#### Because we believe in protecting innocent lives, we Affirm Resolved: The United States should require universal background checks for all gun sales and transfers of ownership.

**Contention I: Gun Violence**

**Wintemute** in 2013 finds that 80% of felons obtained their guns from private sellers, something that universal background checks would cover.

**Universal background checks decrease gun violence in three ways.**

**First** is increasing prices. Guns in the status quo are cheaper than textbooks. However, restricting availability of guns would significantly increase prices as **Lafollete** finds that whenever we decrease availability of guns, price increases hindering criminal’s ability to buy them. **Bandler** furthers that UBCs spike prices by up to 125 dollars. Overall, **Douglas** of New Mexico University finds that a 1% increase in price, decreases the demand by 3%. **Lafollete** furthers that reducing availability of guns, reduces homicide.

**Second** is cutting off the illicit market. **Dixon** of St. Louis University finds that because the illicit market relies on the legal market, by decreasing the amount of guns, we choke the supply for the illicit market. This is why **Voloksy** of ThinkProgress quantifies that after controlling for multiple factors, states with universal background checks experience 48% less trafficking.

**Third** is deterrence. [**The NCBI**](https://www.thetrace.org/2015/09/gun-laws-work-criminals-effectiveness-research/) finds that people who fail a background check are deterred and 30% less likely to commit crimes down the road.

**Fourth** reducing straw purchases. [Everytown for Gun Safety](https://everytownresearch.org/reports/inside-straw-purchasing-criminals-get-guns-illegally/) finds in 2008 that straw purchasing is by far the most common method criminals use to gain access to guns. Chelsea Parsons of the [Center for American Progress](https://cdn.americanprogress.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/BackgroundChecks.pdf) finds that every time a straw purchases are impossible to prosecute as they move prove intent. However, when you pass UBCs the transfer of ownership becomes prosecutable as no backgrounds check were conducted. As a result, [Garen Wintemunte](https://www.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/vprp/CBC%20White%20Paper%20Final%20Report%20022013.pdf) of UC Davis finds in 2013 that states with universal background checks had 6 times less straw purchases.

**There are three impacts to rampant gun violence in America.**

**First is homicides.**

Pew Research finds in 2010 that there are 11,000 homicides using firearms every year. Problematically, Overall, Bindu Kalesan of Boston University finds in a study of all 50 states and by specifically isolating different variables, universal background checks reduce firearm deaths by 65%.

**Second is preventing Intimate Partner Violence, or IPV**

Winnie Stachelberg of the Center for American Progress writes in 2013 that women are targets of domestic violence and that having a gun in the house increases the risk of homicide by an intimate partner by 20 times. She concludes that the gap in the current law leads to untold numbers of domestic violence perpetrators getting easy access to guns. Thankfully, the Center for American progress quantifies in 2015 that states that require background checks for all gun sales have 46% fewer womin that are shot and killed by their intimate partners.

**Third are long-term impacts.**

Reich in 2002 writes that gun violence negatively affects children and is associated with lower GPA, depression, and other long-term harm. Schuman in 2015 furthers that gun violence also locks communities in a cycle of poverty and violence.

**Contention 2. Preventing Suicide**

**Background Checks help to prevent suicides because** **they take away the leading and most lethal cause of suicide in the US**

According to [Harvard University](https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/magazine/magazine_article/guns-suicide/), 19000 people commit suicide with a gun each year, over 3 times more than the number of soldiers that died in Iraq and Afghanistan

However, the urge to commit suicide is typically passing and reversible

[Gen Progress](http://genprogress.org/voices/2015/08/31/39334/lower-suicide-rates-associated-with-background-checks/) quantifies that firearm suicide attempts are lethal thirty times more frequently than other methods of committing suicide. Beyond that, 90% of people that survive a suicide attempt never try again. If people contemplating suicide with guns don’t have access to guns, they are far more likely to survive.

Fortunately, Background Checks decrease suicides for 2 reasons.

First, Maura [Ewing](https://www.thetrace.org/2017/01/why-mentally-ill-have-guns-legally-background-checks/) of the Trace finds that

Licensed gun dealers are required to query the FBI’s federal background check system — The National Instant Criminal Background Check System [checks to see if a would-be customer is banned. If a buyer’s name is listed with disqualifying mental health records, the dealer refuse[s] the sale.

Second, UBCs allow for delays in purchases

The [Wall Street Journal](http://graphics.wsj.com/gun-check-explainer/) finds that the FBI may delay a firearm sale for a plethora of reasons, including a variety of mental health reasons. The WSJ continues that 9% of gun purchases were delayed up to three days. Bloomberg News finds that a delay in purchase can be enough to reverse the suicide impulsion.

And Nicholas Bakalar of the New York Times quantifies

After controlling for [a variety of factors] background checks were associated with a 53 percent lower gun suicide rate.

Thus we affirm.

**Frontlines**

**AT They’ll report guns stolen.**

**Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence ["Reporting Lost &amp; Stolen Firearms", http://lawcenter.giffords.org/gun-laws/policy-areas/gun-owner-responsibilities/reporting-lost-stolen-firearms/, 11-18-2017] JED**

Laws requiring the reporting of lost or stolen firearms are useful to law enforcement for several reasons. First, when a crime gun is traced by law enforcement to the last purchaser of record, the person who purchased the gun may often claim that the weapon was lost or stolen to hide his or her involvement in the crime or in intentionally trafficking the gun to a prohibited person. Reporting laws provide an important tool for law enforcement to detect this behavior and charge criminals who engage in it.**Individuals who repeatedly report their guns lost or stolen** also **put law enforcement on notice that they may be trafficking** firearms on the black market.