



Supporting Nevada's Background Check Initiative

Summary of the Background Check Initiative

Federal law requires that all licensed firearm dealers run background checks on individuals purchasing guns. Private, unlicensed dealers; however, are able to legally sell firearms without running a background check on the purchaser. [The Background Check Initiative](#) closes this dangerous loophole in Nevada law by requiring criminal background checks for all gun sales, with reasonable exceptions for family, hunting, and self-defense. Under The Background Check Initiative, unlicensed sellers will meet their buyers at a licensed gun dealer where the background check will be run. Over 97% of Nevadans live within 10 miles of a licensed gun dealer and ninety percent of checks are completed in 90 seconds or less. The Background Check Initiative will be on the November 2016 ballot.

Domestic Violence and Firearms

Nevada has the fifth highest rate among U.S. states for women being killed by men, according to the latest [Violence Policy Center](#) report. Nevada ranked in the top 10 for the past 11 years with the exception of 2013 and ranked number one for multiple years. The vast majority of these homicides are committed with guns by intimate partners. It has been proven in one tragic incident after another that the intersection of domestic violence and firearms greatly increases the fatality risk for Nevada victims and their children. If there is a handgun in a house where domestic violence is occurring, the chances of someone being killed, generally the victim, goes up 500 percent.

Federal and state laws prohibit anyone with a misdemeanor conviction for domestic violence or with an extended order of protection issued against them from possessing firearms and/or ammunition. If an individual meeting these criteria were to attempt to purchase a firearm from a licensed dealer, the dealer would receive notice that the purchaser is prohibited. If the abuser purchased the firearm from a private vendor, a background check may not be run and the purchase would be completed legally.

NNADV's Support for the Background Check Initiative

Nevada must explore all strategies to improve access to safety for our survivors and reduce the lethality we currently see with domestic violence and firearms. The Background Check Initiative is one way to do so. The Background Check Initiative will not stop every domestic violence homicide in Nevada, but it is a substantial effort to keep abusers from acquiring guns. In states that have closed the background check loophole, 38 percent fewer women are shot to death by their partners—and now, Nevadans have a chance to join them in keeping women safer from gun violence. NNADV supports this effort.