

Arguments Against UBC in Vermont

1) Un-needed

- a. Safest State In The Nation
- b. Only law-abiding citizens will obey / be affected – exactly the same people we should have no issue with
- c. If a good guy suspects a buyer may be a bad guy, nothing prevents voluntarily pursuing a background check today under existing law(s)
- d. If there is any question about the integrity of the buyer, existing Federal Law handles this

2) Assumes the judgment of a law-abiding gun-owner is suspect

- a. Self-preservation prevents a good guy selling to a suspect bad guy
- b. Law-abiding citizens can own firearms, but they become stupid when they sell them?

3) Will not affect criminals/terrorists/people-with-evil-intent from getting firearms

- a. Straw purchase
- b. Black market
- c. Stealing them
- d. Borrowing from criminal buddies
- e. Making them

4) Inconvenience for law-abiding buyer & seller

- a. NSSF poll states that up to 85% of FFLs will not handle these transactions (therefore only 15% of FFLs will). GSVT states that 25% of VT FFLs would do this, indicating that 75% won't.
- b. A FFL is exposed to higher risk by acting as an intermediary when he/she may not know the firearms being sold is stolen or was involved in crime. Higher Risk = Higher Liability.
- c. No data to show how far buyer/seller may have to travel to find a supportive FFL

5) Will have the effect of slowing private sales

- a. Extra needless cost on the transaction
- b. Some Vermonters view firearms as assets and may sell them in times of financial need; this will very effectively inhibit their ability to do that unless the sell at a loss

6) Will increase sales of new firearms

- a. FFLs never charge a fee for an new or used purchase from their own inventory

7) Expensive

- a. In NJ & CT, the cost of transfer is up to and exceeding \$100. Who would want to pay a \$100 transfer fee for a \$75 bolt-action, single-shot .22 rifle?

8) Virtually Unenforceable

- a. How are transfers that are illegal transfers ever even discovered?
- b. Only time it can be absolutely proven is for a firearm manufactured AFTER the legislation effective date – every other firearm is essentially untraceable.

9) Will make criminals out of otherwise law-abiding citizens

- a. Why would two old friends submit to paying an extra \$100 when the state has no way of knowing the transfer occurred?

10) Amounts to a needless tax on a citizen, when it is their duty to own firearms

- a. See Article 9 of the VT Constitution

11) Absurd

- a. Is a gift from an uncle to a nephew, or a cousin to cousin, or the spouse of an uncle to a nephew, or the spouse of a cousin to the spouse of a cousin, legal?
- b. Definition of a "Transfer" does not include "loan" or "borrow" - making this even more ridiculous.
- c. If the state ever thinks it has found an illegal transfer, how will it prove it was a gift, trade or gift, especially over time? It will NEVER be prosecuted.

12) Polls are misleading

Asking people if they support background checks is like asking people if they support lower taxes. A high percentage will say they support both - until they have to understand that the devil is in the details.

13) Misdirected

The primary impetus for such onerous legislation is, according to the leading anti-firearm group in this state, to prevent events like Sandy Hook/Newtown. The obvious fallacy of that is, as horrific and unconscionable as that and similar events have been, this legislation would have had zero effect (son stealing a legally-owned firearm from his mother and then shooting her in the face).

14) Sales Tax?

"Vermont Sales Tax is charged on the retail sales of tangible personal property unless exempted by law." Because the firearm transactions must be made through a retail location (FFL Store), why wouldn't this be subject to Sales Tax? If it is subject to this tax, then we will have a tax just focused on law-abiding gun owners.

15) Prohibits Purchases by anyone under 21

FFLs are prohibited from selling to anyone under 21

16) Stats about Background Checks are Misleading

The stats provided by Everytown/GSVT about background checks are small scale studies in urban environments, not comparable at all to most of Vermont's rural nature