



Background checks enforce the laws already on the books. **They don't work if we don't use them.**

Background checks ensure that people who are already prohibited by law – like people convicted of felonies and domestic violence – can't purchase guns.



In 2016, a person with a serious mental illness failed a background check when he tried to buy a gun from a sporting goods store so instead, he bought an AR-15 from an unlicensed seller. Three years later, he used that gun to kill seven people and injure 25 more in Odessa, Texas after being fired from his job. The same thing could easily have happened in Pennsylvania.

PA requires background checks on all handgun purchases regardless who the seller is. **But not on AR-15 style weapons.**



Although these types of military-style weapons have become the weapon of choice in the uniquely American epidemic of mass shootings at schools, grocery stores, houses of worship, and other public places, all rifles and shotguns, even AR-15 style ones, can be purchased in PA without a background check.

Nineteen states and D.C. require background checks on all firearms. PA should be next.

OUR MISSION The mission of CeaseFirePA is to end the epidemic of gun violence across the Commonwealth and our country through education, coalition building, and advocacy.

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In 2022, nearly all people (98%) buying guns from dealers passed their background checks.

PA BACKGROUND CHECKS ARE EFFECTIVE AND QUICK. **THEY SHOULD ALWAYS BE REQUIRED.**

How it works:

- Gun dealers contact the Pennsylvania State Police (PSP) to conduct a comprehensive review of several state and federal databases that contain millions of records including criminal, arrest warrants, juvenile, and mental health records.
- States like Pennsylvania with this system have lower firearm death rates, especially with respect to suicides.

BACKGROUND CHECKS KEEP GUNS OUT OF THE HANDS OF **PEOPLE WHO COMMIT CRIMES.**

In 2022, 91 people who illegally tried to buy guns in PA were arrested thanks to the background check system.

Since the start of the background checks program, thousands of people have been arrested for trying to illegally buy guns.



Nearly all background checks are completed in seconds to minutes.



1.2 M

attempted firearm purchases in PA in 2022



22.5K

people failed background checks in 2022



89%

of all PA voters support universal background checks



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