



NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA  
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STATE & LOCAL AFFAIRS DIVISION  
DANIEL REID, WESTERN REGIONAL DIRECTOR

February 13, 2019

The Honorable Steve Yeager  
Chair, Assembly Judiciary Committee  
Sent Via Email

**Re: Senate Bill 143 – OPPOSE**

Dear Chairman Yeager:

On behalf of the tens of thousands of Nevada members of the National Rifle Association, we strongly oppose Senate Bill 143, legislation that would require anyone relinquishing possession of a firearm to visit a federally licensed dealer in order to process a Nevada state background check, with limited exceptions, or face criminal penalties.

This legislation, like the flawed Background Check Initiative (Q1) that it seeks to mimic, suffers similar flaws. SB 143 is a poorly drafted, ineffective and unenforceable piece of legislation that will not deter criminal actors and will have a disproportionate impact on law-abiding citizens.

SB 143 lacks clear definitions or definitions at all on key provisions that will leave law-abiding Nevadans and law enforcement relying on varying interpretations in order to understand the requirements and exemptions under this act. Examples of these lacking terms start at the core of the act by not defining the very action it seeks to regulate, “transfers”. Further, terms such as “established shooting ranges”, “lawful organized competitions”, and “in the presence” are left undefined as well, which could lead to differing interpretations.

Federally Licensed Firearm Dealers (FFLs) are tasked with facilitating the transfers under SB 143, however the bill lacks clear guidance on dealer requirements and in some instances appears to conflict with ATF regulations and guidelines for carrying out such transfers. An FFL is not mandated under this legislation to conduct the transfer which begs the question, if an FFL is faced with this predicament, will they be willing to take on the liability?

So-called “universal background checks” don’t stop criminals from acquiring firearms. A recently published U.S. Department of Justice survey of federal and state prison inmates found that their most common source of firearms was “off the street/underground market.” This was defined as “illegal sources of firearms that include markets for stolen goods, middlemen for

stolen goods, criminals or criminal enterprises, or individuals or groups involved in sales of illegal drugs.”

According to a January 2013 report from the U.S. Department of Justice’s National Institute of Justice, the effectiveness of “universal background checks” depends on requiring gun registration. In other words, the only way that the government could fully enforce such a requirement would be to mandate the registration of all firearms in private possession – a requirement that has been prohibited by federal law since 1986. Is firearm registration the next step for Nevada?

For the foregoing reasons and many others, we urge your opposition to SB 143.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel Reid". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Daniel" being more prominent than the last name "Reid".

Daniel Reid  
Western Regional Director