



National District Attorneys Association
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November 29, 2016

The Honorable Chuck Grassley
Chairman
Senate Judiciary Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Ranking Member
Senate Judiciary Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Leahy,

On behalf of the National District Attorneys Association (NDAA), the largest prosecutor organization representing 2,500 elected and appointed District Attorneys across the United States as well as 40,000 Assistant District Attorneys, I write in support of S. 2489, the "Incorporation Transparency and Law Enforcement Assistance Act of 2016.

As end users of evidence collected throughout the investigative process, it is imperative that prosecutors have as much information as possible in order to determine the best course of action for prosecuting an individual or entity that has committed a crime. Under the pending legislation, states would be required to collect the names of each owner of a company or corporation created under the laws of each state. From there, law enforcement and prosecutors would then have access to that information when legally authorized by the court. At a somewhat alarming rate, our members are seeing increased use of shell corporations as fronts for various criminal activities including money laundering and fraud, often times by foreign nationals. Obtaining owner information creates a critical information-sharing tool for law enforcement to investigate the real identity of individuals creating fronts for their illicit gains.

We appreciate your efforts on this bill, and look forward to working with you and your staff to provide a necessary tool for law enforcement and prosecutors to combat the use of shell companies and other nontransparent entities created as a front for criminal activity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael A. Ramos".

Michael A. Ramos
President
National District Attorneys Association