

**The
Gun Owners of
Vermont
Analysis of “Universal
Background Checks”
2017**

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Dear Legislator,

Universal Background Checks (UBC) are a construct of national anti-gun organizations that are attacking individual states one at a time in order to restrict the Constitutional Rights of Americans to keep and bear arms.

The Gun Owners of Vermont defended against UBCs.

The Vermont Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs defended against UBCs.

The Vermont Traditions Coalition and other groups defended against UBCs.

The Vermont Association of Chiefs of Police did not support UBCs. (1)

The thousand gun owners that filled the State House with Hunter Orange did not support UBCs.

The statistics proclaimed by the anti-gun proponents were not based on facts.

The UBC legislation could not indicate what effect it would actually have on crime.

Most importantly, the Chiefs stated that enforcement would be impossible unless you initiate gun "registration."

The FBI Uniform Crime Report statistics show Vermont is again the safest state in the nation. (2)

So, if the rhetoric used to push UBCs in 2015 and 2016 did not have a factual basis, and Vermont is STILL the safest state in the nation, **why are we here again in 2017?**

Misinformation, rhetoric, buzz words, and catch phrases will be presented to you this year in order to sway your vote for federal involvement in private commerce.

"Common sense," "reasonable restrictions," "for the children," "to protect women," "to prevent domestic violence," and many others.

The catch phrases are the same as last year. The script hasn't changed, it is just like a broken record, it keeps repeating, and repeating, and repeating... Until the legislature pulls the plug.

Is Vermont going to be under endless assault, year after year, by out-of-state political forces with millions of dollars in the hope that we will eventually crack?

New Hampshire was under Bloomberg attack in 2015.

New Hampshire won.

Maine was under Bloomberg attack in 2016.

Maine won.

It is time Vermont's legislature pulls the plug on Michael Bloomberg's Universal Background Checks in Vermont once and for all.

It is time for Vermont to win in 2017.

Tell Michael and his anti-gun minions, "take your money and go home."

