

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to address the current Bill that is being proposed to require background checks for private firearm transfers. On the surface the bill seems like a good idea. The premise is that, if we require background checks on all private transfers, we can keep bad guys from getting guns. There are however, several flaws in this approach.

1. I have not seen any data on the # of guns that have been used in crimes that were bought from an unwitting, well intentioned owner by a criminal or someone who was planning on committing a violent crime. I am willing to bet that the # is shockingly low.
2. If the Senate does not have that data, it would be completely illegitimate to continue with the process, as that is the only type of transfer that this Bill would prevent.
3. An individual who was willing to sell a gun to a felon or to someone of questionable integrity would most likely not comply with the law if it was put in place.
4. This Bill would put an undue burden of both time and money on law abiding citizens forced to travel to an FFL and pay the transfer fees. There is no cap on background check fees, and this could result in price gouging by unscrupulous FFL holders.
5. As private transfers are not recorded, the State has no data on how many occur, and what percentage of the transfers go to persons who are not eligible to own a firearm. This Bill seems to be solving a problem that may or may not exist.

I do not believe that it is responsible to enact a law affecting private citizens that has no sound empirical data to back it up. I believe our Senate is better and smarter than that.

Scott Walker