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March 11, 2016

**MEMO IN SUPPORT OF LEGISLATION**

Bill Number: S. 6483

Title of Bill: An act to amend the penal law, in relation to the definitions of a switchblade knife and a gravity knife

The American Knife & Tool Institute (AKTI) heartily endorses the subject Bill. The Act provides that the definitions of "switchblade" and "gravity" knife be more clearly and objectively defined by incorporating language that a switchblade or gravity knife "does not include a knife that has a spring, detent, or other mechanism designed to create a bias toward closure and that requires exertion applied to the blade by the hand, wrist, or arm to overcome the bias toward closure and open the knife."

The American Knife & Tool Institute (AKTI) is a non-profit 501(c)6 organization which represents all segments of the knife industry and knife users, promoting reasonable and responsible knife legislation and enforcement. We believe that law-abiding citizens should be able to carry their essential and valuable tools without the fear of arbitrary, inconsistent and ineffective governmental restrictions.

We believe that this Act will be beneficial to all citizens in New York State and that it will eliminate confusion among law enforcement and knife users over what constitutes an illegal "switchblade" knife or what constitutes an illegal "gravity" knife. This Act will incorporate language that citizens in other states, including California, Kansas and Texas, have been benefitted from with no issue.

This positive legislation would ensure that law-abiding New York citizens and visitors are not criminalized for possession and carry of a tool, essential and valuable to occupations and recreational activities.

We respectfully encourage passage of S. 6483.

Sincerely,

Jan Billeb, Executive Director  
on Behalf of the Board of Regents

*Keeping Knives in  
American Lives*

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