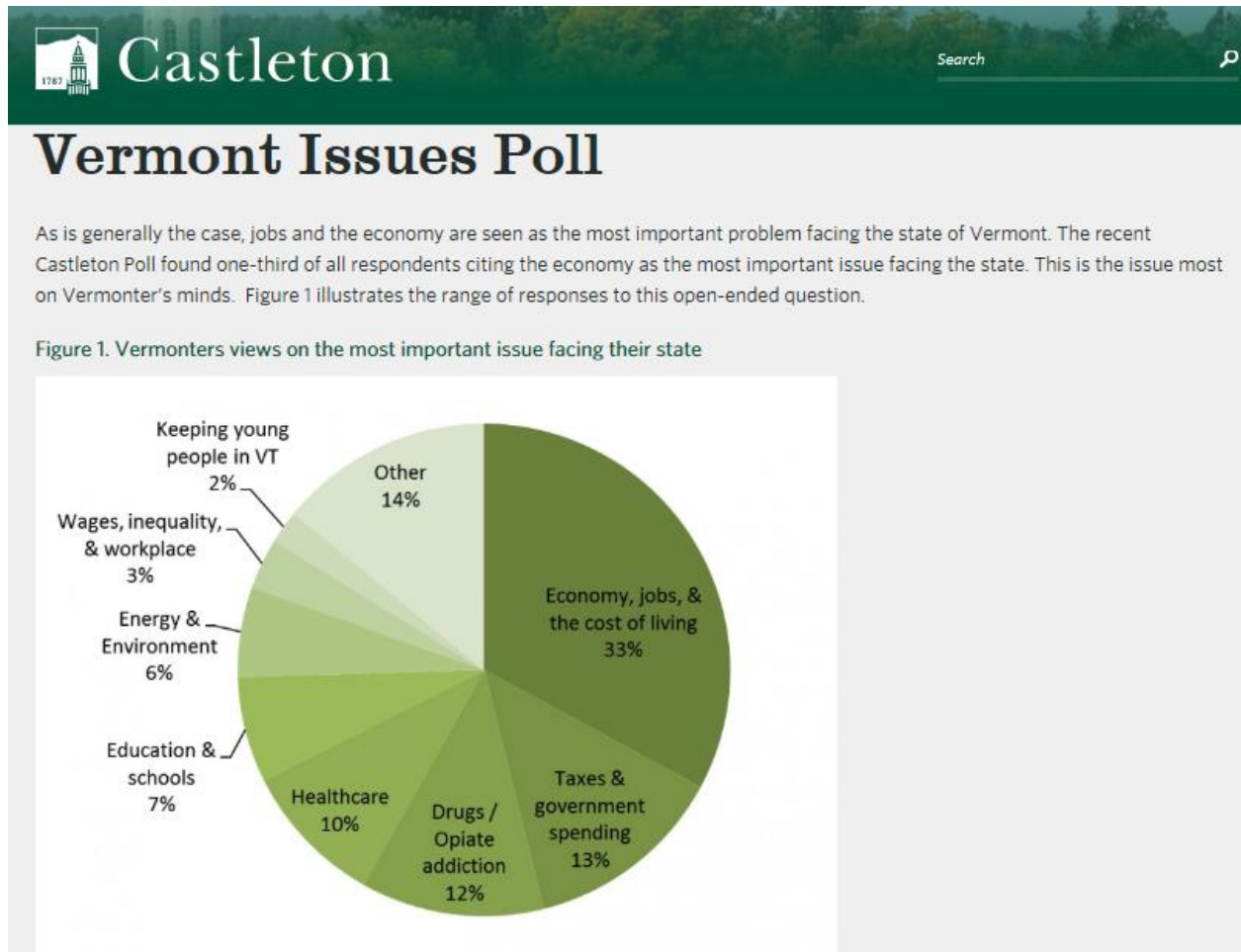
Bob DePino

Vice President, Gun Owners of Vermont

WHAT THE PEOPLE REALLY SAY:

Despite what you are being told by Gun Sense and the media, the majority of people in Vermont and the nation are NOT supportive of any additional gun control measures!

In fact, the results of the 2015 Castleton “Vermont Issues Poll” shows that of all the tallied results, ZERO PERCENT OF RESPONDANTS even *mentioned* “Gun Control” or “Firearms!” (3)



Careful analysis of ALL the Castleton polls turns up one key factor on the gun control questions: They ONLY “TARGET” the YOUNGEST males to respond to their surveys, and resort to the youngest females only as backup! (4)

Respondents within households were selected by asking first for the youngest male adult in the household. If the youngest male was not available, the interviewer would make an attempt to find the best time to reach the target individual. If there was no male in the household, the interviewer would request to speak to the youngest female.

Unless prodded into answering leading questions on gun control with targeted demographics, even the youngest Vermonters are not concerned about creating new firearm legislation as explained in the following press release from the Vermont Traditions Coalition:

For Immediate Release: October 21, 2016

Response to Vermont Public Radio polling released October 19, 2016 – **why Vermont needs no more new gun laws**. On behalf of the organizations listed below:

“Lawful Vermont firearm owners should be encouraged that the poll revealed one major fact about Vermonters sentiments at this crucial moment in the 2016 election cycle. Vermont voters see no need for new gun laws. Vermont voters clearly want politicians of all stripes and at all levels of state government to concentrate on the myriad other issues at the top of their minds like taxes and the economy. Despite being provided an open question as to their priorities this year, barely 1% suggested “guns” as a top issue priority.

The only area where the poll specifically addressed Vermonters constitutionally protected gun rights was with regards the question of “universal background checks”. The question: “Do you support or oppose requiring universal background checks (UBC) for all gun purchases, regardless if sold in a store,, gun show or private sale” is somewhat redundant. Adding the word “universal” (being redundant to “all gun purchases”) since its last poll, the Castleton Institute fell prey to the term of art used by supporters of the proposal. Oops. The wording also suggests that all means even private family sales and transfers such as junior inheriting grandpa’s 12 gauge or deer rifle. That is something Vermonters will never abide and would simply create a category of felons with the stroke of a pen.

The UBC proposal appears to have strong support. However, the issue is generally seen as red herring by informed firearms law authorities, including law enforcement. UBC would not simply create felons out of lawful firearms owners who are unaware or defiant of the law, it would also expand the federal background check system of de facto firearms registration. Those sales using the federal Form 4473 for the background check at firearms dealers are also creating an available data base of make, model and serial number of every gun owned by honest law-abiding Americans. Despite claims to the contrary, that is exactly what has recently happened in Connecticut. UBC would also raise prices as some shops in Connecticut are now charging up to \$100 per transfer. In Vermont most shops have indicated they may refuse to continue the service under threat of liability insurance cancellation.

One thing is certain; felons, drug dealers and others prohibited to legally purchase firearms will not flock to gun shops to obey this law. In the safest state in the nation now three years running (Uniform Crime Statistics FBI 2015), universal background checks will be neither universal nor help address the real problems of opiate addiction and the petty crimes associated with it. Neither will UBCs help provide a real mental health crisis system Vermont families demand and deserve. Real action in these two areas of public policy would possible prevent a future murder or suicide, the very thing UBC proponents say they seek to avoid. We note that the words “mental health” appear nowhere in the VPR poll. Again, Oops.”

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In **November 2014** the voters of Vermont sent a clear message to the anti-gun politicians running for office. (5)
THREE extremely anti-gun candidates did not reach office for the first time.
NINE anti-gun legislators were defeated by pro-gun candidates.
THIRTEEN new pro-gun candidates won their districts.
FOURTY-FOUR pro-gun candidates returned to their seats.

