

I am writing to oppose the bill S.169 because it would impose a waiting period for taking possession of a firearm

following purchase, despite the purchaser having passed the NICS federal background check. The wait, in addition to

putting lives at risk for delaying the timely self-protection the firearm might provide, also jeopardizes an already fragile

system of legal firearm distribution in Vermont. There are very few viable firearms dealers in the state to start with, and

they are generally not nearby. The waiting period would effectively rule out purchases at auctions and gun

shows as well, or double the burden to purchase or sell in those venues. The purpose of the NICS system was to

replace waiting periods. It's effective in that regard. I can only see reimposing one as punitive in nature, intended to

further curtail legal commerce in a legal product in Vermont. This is especially true following last year's legislation that

banned firearm magazines and required intervention of a licensed firearm dealer in all firearm transfers in the state. For

a population that once prized the 2nd Amendment and similar protections in the Vermont Constitution, we are currently

not well served. I urge a "no" vote on S.169. Jack French