



SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE CCP

DEMOCRATS | RANKING MEMBER RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHY

May 29, 2025

The Honorable Pete R. Flores
Acting Commissioner
U.S. Customs and Border Protection
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W.
Room 3.5A
Washington, DC 20229

Dear Acting Commissioner Flores:

Earlier this year, the ABC-7 I-Team visited Chicago's O'Hare International Airport to report on "[d]angerous illegal weapon parts trafficked into the United States through China, . . . [including] cheaply made Chinese-manufactured rifle suppressors and gun switches that have the capability to turn a deadly incident into a massacre."¹ As part of that investigation, a CBP officer told ABC-7 that "[o]ver the last fiscal year, we've seen an uptick in the interception of Glock switches, auto series, silencers, [and] all types of contraband coming from China and Hong Kong."² This observation is corroborated by recent seizures last year by the U.S. Department of Justice, including of "more than 350 websites selling gun silencers and parts from China used to covert semiautomatic pistols into fully automatic machine guns."³

As Ranking Member of the House Select Committee on the Strategic Competition between the United States and the Chinese Communist Party, I am deeply concerned that illegal weapon parts from the People's Republic of China (PRC) are helping to facilitate the gun violence epidemic across America. While a root cause of the gun violence epidemic is clearly our own government's failure to take common sense measures to protect public health, CBP can help reduce the flow of deadly weapons onto our streets by vigorously screening incoming packages from the PRC for illegal firearm parts and ensuring the PRC Government understands that we will not tolerate anything short of complete cooperation in our efforts to reduce these shipments.

It is notable that these illegal weapon parts interdictions by CBP typically involve Glock switches, auto series, silencers, and other firearms accessories manufactured in the PRC because that country essentially prohibits firearm ownership by ordinary citizens.⁴ Given that reality, it is

¹ Mark Rivera, Barb Markoff, Christine Tressel, and Tom Jones, "Customs and Border Protection Seizing Illegal Weapon Parts Trafficked into US through China," *ABC-7*, February 28, 2025, <https://abc7chicago.com/post/us-customs-border-protection-seizing-illegal-weapon-parts-trafficked-country-china-ohare-processing-center/15964648/>.

² *Id.*

³ Nate Raymond, "US seizes over 350 websites used to import gun parts from China," *Reuters*, September 11, 2024, <https://www.reuters.com/world/us/us-seizes-over-350-websites-used-import-gun-parts-china-2024-09-11/>.

⁴ Jessie Yeung and Steve George, "China and the US were both born from armed conflict. They're now polar opposites on gun control," *CNN*, September 20, 2021, <https://www.cnn.com/2021/09/20/china/gun-control-us-china-mic-intl-hnk>.



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highly probable that PRC regulators monitor the weapon parts industry closely, and thus are not clueless to the fact that these deadly components are being shipped to America. To the extent they have any information in the PRC that could help CBP more effectively interdict and stop these packages, they need to share it with us.

Too many Americans have died from the epidemic of gun violence. We must all do our part to save lives and keep our communities safe, including by preventing the import of illegal weapon parts from the PRC. Accordingly, I respectfully request answers to the following question by no later than June 15, 2025.

1. During each month in the past two years, how many illegal firearm parts have been seized or otherwise intercepted by CBP from the PRC at airport screening facilities? Please break down such statistics by airport and type of illegal weapon part.
2. In addition to illegal weapon parts, the ABC-7 inquiry reported that CBP seized “replica weapons made on 3D printers, which become working untraceable ghost guns.”⁵ How many ghost guns have been seized by CBP at airport facilities in the past two years in packages from the PRC?
3. What training do CBP officers receive to help them intercept illegal weapon parts?
4. During the ABC-7 inquiry in Chicago, “CBP told the I-Team federal agents will allow some of those shipments to go through to bust buyers in what's known as a controlled delivery.” How frequently does CBP conduct “controlled deliveries” versus immediately confiscating the illegal weapon parts from the PRC?
5. Please describe CBP’s working relationship, if any, with the PRC Government to prevent the export of illegal weapon parts. Has the PRC Government ever failed to fully cooperate with a CBP request for assistance on such matters? If so, please elaborate.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Raja Krishnamoorthi
Ranking Member
House Select Committee on the CCP

⁵ Mark Rivera, Barb Markoff, Christine Tressel, and Tom Jones, “Customs and Border Protection Seizing Illegal Weapon Parts Trafficked into US through China,” *ABC-7*, February 28, 2025, <https://abc7chicago.com/post/us-customs-border-protection-seizing-illegal-weapon-parts-trafficked-country-china-ohare-processing-center/15964648/>.