In **November 2016** the voters of Vermont again repeated their message, “No New Gun Laws!” (6)
EIGHTEEN anti-gun candidates did not win their August primaries.
SEVEN anti-gun candidates were defeated in the November election.
FOUR “new” pro-gun candidates were elected.
Many other anti-gun candidates did not run again for office.

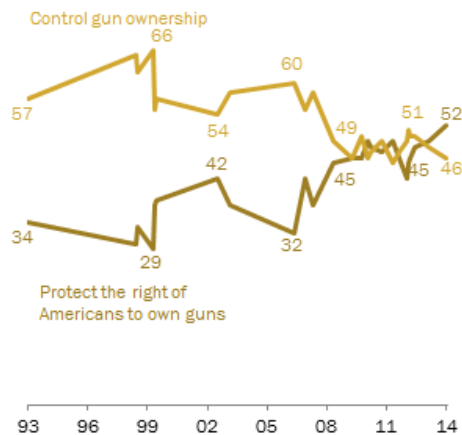
Gun owners in Vermont, and across this nation, have made their voices heard at the voting booth.

Across the nation, unbiased polls all show overwhelming support for GUN RIGHTS!

1) The **PEW Research** article “Growing Public Support for Gun Rights” (7) now shows that the majority of Americans view protection of the 2nd Amendment Rights of citizens outweigh any desire for gun control.

Two Years After Newtown, A Shift in Favor of Gun Rights

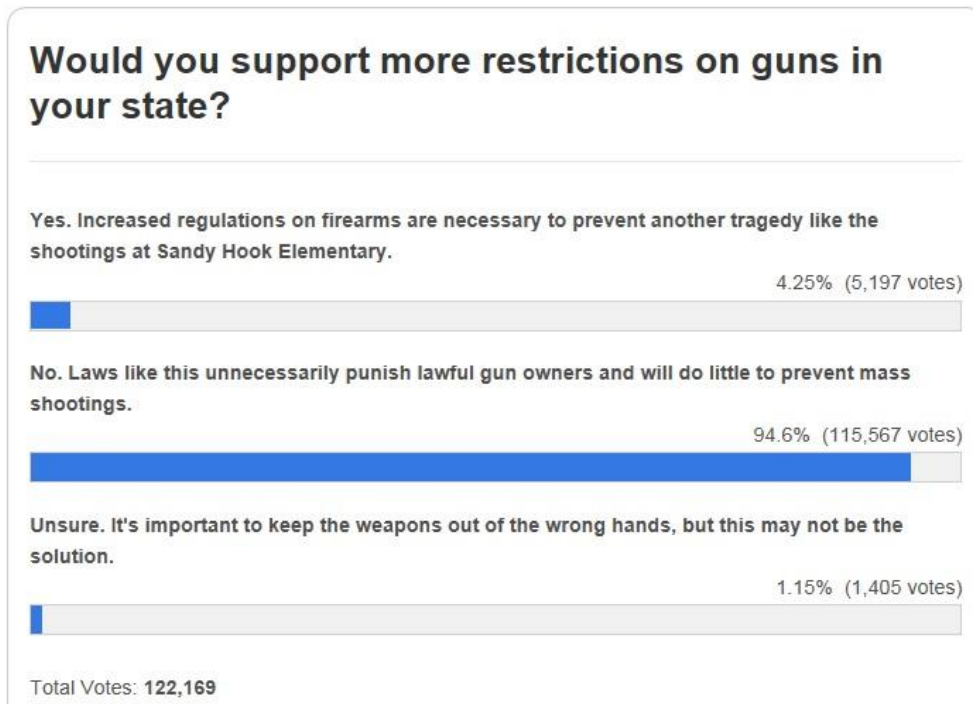
% saying it is more important to ...



Survey conducted Dec. 3-7, 2014.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

2) The **PBS Poll** (2014 still ongoing), “Would you support more restrictions on guns in your state?” is currently running over 120,000+ votes, shows that **90%** of respondents are **AGAINST** more restrictions! (8)



3) The **WWLP poll** (still ongoing), “Do you think the Bushmaster AR-15 should be available to purchase by the public?” Overwhelmingly shows 90% of responses to be “Yes.” (9)



UNIVERSAL BACKGROUND CHECKS HAVE NO EFFECT ON “GUN CRIME”:

All Federal Firearms License (FFL) holders (dealers) are regulated and licensed by the federal government; therefore they need to adhere to federal law due to the nature of interstate commerce. Whereas a sale, gift, trade or loan between two individuals in the state of Vermont is not under regulation of the federal government, nor is it illegal by Vermont Statute.

It is already illegal under federal law to sell a firearm to someone who resides in another state without going through an FFL dealer who conducts a background check.

It is already illegal under federal law to sell a firearm to a prohibited person.

According to Gun Sense Vermont, we have the highest firearms death rate in New England!

