**We affirm on the basis of two contentions.**

**Our first contention is the local front.**

Universal background checks prevent domestic abusers from attaining guns in two ways.

**First is private sales.**

Brian Freskos of Columbia Law School explains that while current federal law does require background checks for federal sellers, it imposes no such restriction on the private market. This is problematic because domestic abusers simply turn to private sellers in an attempt to circumvent background checks. Think Progress confirms, finding empirically that over 80 percent of convicted individuals, included domestic abusers, acquire firearms from the private market without any inspection. Fortunately, implementing a universal background check mends this loophole. The Bureau of Justice reports that 84 percent of domestic abusers have a prior record, meaning they would be unable to pass a comprehensive check.

**Second is online purchases.**

Uzra Khan of Harvard University writes that gun sales have found a new home online. Unfortunately, she furthers that 95 percent of these purchases don’t undergo background checks. Problematically, Phillip Rucker of the Washington Post finds that the vastness of these unregulated purchases mean that the online market has overtaken more traditional loopholes as the most dangerous method for unfit buyers to purchase firearms. Fortunately, Third Way finds that states that don’t have background checks perform 240 percent more online gun sales per capita when compared to states that do as checks discourage buyers who aim to avoid detection.

**The impact is less closeted violence.**

Philip Cook of Duke University concludes that denying a potential abuser’s purchase of a gun reduces the chance that he or she will commit a crime by 30 percent. ­­­­Every Town Research confirms, writing that states with background checks including the Internet have seen 46 percent less domestic violence.

**Our second contention is the federal front.**

Universal background checks prevent traditional criminals from attaining guns in two ways.

**First is interstate trafficking.**

Devin Hughes of the Trace explains that, while some states have already implemented background checks, universal checks are still needed, as criminals can simply purchase guns from unregulated states, circumventing the restrictions. For example, Hughes finds that the majority of the guns used in crimes in Maryland, a state with background checks, are trafficked in from other states with comparatively lax gun control policies. Expanding background checks ensure that criminals can no longer exploit this loophole. Daniel Webster of Johns Hopkins University confirms, finding that background checks are associated with a 30 percent reduction in gun exports across state borders. Igor Volsky of Think Progress corroborates, concluding that states with comprehensive background checks experience a 47 percent decrease in overall interstate trafficking.

**Second is black markets.**

Christopher Ingraham of the Washington Post finds that the majority of criminals currently use the black market to attain handguns. Fortunately, universal background checks present a solution. Cook explains that, by restricting the legal market, background checks would cause the black market prices of guns to skyrocket. This is important, as Thomas Cole of Northwestern University concludes that increasing the prices of illegal guns would convince many youths and criminals to “economize,” deterring their gun purchases in the first place. Indeed, Cook argues that, with background checks, “criminals will be more hesitant to obtain a firearm – and [would likely decide to] forgo it altogether.” However, more importantly, background checks also attack the supply chain of the black market. Jon Vernick of the University of Massachusetts, Amherst finds that the main suppliers of guns to the illegal market are corrupt dealers. Fortunately, he concludes that by extending background checks and making all dealers accountable for their sales, the motive to divert guns to the black market disappears.

**The impact is less outward violence.**

Robert Lang of the University of Chicago explains that restricting the flow of firearms to high-risk groups is more important than the total amount of guns in circulation, warranting that most American handguns rest in the hands of law-abiding citizens. The key to a successful gun control policy is to prevent more guns from reaching criminals, leading him to conclude that successful regulation of firearms decreases their flow and consequently decreases violence. Accordingly, the Giffords Law Center confirms, finding that states with comprehensive background checks experience 35 percent fewer gun deaths per capita.

**Put all of America under our security blanket, affirm.**