

# NRA Members' Gun Safety Act

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December 2012

## SUMMARY

The NRA Members' Gun Safety Act seeks to implement five common sense gun safety reforms that polling shows are supported by at least 63 percent of NRA members.

It would:

1. Require background checks for every gun purchase
2. Require background checks on gun shop employees
3. Prohibit individuals on the terrorist watch list from purchasing firearms
4. Require gun owners to report to police when their guns are lost or stolen
5. Establish minimum standards for concealed carry permits

## WHY THIS BILL IS NEEDED

Each year, approximately 100,000 people in America are shot with a gun, and over 10,000 are murdered using a firearm. In the wake of tragedies like the December shooting at a Newtown, Connecticut elementary school that left 20 children and 6 school officials dead, Congress and gun-related groups have a responsibility to prevent further tragedies.

## WHAT THIS BILL DOES

Research by noted Republican pollster Frank Luntz shows the five gun safety reforms in this legislation received overwhelming support from NRA members. The provisions would:

### **1. Require background checks for every gun purchase**

*Supported by 74 percent of NRA members*

According to ATF, gun shows are involved with over 10,000 trafficked guns a year – about 30% of all criminal trafficking. The bill requires private sellers to verify, either with local law enforcement or certified gun dealers, that the purchaser is not a prohibited from gun ownership. The bill includes exceptions, including sales to law enforcement and transfers among immediate family members.

### **2. Require background checks on gun shop employees**

*Supported by 79 percent of NRA members*

Though federal law clearly prohibits felons, domestic violence misdemeanants, and other persons from possessing a firearm, there is no requirement that gun shop employees must be legally able to own a

gun. The bill requires all gun dealers to supply employee information to DOJ for an NICS background check.

### **3. Prohibit individuals on the terrorist watch list from purchasing firearms**

*Supported by 71 percent of NRA members*

A 2011 Government Accountability Office report shows that individuals on terror watch lists tried to buy guns and explosives 1,453 times during a near seven-year period. The FBI was unable to block 91 percent of these attempts. The bill gives DOJ discretion, subject to judicial review, to ensure terror suspects would fail background checks.

### **4. Require gun owners to report to police when their guns are lost or stolen**

*Supported by 64 percent of NRA members*

According to poll data on gun-owning households, almost 600,000 guns are stolen each year from private homes. ATF reports that over a quarter of its criminal gun trafficking investigations involve stolen guns. The bill would require individuals to report the theft or loss of a firearm, within 48 hours, to the appropriate local authorities.

### **5. Establish minimum standards for concealed carry permits**

*Permits only granted to those who have completed gun safety training: 74 percent of NRA members support*

*Permits only granted to those 21 years or older: 63 percent of NRA members support*

*Permits not granted to those convicted of a violent crime: 75 percent NRA members support*

The bill would establish minimum federal standards for concealed carry permits including:

- Must complete state-certified gun safety training
- Must be 21 years or older
- Must not have been convicted of a crime of violence
- States have the right to establish additional standards as they see fit.

## **GUN VIOLENCE IN AMERICA**

- Each year, almost 100,000 people in America are shot or killed with a gun, 20,000 of which are children under the age of 18
- Over 30,000 people die from gun violence, including murders, suicides, and accidental deaths.
- Over 10,000 people are murdered by gun violence each year.
- Every day, 87 people – including eight children and teens – die from gun violence.
- Between 250 million to 300 million guns are estimated to be owned by Americans, nearly enough for every man, woman, and child in the country.
- The firearm homicide rate in the U.S. is nearly 19 times higher than the combined rate of other populous high-income countries.