When the average citizen hears this, they assume that Gun Sense is talking about murders.

This is intentionally deceptive, and creates an atmosphere of fear that feeds their anti-gun agenda and fills their campaign coffers.

The truth is, Vermont has the smallest number of firearm homicides in the nation, and one of the lowest in the world!

Even when comparing the percentage of total deaths to those by firearm, we rank the lowest.

ALL States that already have Universal Background Checks in force are seeing 50% to 74% of their total homicides attributed to guns!

Certain cities, like Chicago, have seen over 90% of their homicides committed by firearm!

Stricter gun control is having the exact opposite effect of what they claim!

Comparison: Percentage of Total Homicides Attributed to Firearms In Relation to Level of Gun Control in State (2009-2014)					
State	Universal Background Checks?	Avg murders	Avg by firearms	% of murders by firearm	
Years: 2009-2014	California	AWB + UBC + Permit	2,171	1,507	69%
	Connecticut	AWB + UBC	136	97	71%
	New York	AWB + UBC	871	511	59%
	Rhode Island	UBC	33	18	54%
	Massachusetts	AWB + UBC + Permit	190	112	59%
	New Jersey	AWB + UBC + Permit	437	323	74%
	New Hampshire	NO Restrictions	17	7	41%
	Vermont	NO Restrictions	8	3	33%

UBC = Universal Background Checks, **AWB** = Assault Weapons Ban, **Permit** = Gun Purchaser Permit System

	Gun Controls in Place AWB = Assault Weapons Ban UBC = Universal Background Checks	Avg Firearm Homicides per year	What percent <u>SAFER</u> than Vermont?	Population (2014)	How Many Times Larger than Vermont Population	How Many Times More Firearm Homicides than Vermont	ALL these UBC States are <u>LESS SAFE</u> than Vermont!
2004 to 2015	California	AWB + UBC	1441.17	-29312%	38.8M	62x	293x
	New York	AWB + UBC	442.83	-9007%	8.406M	13.42x	90x
	New Jersey	AWB + UBC	263.25	-5354%	8.938M	14.27x	54x
	Massachusetts	AWB + UBC	95.67	-1946%	6.745M	10.77x	19x
	Connecticut	AWB + UBC	70.33	-1431%	3.597M	5.74x	14x
	Rhode Island	AWB + UBC	13.67	-278%	1.055M	1.68x	3x
	Vermont	no restrictions	4.92		626,562		

**UBC States
are
3x to 293x
MORE
dangerous
than
Vermont!**

According to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) data there have been over **453,322** background checks in Vermont since 1999 (as of November 2016)! [\(10\)](#)

This does not include the *millions* of firearms purchased in the 200 years before the Brady Law went into effect.

The reality is, an estimated 50-75% of households in Vermont have firearms while Massachusetts firearm registration records indicate firearm ownership at only 13%!

Even with such a high rate of ownership in Vermont, the number of homicides and “gun crimes” annually are the lowest in the nation! Most of those crimes are perpetrated by repeat offenders.

The problem with using the numbers of lawful gun owners to determine “crime rates” is statistically and intellectually **dishonest**, as it is not “law abiding citizens” that are robbing convenience stores and hurting people during home invasions or drug deals.

The FBI Uniform Crime Reports show, year after year, that Vermont has the lowest overall violent crimes rates in the nation! [\(11\)](#)

Vermont is well-known nationwide as the “Safest State in the Nation” because our low crime-rates are indicative of an armed population. [\(12\)](#)

GUN SENSE & THE MEDIA SAYS VERMONT IS A MAJOR SOURCE OF ILLEGAL GUNS IN NEW ENGLAND:

You will hear from Gun Sense and the anti-gun media that Vermont is THE major source of “illegal” guns travelling into Massachusetts and that Universal Background Checks will make it harder for criminals to get guns. **This is an outright lie** and the ATF data confirms this.

