arms authority back to the State Department
2. Prohibits the Commerce Department from promoting small arms sales globally
3. Improves congressional oversight and mandates an interagency strategy to disrupt arms trafficking
4. Expands tracing of captured arms to strengthen enforcement

Learn more about the ARMAS Act and find the current list of cosponsors here.

Our Ask to Advocates

The ARMAS Act will help address the challenges of rising gun trafficking and violence in Latin America and the Caribbean. We ask you to support this legislation by...

- Calling the offices of your Senators & Congresspeople
- Sending emails, letters, or postcards to your Senators & Congresspeople
- Visiting the office of your district's representative

The Quixote Center has created Letter and Phone Call scripts that you can use when reaching out to politicians. You can find the details, as well information about your local representatives, here.

If you meet with your representatives in-person, before the meeting concludes, please leave behind the last page of this handout.

The ARMAS ACT & PeaceWorks

YOUR CONSTITUENTS, members of PEACEWORKS, strongly urge you to sign on as a co-sponsor of the **AMERICAS REGIONAL MONITORING ARMS SALES (ARMAS) ACT of 2025 (HR.6736/S.3508)**.

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The ARMAS Act is of vital importance for the security of the Western Hemisphere and of great interest to the PeaceWorks community.