

**GOVERNOR'S STATEMENT UPON SIGNING
ASSEMBLY BILL No. 3687
(Second Reprint)**

Assembly Bill No. 3687, which I have signed today, disqualifies "any person named on the consolidated Terrorist Watch list maintained by Terrorist Screening Center administered by the Federal Bureau of Investigation" from being issued a firearms identification card or handgun purchase permit. To the extent that this bill will keep guns out of the hands of known terrorists, or those who have taken active steps to support terrorist activities, my signature on this bill represents my commitment to keeping the citizens of New Jersey safe. Our diligence against terrorism must never fade.

The President and Congress have a duty to the law abiding citizens of this country to not only protect them against acts of terror but to protect them also against improper scrutiny by federal law enforcement. As a former federal prosecutor, I understand the obligation of government to ensure the safety and security of its people. However, in carrying out that task, the government must be circumspect in its application of the law. There is little room for mistakes since they may harm the innocent and law abiding.

The federal government takes great effort to ensure the reliability and accuracy of data in their Terrorist Screening Database. Further, when positive matches are identified through background checks performed by the FBI, field agents from numerous groups coordinate and investigate those "hits" to determine their accuracy. Nevertheless, some have expressed concerns with this bill based on the reliability and accuracy of background check information provided to law enforcement officers by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. I believe that federal elected officials must continue to ensure that federal law enforcement and intelligence gathering entities constantly strive to improve the levels of accuracy and reliability in terrorist screening databases. Therefore, as I sign Assembly Bill No. 3687 into law, I urge Congress to take steps to ensure that law-abiding American citizens are never swept into these databases.

Date: August 8, 2013

/s/ Chris Christie

Governor

Attest:

/s/ Charles B. McKenna

Chief Counsel to the Governor