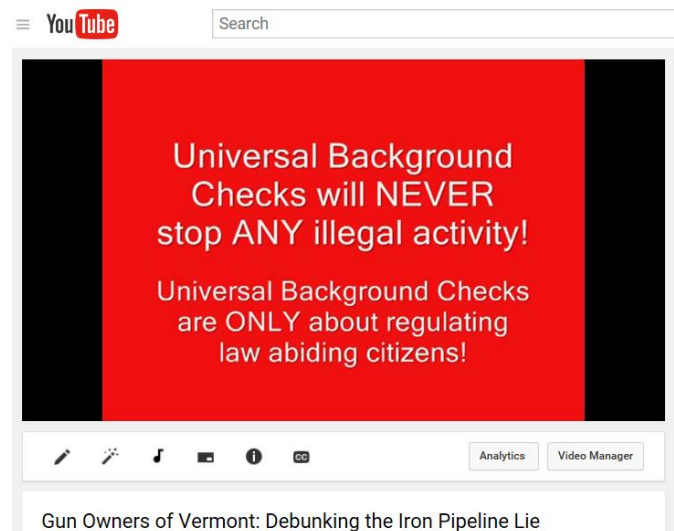
Year	#1 Source MA (in state)	Top Five Outside Source States (with # recovered)				
		#1	#2	#3	#4	#5
2006	334	NH (99)	ME (65)	FL (57)	GA (55)	VA (43)
2007	316	NH (93)	ME (61)	GA (32)	FL (31)	CT (29)
2008	290	ME (97)	NH (91)	GA (58)	FL (41)	VA (31)
2009	395	NH (105)	ME (84)	GA (53)	FL (53)	VA (38)
2010	438	NH (139)	ME (118)	FL (77)	GA (44)	PA (31)
2011	351	NH (133)	ME (79)	GA (60)	FL (56)	CA (38)
2012	453	NH (129)	ME (72)	FL (45)	GA (42)	NC (33)
2013	431	NH (121)	ME (91)	FL (51)	GA (47)	VT (29)
2014	402	NH (121)	ME (85)	GA (49)	FL (46)	VA (31)
2015	419	NH (136)	ME (94)	GA (59)	FL (58)	VA (36)

With millions of guns in the state, and few restrictions, Vermont consistently has some of the lowest numbers of firearms being recovered in other states, yet media outlets, such as the Boston Globe (13), Seven Days (14), WPTZ, NPR (15) and others, went wild with the “Iron Pipeline” slander campaign. As criminals get their guns through theft, no criminal will undergo a UBC.

As you can see from the table above, Vermont was in the “Top Five” only ONCE in TEN years!

However, WCAX used the ATF data, just like Gun Owners of Vermont, to verify that Vermont was NOT a major source of guns (with a total of 29) over the last ten years! Publicly available ATF data only goes back to 2006.

WCAX printed an article in June 2014, “**Report: Vermont not a major source of guns.**” (16)



GUN SENSE SAYS DRUG DEALERS COME TO VERMONT TO “STOCK UP” ON GUNS:

The ATF reports actually show that more guns enter Massachusetts from Florida and Georgia than Vermont, why? Because “crime guns” are usually STOLEN from their rightful owners and NOT purchased legally and then sold to criminals!

More importantly, the ATF data includes an important statistic that all the anti-gun proponents completely ignore; “**Time-to-Crime.**” (17)

The definition of Time-to-Crime” (TTC) is simple, it is the number of YEARS between when a firearm was originally purchased and when it was recovered.

The average “Time-To-Crime” in Massachusetts during 2006-2015, is **13.55 YEARS!**

During those 13 years, that firearm may have been stolen from a Vermont home, taken to New York, sold to a criminal in New Jersey, driven into Connecticut, swapped to a Massachusetts criminal where it was discovered during a car accident. Criminal trace category: “Possession.”

At no point in time would Universal Background Checks have ever been performed on that stolen firearm!

Firearms Recovered in Massachusetts (2006-2015)	
Year	Time To Crime (Years)
2006	12.07
2007	12.94
2008	12.94
2009	13.36
2010	13.42
2011	14.00
2012	14.21
2013	13.43
2014	13.76
2015	12.34

These are not guns being “Straw Purchased” in Vermont and immediately resold to felons from out of state! These guns were most likely stolen between ten and twenty years ago and moved around the country by criminals, some traveling up to **3000 miles from California** to end up in Massachusetts, yet Vermont gets all the blame by Gun Sense and the media!

This Time-To-Crime statistic alone invalidates the media and Gun Sense’s lie that “straw-purchases” and “gun show loopholes” are fueling the “guns-for-drugs” argument.

LOOKING CLOSER AT THOSE “CRIME GUNS” IN MASSACHUSETTS:

By federal law, it is legal to transport a firearm between states as long as it is legal to possess them from your place of departure to your destination in continuous travel.

If you stop in Massachusetts (for gas, food or to use the restroom, or have an accident) you are no longer in continuous travel, and without a Massachusetts permit, you are in violation of Massachusetts law! In other words, you are a criminal for getting into a car crash because you didn’t reach your destination!

According to the ATF data, 88% of all “crime guns” in Massachusetts are recovered during non-violent offenses, such as; possession of a firearm without the proper license, or in the case of a Vermont resident, merely driving over the border while going shopping and forgetting there is a firearm in the vehicle.

How many of those “Vermont recovered” guns are for merely driving over the border?

Every time a traveler crosses the state line into Massachusetts with a firearm without the proper Firearms ID Card and Concealed Carry license, even if by accident, or carelessness, that gun is counted by Massachusetts law enforcement as “trafficked.” It doesn’t have to be sold or traded to be considered “trafficked.”

