

Jackie and I affirm Resolved: The United States should require universal background checks for all gun sales and transfer of ownership.

Our first contention is Domestic Assault.

[CNN](#) explains in 2017 that

Over 10 million women and men are victims of intimate partner violence

[Cauterucci 2015](#) explains why domestic violence is so lethal, finding that

Ninety-three percent of women killed by men know their murderer, the majority of whom are their intimate partners. **Guns are the preferred weapon of domestic abusers who kill their partners, and domestic assaults are 12 times more likely to be fatal if a gun is involved. Even the simple presence of a gun in a home makes domestic violence five times more likely to lead to murder.**

Unfortunately, many domestic violence offenders get guns from private sellers

[Rand in 2017](#) explains that

The [private sale] loophole that enables many criminals to purchase guns without a background check through private, unlicensed sales—either over the internet or at a gun show—likewise **enables a convicted domestic abuser to evade a background check** that would reveal his inability to own or purchase a gun. (To gain a grasp of the magnitude of this problem, since its inception, the national background check system (“NICS”) has stopped over 2.2 million gun sales to prohibited purchasers, including hundreds of thousands of domestic abusers.)

In fact, in an investigation of illegal online gun sales, [Mayors Against Illegal Guns](#) found that

1 of 4 prohibited purchasers seeking guns online had a domestic violence arrest.

Passing UBCs is crucial, as [Webster 2015](#) finds that

[Universal background checks include] Some prohibitions for high-risk individuals (e.g., those under domestic violence restraining orders [or] violent misdemeanors [and],) and procedures for checking for more types of prohibiting conditions are associated with lower rates of violence

This is important because domestic violence is prone to recidivism

[George](#) from the Washington Center for Court Research finds in 2011

Domestic violence offenders are likely to commit another domestic violence offense, with nearly half charged again within five years.

The impact is saving lives.

Universal background checks decrease violence as [Sean Gorman](#) of Politifact in 2015 quantifies

The group issued a report last September examining firearm **homicides** of women **by intimate partners**—current and former husbands, as well as boyfriends. It found that from 2008-2012, the rate of such murders was **[is] 46 percent lower in 14 states that had background checks for some or all private handgun sales when compared with the rest of the nation.**

Contention Two is Illegal Trafficking.

There are two reasons why universal background checks decrease illegal gun trafficking.

First, by providing an accountability system.

Currently, a majority of private gun sellers are willing to sell criminals guns because they know there is no accountability system.

[ABC News in 2011](#) found that

More than **six in 10 private gun sellers agreed to sell a firearm to a buyer who said he probably couldn't pass a background check**

This contributes to a massive arms trafficking problem, especially as these guns are often resold in the black market, leading to an astonishing fifty thousand guns being trafficked every single year.

[Greg Sargent of the Washington Post in 2009](#) continues that individual state trafficking laws are less effective than a national policy because

Meanwhile, my research has shown that state universal background checks — along with other state laws designed to increase gun seller and purchaser accountability — significantly reduce the number of guns diverted to the illegal market, where the above high risk groups often get their guns [4, 5].

[However,] At the same time, the success of these state gun laws in reducing the diversion of guns to criminals is undermined by **gaps in federal laws which facilitate interstate gun trafficking from states with the weakest gun laws to those with the strongest gun laws**. [6, 7] For example, we found that states without universal background check laws had 30 percent higher levels of exporting across state lines guns that were later recovered from criminals. [5]

By implementing a universal background check, [Webster 2009](#) finds that

If the loophole were closed, when a gun is traced after confiscation from a prohibited person back to a private seller, police investigating the case could interview the private seller, who would then have to provide records indicating that he or she had transferred the gun legally with a background check. The need to do this would be a disincentive to lawbreaking.

Second, by making it easier to prosecute traffickers.

[Wintemute 2013](#) from the University of California concludes that

Because they are undocumented, private-party transfers create missing links in the chain of evidence connecting the first retail purchaser and the criminal from whom the firearm has been recovered. Finding those missing links can be impossible, or at best very expensive. The utility of restoring those links for law enforcement purposes, partly through comprehensive background checks, will be discussed later.

Because it's so hard to prosecute traffickers, federal investigators don't even bother investigating trafficking.

[Yablon 2015](#) furthers that

[Federal authorities] rarely investigate straw purchasers **[traffickers] on their own**, a spokesperson tells The Trace. U.S. **[as] attorneys offices aren't interested in them because the act of straw purchasing can be difficult to prove** and judges rarely issue severe punishment.

But affirming creates a paper trail that allows police to trace the gun's ownership.

[Trumble 2013](#) notes that

The **universal background check proposals** currently before Congress would place the exact same restrictions on private sales, and these sales would mostly be conducted through the very same licensed firearms dealers. Given the way the recordkeeping system works, it would be impossible to create a federal database of gun owners based on background check records. If background checks are made universal, **[would require buyers from private sellers to fill out] en more 4473 forms [ensuring that the buyer passed a background check]** will be filled out every year, and they will be kept by each individual seller or by the dealer who helped them access the NICS systems. **[which] law enforcement can gain access to** a dealer's records either **with a warrant** or **as part of an ongoing criminal investigation**, but the dealer keeps possession of the records, and law enforcement may only inspect and examine (not seize) them, unless they contain material evidence of violation of the law.

This is why [Volsky 2014](#) concludes that

states with more expansive background check laws experience 48 percent less gun trafficking

The impact is saving lives.

Most criminals obtain their weapons from the black market

[Braga in 2012](#) explains that

Much of this serious **[of the firearm] violence [in America] is generated by guns that end up in the wrong hands [through illegal acquisitions].** Research suggests that **only about one of every six firearms used in crime was obtained legally [because]**³ and that most serious gun violence is committed by a relatively small number of very active criminals.⁴⁻⁷ Clearly, the USA has a large problem with the illegal acquisition of guns by high-risk individuals who should not have access to them. In maintaining legal firearms commerce for law-abiding citizens, there is the serious problem of preventing illegal transfers. That task is currently being done very poorly indeed. **Loopholes in existing gun laws weaken accountability** of licensed gun dealers and private sellers; this **[and] facilitate illegal transfers** by scofflaw licensed gun dealers, generates difficulty in screening out ineligible buyers, and, most important, results in a vigorous and largely unregulated secondary market—gun sales by private individuals—in which used guns change hands.⁸ Nonetheless, those who support “supply-side” measures directed at reducing access by those who are legally proscribed suggest that it is feasible to increase the transaction costs in illegal firearm markets and thereby reduce the prevalence of illegal gun possession by criminals.¹¹⁻¹⁴

Thus, in order to save lives, we affirm.