



Support Universal Background Checks

The gun violence epidemic facing our country is a public health crisis that can be avoided – but only if Congress takes action. Today, federally licensed firearms dealers are required to check the buyer’s background in a database that tracks criminal and mental health histories as well as civil orders. Since this process was enacted, over 3 million people have been denied firearms. However, it’s estimated that 22 percent of U.S. gun owners acquired their most recent gun without a background check.

Current law does not require individuals buying guns from private sellers or on the internet to pass a background check. Universal background checks are a systematic way to prevent dangerous people from obtaining guns. We urge Congress to pass legislation that would require federal background checks for all firearm purchases.

- » In states that required background checks for all handgun sales, 47% fewer women are shot to death by their intimate partners, there are 47% fewer firearm suicides, and 53% fewer law enforcement officers are shot and killed in the line of duty.
- » An estimated 22% of gun transfers take place without a background check, usually online or at gun shows.
- » S. 42 would require unlicensed dealers, like those over the internet or at gun shows, to use the same background check system as licensed dealers.
- » The vast majority of Americans support universal background checks. Polls consistently show more than 90% of gun owners and non-gun owners supporting the policy. Background checks also have strong support among NRA members, with at least 69% supporting comprehensive background checks.

Support universal background checks for all gun sales. Co- sponsor S. 42

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