88% of All Recovered Firearms in Massachusetts from ALL States are for <u>Non-Violent</u> Crimes				
Year	State	Total Recovered In State	Category: Violent	Category: Non-Violent
2006	Massachusetts	1644	44	1413
2007	Massachusetts	1538	32	1361
2008	Massachusetts	1534	90	1250
2009	Massachusetts	1968	133	1618
2010	Massachusetts	2173	230	1746
2011	Massachusetts	1737	125	1479
2012	Massachusetts	1600	140	1377
2013	Massachusetts	1571	139	1293
2014	Massachusetts	1538	94	1869
2015	Massachusetts	1744	142	1547
			violent	7%
	Unknown: 5%		non violent	88%

COULD UNIVERSAL BACKGROUND CHECKS WORK?

The Universal Background Check push is publicly touted on the false premise that making people go through the background check process will keep guns out of the hands of criminals.

This is a fallacy as the **ONLY** people that will be forced to do a background check are law-abiding citizens!

Under current federal law:

1. Buying a firearm for a prohibited person is already a crime.
2. Selling firearms across state lines without going through an FFL is already a crime.
3. Selling firearms to prohibited persons is already a crime.
4. Trading guns for drugs is already a crime.
5. Selling a stolen firearm is already a crime.

These transactions are NOT those of “law-abiding” citizens, and NONE of these actions will be prevented by enacting a Universal Background Check law!

Again, the **ONLY** people affected by such a law are the law-abiding citizens!

Gun Sense and the national anti-gun groups KNOW this but uses deception, emotion and catchy phrases like; “gun safety”, “it’s for the children”, “if it can save just one life”, “reasonable restrictions”, or “it’s just common sense legislation” to cajole the trusting public into supporting unconstitutional restrictions on the very people who are NOT PART of the problem they propose to “fix!”

Those phrases are also used to demonize lawful gun owners who “dare” stand up for their Constitutional Rights, by labeling them as “heartless,” “bullies,” “threatening,” or “unreasonable.”

Remember what the Chiefs of Police Association said?

Universal Background Checks **require registration** to function.

As any student of history knows, registration **always** leads to confiscation.

ALL states that currently have UBCs also have forced registration.

EVERY state that has forced registration has mandated confiscation statutes.

Charles Morgan, Director of the Washington, D.C. ACLU, during testimony before the House Subcommittee on Crime stated, “I have not one doubt, even if I am in agreement with the National Rifle Association, that that kind of record keeping procedure [gun registration] is the first step to eventual confiscation under one administration or another.” (18)

This might not happen this year or next, but make no mistake about it, in 3, 5, or 10 years down the road, some anti-gun organization and anti-gun legislators will be back demanding registration because those Universal Background Checks aren’t reducing gun crime.

If any Universal Background Check legislation passes in Vermont it will be the cornerstone of confiscation.

Five quick examples of **UBC => Registration => Confiscation** include:

- 1) Passage of the New York S.A.F.E. Act, without public discourse, mandates to confiscation of unregistered semi-automatic firearms and prosecution of their owners.

2) Passage of the New York S.A.F.E. Act now allows firearms registered under the Sullivan Act in New York City, such as bolt-action .22 caliber rifles with tubular magazines to be confiscated.

3) New York has even begun searching and seizing firearms from the widows of licensed gun owners after they die (19) because the list of pistol permit holders also contains the exact details of each firearm owned.

4) The California “Armed and Prohibited Person” program as of July 2015, had already confiscated over 11,561 firearms, and over ONE MILLION rounds of ammunition, from people who have previously obtained those firearms lawfully, but, due to changes made to state law since its passage, are now prohibited from possession. (20) Over 1,000 are so-called “assault weapons” that have been newly criminalized by changes in definition.

5) Connecticut enacted its latest update to their Assault Weapon Ban in April 2013, now, virtually every firearm AND magazine that is capable of holding more than 10 rounds is illegal unless registered with the State. If it was unregistered in January 2014, it was mandated that the firearm be rendered inoperable, sold to an FFL, removed from the state or “relinquished” to the police department. The initial grace period is now over and any owner will be arrested, charged with a crime, jailed and the firearm confiscated. (21)

6) Hawaii, a Universal Background State, just enacted TOTAL gun registration in December 2016. (22)

The direct links to confiscation are Universal Background Checks, licensing and registration.

All of these legal schemes are ONLY designed to restrict the rights of law-abiding citizens, as criminals will never abide by any law.

UNIVERSAL BACKGROUND CHECKS ARE DEFACTO REGISTRATION:

Before an FFL dealer can do a background check, a person has to fill out a form 4473, which lists the make, model, serial number, caliber and who is purchasing it.

Federal law requires the FFL to take physical ownership of the firearm until the transfer goes through.

If the transfer does not go through, the ORIGINAL OWNER must then fill out that 4473, as an FFL cannot transfer a firearm that is inventory to anyone who hasn't passed a federal background check!

Both times, the FFL needs to charge a fee.

