New Yorkers Against Gun Violence

Working to Reduce Gun Violence Since 1993

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Much Ado About Future Driver Licenses and Gun Purchases but Secondary Sales in New York Allow Long Gun Purchases Without ANY Background Check

Only Licensed Dealers Must Look at Drivers Licenses, Unlicensed Sellers such as those at Fleamarkets don't look at anything at all!

(New York, NY): New Yorkers Against Gun Violence calls on State Lawmakers who have focused the illegal immigrant drivers license debate on the prospect of immigrants acquiring guns to address the CURRENT loopholes in state law that allow ALL prohibited persons (felons, those adjudicated mentally ill, those with domestic violence convictions, children and yes illegal immigrants) to purchase rifles and shotguns freely with no background check at all from flea markets, auction houses, and from individuals selling guns from their home or through newspaper or internet ads. Background checks on purchasers of rifles and shotguns are ONLY conducted when the seller is a licensed gun dealer. A bill (A1272) that would close many of these secondary sales loopholes has languished in the New York State Assembly.

Whatever the outcome of the drivers license debate, concerns about gun purchases can be addressed by requiring a federal Real ID for any gun purchases. This would ideally be passed on the federal level, though it would likely begin as a state measure.

State lawmakers who have expressed concerns over the ability of terrorists to purchase guns should issue statements of support for the Terrorism Watch list bill pending in Congress that would add terror suspects to the FBI's list of prohibited gun purchasers. A bill (S1237)requiring these names to be added to the background check prohibited list is opposed by the gun lobby. Since their New York State affiliate is among those expressing concern about gun purchases by illegal immigrants, perhaps they want to rethink their opposition to this bill. NYAGV also looks to them to support the bill requiring updates to the National Background Checks database to ensure that state records of felons, persons convicted of domestic violence, and those adjudicated mentally ill are up on the FBI's prohibited purchase list as well. This measure (HR297) has stalled in the US Senate.

Jackie Kuhls, NYAGV Executive Director closed, "For those with a new-found interest in keeping guns out of prohibited hands, there are plenty of opportunities to close existing loopholes that allow long guns to be purchased without any background checks at all. Let's work together to make sure background checks are conducted on all gun purchases and to ensure the background check database is current and includes the names of potential terrorists".

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