

THE MYTH OF NATIONAL GUN REGISTRATION/CONFISCATION

Congress is poised to pass legislation requiring background checks for almost all gun sales – a modest expansion of a proven safeguard that saves lives. Americans are nearly unanimous in supporting this public policy no-brainer.

But not the NRA's Washington lobbyists. Lacking any reality-based argument, they're once again peddling the tired myth that background checks will allow the government to create a "national registry" of gun owners and a "framework for gun confiscation."

WHY REQUIRE BACKGROUND CHECKS FOR ALL GUN SALES?

Federal law requires licensed firearms dealers to conduct background checks on all buyers. But 40% of guns are bought from unlicensed "private sellers," often at gun shows or on the Internet, with no background check. And nearly 80% of prison inmates got their guns in private transactions.

6.6 MILLION GUNS

WERE TRANSFERRED WITHOUT A BACKGROUND CHECK IN 2012



BACKGROUND CHECKS REDUCE CRIME AND SAVE LIVES

In states that already require a background check for every handgun sale, there are:

- 38% fewer women shot to death by intimate partners
- 17% fewer firearm assaults
- 49% fewer firearms suicides
- 48% less gun trafficking

91% OF AMERICANS SUPPORT BACKGROUND CHECKS FOR ALL GUN TRANSFERS



88% of gun owners and 86% of NRA members also believe that all gun buyers should be required to pass a background check.

SO WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

Gun rights extremists have long argued that the U.S. government would create a list of all gun owners – and then confiscate their guns. Today's version: if gun dealers retain records for 100% of gun sales instead of 60%, the government will be able to make a list of every gun and its owner.



GUN DEALERS HAVE BEEN KEEPING SALES RECORDS FOR

40 YEARS

Since 1968, gun dealers – not the federal government – have kept basic sales records that prove they are conducting background checks, and which allow the gun to be traced to its owner if it's recovered at a crime scene.

INDIVIDUAL DEALERS WHERE RECORDS ARE HELD: 58,344

HOURS THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IS GIVEN TO DESTROY ANY RECORD OF A SUCCESSFUL CHECK: 24

GOVERNMENT AGENCIES THAT KEEP RECORDS OF GUN SALES OR SUCCESSFUL BACKGROUND CHECKS: 0



5 FEDERAL LAWS EXPLICITLY PROHIBIT CREATION OF A NATIONAL REGISTRY

18 U.S.C. § 926(a) prohibits the federal government from maintaining a national registry of gun owners

P.L. 112-55 also prohibits creation of a national registry

18 U.S.C. § 922(t)(2)(C) requires that records generated by successful background checks be destroyed

28 C.F.R. 25.9(b)(1)(ii) clarifies that the destruction must take place within 24 hours

28 C.F.R. 25.9(b)(3) specifically states that National Instant Criminal Background Check System cannot be used to create a registry

AND JUST FOR THE SAKE OF ARGUMENT, IS GUN CONFISCATION EVEN PHYSICALLY POSSIBLE?

WITH 300 MILLION GUNS IN THE U.S., EACH OF THE 2,508 ATF SPECIAL AGENTS WOULD HAVE TO CONFISCATE 119,617 GUNS, ONE GUN A DAY FOR 327 YEARS

DEMAND ACTION TO END GUN VIOLENCE

FALSEHOODS SPREAD BY A VOCAL FEW SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO CLOUD PUBLIC DEBATE ABOUT REASONABLE MEASURES TO REDUCE GUN VIOLENCE

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