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**QUEENS DISTRICT ATTORNEY BROWN APPLAUDS SENATE DEFEAT
OF THUNE "CONCEALED CARRY" GUN AMENDMENT**

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown called today's defeat of the Thune "concealed weapons" amendment in the U.S. Senate a major victory for New Yorkers concerned about gun violence.

Earlier in the day, District Attorney Brown joined with New York City Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg, Jersey City Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy and others at New York City's City Hall prior to the 58-39 vote to express his concerns about the concealed weapons measure that would have erased concealed carry laws.

"As a local prosecutor who deals each day with cases involving illegal firearms possession and gun violence," said District Attorney Brown, "the passage of the Thune amendment would have added significantly to the number of handguns on our street, empowered those who traffic in illegal handguns and increased gun violence in our communities."

District Attorney Brown added, "Few states have stricter standards for the issuance of carry permits than we have here in New York. Some have no standards at all and issue permits to virtually anyone who requests one. To allow anyone who has an out-of-state permit to carry a concealed weapon – regardless of whether he or she meets our local standards – makes little sense. I applaud the bipartisan group of Senators who blocked the legislation."

The measure was proposed by Senator John Thune, R-S.D., and would have allowed individuals who have concealed weapon permits in their home states to carry their concealed weapons across state lines.

Last year, the Queens District Attorney's Office prosecuted approximately 500 cases of illegal gun possession, including 50 involving individuals attempting to board airlines at LaGuardia and John F. Kennedy Airports.

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