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LD 1062

Please vote No on LD 1062

Background checks save lives. See below, with footnotes/documentation.

- LD 1062 would allow unlicensed sellers—people who sell guns online, at gun shows, or anywhere else without a federal dealer’s license—to transfer firearms without confirming that they are legally allowed to possess firearms.
- Because of this loophole, people who are subject to domestic violence convictions or court orders, people who have been convicted of violent crimes, and people ineligible to possess firearms for mental health reasons can easily buy guns from unlicensed sellers with no background check.

Key Statistics:

- An estimated 22% of US gun owners acquired their most recent firearm without a background check. (1)
- A recent large-scale survey found that 45% of gun owners who acquired a gun online in the past two years did so without any background check. (2)
- Around 80% of all firearms acquired for criminal purposes are obtained through transfers from unlicensed sellers who are not required to perform background checks (3)
- In at least 90% of cases, background checks are resolved almost immediately, often within just a few minutes. (4)
- Contrary to gun-lobby claims, background checks rarely provide false-positive results. The FBI’s data suggests that background checks are accurate approximately 99.3 to 99.8% of the time. (5)

(1) Matthew Miller, Lisa Hepburn & Deborah Azrael, “Firearm Acquisition Without Background Checks,”

Annals of Internal Medicine 166, no. 4 (2017): 233–239.

(2) Matthew Miller, Lisa Hepburn, and Deborah Azrael, “Firearm Acquisition Without Background Checks: Results of a National Survey,” *Annals of Internal Medicine* 166, no. 4 (2017): 233–239.

(3) Katherine A. Vittes, Jon S. Vernick, and Daniel W. Webster, “Legal Status and Source of Offenders’ Firearms in States with the Least Stringent Criteria for Gun Ownership,” *Injury Prevention* 19, no. 1 (2013): 26-31.

(4) “National Instant Criminal Background Check System Celebrates 20 Years of Service,” Federal Bureau of Investigation, Criminal Justice Information Services, November 30, 2018, <https://le.fbi.gov/cjis-division/cjis-link/national-instant-criminal-background-check-system-celebrates-20-years-of-service>; “About NICS,” Federal Bureau of Investigation, <https://www.fbi.gov/services/cjis/nics/about-nics>.

(5) Office of the Inspector General, “Audit of the Handling of Firearms Purchase Denials Through the National Instant Criminal Background Check System,” US Department of Justice, September 2016, <https://oig.justice.gov/reports/2016/a1632.pdf>.