

Our "Founding Fathers" wrote the Constitution and the Bill of Rights for the very times we are now facing. Less the 100 years after the documents were signed, Abraham Lincoln understood America in terms of its political principles - the moral principles of America that can be shared by all who understand them and are willing to live up to them. It was the politicians who had usurped the institutions of government on behalf of their own interests and the special interests. In a speech in Chicago in 1858, Lincoln noted that many citizens of that time did not share the blood of the "old men" of America's Founding generation. "When they look through the old Declaration of Independence they find that those old men say that " We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal," and then they feel that the moral sentiment taught in that day evidences their relation to those men, that it is the father of all moral principles in them , and that they have a right to claim it as though they were blood of the blood, and flesh of the men who wrote that Declaration and so they are. That is the electric cord in that Declaration that links the hearts of patriotic and liberty-loving men together, that will link those patriotic hearts as long as the love of freedom exists in the minds of men". Lincoln understood America in terms of a common good - a good established by the principles of equality and liberty as the foundation of individual rights. Those rights are defined in the Bill of Rights. When you took the oath of office, you agreed to up hold the Constitution & The Bill of Rights, both at the State and the Federal level. I am respectfully requesting that you OPPOSE this egregious bill. **So-called "universal" background checks do nothing to reduce violent crime, and only effect law-abiding gun owners by imposing cumbersome mandates and restrictions on the lawful purchase and possession of firearms.**

Respectfully submitted,

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