That form 4473 must be kept FOREVER by the FFL and turned over to the ATF when the shop ceases business.

The ATF/FBI are now currently entering ALL THOSE 4473s from defunct businesses into a national computer database in Quantico Virginia. (23)

The federal government isn't allowed to register guns, but apparently they feel they CAN register “sales.”

Although legislators like yourself, personally, may not want to take firearms away from the good and honest people of Vermont, who is to say what some other legislative body will do, twenty years down the road?

There are legislators who have already betrayed their Oath of Office by proposing, supporting and voting FOR gun control, including full-on bans with mandatory confiscation.

Universal Background Checks will lay the groundwork to allow for the future confiscation of firearms that are currently owned by law-abiding Vermonters.

UNIVERSAL BACKGROUND CHECKS ARE UNCONSTITUTIONAL:

The NRA-ILA posted an article in 2000, which again underscores the **uselessness** of Universal Background Checks to “stop guns from getting into the wrong hands,” and proves that the **ONLY** people affected by Universal Background Checks will be the law-abiding citizen!

“Gun owners also know that criminals will never register their illegally possessed guns and, in fact, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in Haynes v. U.S. (309 U.S. 85 (1968)) that since felons are prohibited from owning firearms, compelling them to register them would violate their 5th Amendment rights against self-incrimination.” (24)

So, the very laws that gun control radicals like Gun Sense proclaim will reduce crime, protect women, and slow gun trafficking, could **NEVER LEGALLY** affect criminals because...

Universal Background Checks WOULD VIOLATE THE RIGHTS OF CRIMINALS!

Read that again. Slowly.

Universal Background Checks would violate the rights of criminals.

The truth is clear, Universal Background Checks and registration have nothing to do with crime control, but have ***everything to do with increasing government control over the ability of law-abiding citizens to keep and bear arms!***

It is not about safety, it is about furthering a political agenda.

The Universal Background Check push is based on the false premise that the “security” of the people can only be accomplished by the violation of “Individual Rights” and that the government must have total power over the people. So many anti-gunners repeat, over and over again, that it is their right to **demand** the government enact strict gun control so that they can “feel safe”.

This is why our Founding Fathers created a Constitutional Republic, **not** a democracy.

We must remind these folks that there is **NO** Constitutional Right to “feel safe.”

There is **NO** Constitutional Right for anyone to demand control over the rights of their neighbor.

Article 1 of the Vermont Constitution describes our “unalienable rights, amongst which are the enjoying and defending life and liberty” and “pursuing and obtaining happiness and safety” as **ACTIVE** pursuits, not **PASSIVE** ones to be provided and regulated by the government.

The Constitutional Rights of the **INDIVIDUAL** come first, to be **PROTECTED** by law, not subject to the whim of the loudest, wealthiest, nor numerous amongst the masses.

Article 16 of the Vermont Constitution confirms the right of individual citizens to bear arms.

The first part of Article 16 states: “That the people have a right to bear arms for the defence of themselves and the State.”

There is no doubt what Vermont’s Founders thought, there is no pesky “militia” clause and no confusing punctuation.

Any anti-gun legislation brought before the Statehouse will likely contain “exceptions.”

These exceptions will be there in the attempt to appease gun owners in Vermont that the anti-gun crowd is not out to adversely affect them.

If a law is to be written to “affect only criminals,” why do they need to include “exceptions” so law-abiding citizens don’t run afoul of this law?

ANY provision for exception can be amended, modified, altered or removed in a future legislative session, continually undermining the Constitution of Vermont.

Any legislation that seeks to “prevent” criminal behaviors before it happens is misguided at best, and unlawful at worst.

You are being told that Universal Background Checks are **necessary** to reduce the chances of guns falling into the “wrong hands.”

We have proven it will NEVER do what the sponsors tell you!

UNIVERSAL BACKGROUND CHECKS ARE A NATIONAL ATTACK ON THE RIGHTS OF AMERICANS ALL ATTACKS ARE FUNDED BY THE SAME PARENT ORGANIZATION

In 2013, Michael Bloomberg’s anti-gun groups spent **\$12M** running UBC ads in Arizona, Arkansas, Georgia, Indiana, Louisiana, Maine, New Hampshire, Nevada, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin.

Michael Bloomberg’s anti-gun groups spent almost **\$10M** in Colorado to pass UBCs.

Michael Bloomberg’s anti-gun groups spent almost **\$1M** in Vermont to pass UBCs, and FAILED.

Michael Bloomberg’s anti-gun groups spent almost **\$5M** in New Hampshire to pass UBCs, and FAILED.

Michael Bloomberg’s anti-gun groups spent almost **\$10M** in Washington to pass UBCs.

Michael Bloomberg’s anti-gun groups spent almost **\$10M** in Oregon to pass UBCs.

Michael Bloomberg’s anti-gun groups spent almost **\$5.3M** in Maine to pass UBCs, and FAILED. (25)

Michael Bloomberg’s anti-gun groups spent almost **\$20M** in Nevada to pass unenforceable UBCs.

WHY IS GUN SENSE STILL FIGHTING FOR UNIVERSAL BACKGROUND CHECKS?

Because Michael Bloomberg is still funding the state-by-state attacks on firearm rights in New England and the nation. Politicians are accepting money from fake “grassroots” anti-gun groups with bottomless pockets.

In 2013-2014, Gun Sense **went all-out** on its anti-gun agenda (but they **still** deny they are anti-gun) by supporting EVERY ONE of the SEVENTEEN gun control bills proposed in Montpelier without exception!), these included:

1. Banning the manufacture, possession, or transfer of semi-automatic firearms,
2. Banning the manufacture, possession, or transfer of ammunition magazines over 10 rounds,
3. Mandated “safe storage” of all firearms,
4. Mandated 48 hour waiting periods,
5. Mandated reporting of mental health records to the federal government,
6. Banning firearms on all properties owned by schools (anti-hunting),
7. Mandated confiscation of firearms from persons ACCUSED of domestic violence,
8. Mandating Vermont law enforcement to be required to enforce federal laws,

9. Mandated "safety training" (and licensing for concealed carry),
and EVERY one of the 5 unconstitutional Burlington Charter Changes, including:
10. An "assault weapon" and "high capacity" magazine ban,
11. Mandated license to carry concealed firearms,
12. Confiscation of firearms without adjudication on "reasonable suspicion" of domestic violence,
13. Ban on any property owned or leased by establishments with a liquor license,
14. Mandatory storage requirements for all firearms.

In 2015-2016, Gun Sense throttled back on their demands, and said the ONLY thing they wanted was Universal Background Checks, but **they supported all 6 versions of the Burlington Charter Changes**, which included **firearm confiscation by police, restrictions on where firearms could be carried and how firearms were to be stored in a private dwelling or vehicle.**

In 2017, Gun Sense makes a DIFFERENT claim, stating they want "Universal Background Checks and other policies!"

Gun Sense Vermont is an independent, grassroots organization of Vermonters who support stronger laws to ensure that guns stay out of the wrong hands.

Our successful 2015 campaign resulted in the passage of a state-level law prohibiting felons from possessing guns and requiring the timely submission of disqualifying court records to the National Instant Background Check System.

Join us and help our growing group of Vermonters -- gun owners AND non-gun owners -- work to pass universal background checks **and other policies** that will ensure that guns stay out of the wrong hands.

Over the last three years, Gun Sense Vermont has been repeatedly proven to not be independent, not be grassroots, and not to be controlled by Vermonters.

I hope you have figured out that they are lying to you about their goals this year as well.

They will be back **every year** from now on.

Even if they get Universal Background Checks in 2017, they will never "close up shop."

Unless we defeat Universal Background Checks in 2017, Vermont will never be free from Bloomberg's money.

Vermont's legislature needs to send a strong message to Mr. Bloomberg.

"Vermont is not for sale."

"No new gun laws!"

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Constitution of the State of Vermont

AS ESTABLISHED JULY 9, 1793, AND AMENDED THROUGH DECEMBER 14, 2010

CHAPTER I. A DECLARATION OF THE RIGHTS OF THE INHABITANTS OF THE STATE OF VERMONT

Article 1. [All persons born free; their natural rights; slavery prohibited]

That all persons are born equally free and independent, and have certain natural, inherent, and unalienable rights, amongst which are the enjoying and defending life and liberty, acquiring, possessing and protecting property, and pursuing and obtaining happiness and safety

Article 16. [Right to bear arms; standing armies; military power subordinate to civil]

That the people have a right to bear arms for the defence of themselves and the State--and as standing armies in time of peace are dangerous to liberty, they ought not to be kept up; and that the military should be kept under strict subordination to and governed by the civil power.

CHAPTER II. PLAN OR FRAME OF GOVERNMENT DELEGATION AND DISTRIBUTION OF POWERS

§ 16. [REPRESENTATIVES' OATHS]

The Representatives having met, and chosen their Speaker and Clerk, shall each of them, before they proceed to business, take and subscribe, as well the oath or affirmation of allegiance hereinafter directed (except where they shall produce certificates of their having theretofore taken and subscribed the same) as the following oath or affirmation:

You do solemnly swear (or affirm) that as a member of this Assembly, **you will not propose, or assent to, any bill, vote or resolution, which shall appear to you injurious to the people, nor do nor consent to any act or thing whatever, that shall have a tendency to lessen or abridge their rights and privileges, as declared by the Constitution of this State**; but will, in all things, conduct yourself as a faithful, honest Representative and guardian of the people, according to the best of your judgment and ability.

Under the pains and penalties of perjury.