



Bill Summary and Position Paper

HR.8

House Bill 8
116th Congress (2019-20)

Universal Gun Registration Act of 2019

By: Rep. Mike Thompson (D-CA-5)

NAGR Position: Strongly Oppose

Last Updated: 2/7/2019

What HR. 8 Does:

- HR. 8 bans outright, private firearms sales by requiring gun purchases to be pre-approved by the federal government at the expense of the purchaser.
- It also mandates firearm loans, gifts, and sales be processed at a gun store. The same bureaucratic rigmarole—fees, paperwork, and record-keeping—applies to the purchase of new guns at stores as well.
- Furthermore, it requires firearms sales and loans to be conducted by a federally-licensed dealer. Federal law already prohibits licensed dealers from transferring handguns to persons under 21 years of age, young adults are barred from acquiring handguns.
- H.R. 8 Creates a de facto national gun registry through federally-mandated record keeping requirements on all transaction paperwork.
 - This is already mandated under current law for firearms sold through a Federally License's Firearms dealer (FFL).
 - By forcing all private party sales through that system, the bill makes it nearly impossible to legally transfer a firearm without the federal government's permission.
 - This would give the government the ability to trace any firearm transaction and, eventually, every gun owner in America.

Why HR. 8 is Bad for Gun Owners:

- Successful implementation requires a national firearms registry.
 - Background checks under the current law are already de facto gun registration. To purchase a firearm from an FFL, a person fills out an ATF Form 4473, which requires the name, address and biometric data about the purchaser. Additionally, the Form

4473 records the make, model and serial number of the firearm(s) being purchased.⁴

- Background checks are not effective in preventing criminal behavior.
 - HR. 8 mistakenly assumes that it is possible to know ahead of time who will do harm to others using a firearm. Even a full system with 100% willful compliance would not stop people from acquiring firearms who have no prior history to indicate that they have ill intent.
- Current background check systems violate the rights of people.
 - In some cases, background checks can take up to 8 days to process. Also, the NICS often fails, often for hours at a time, preventing anyone from purchasing a firearm through an FFL.
 - The NICS has a long history of failures which has contributed to the denial of Second Amendment rights to countless law-abiding Americans, including over 200,000 veterans

Additional Co-Sponsors:

- Peter King (R-NY-2) (202-225-7896)
- Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA-1) (202-225-4276)
- Brian Mast (R-FL-18) (202-225-3026)
- Fred Upton (R-MI-6) (202-225-3761)
- Christopher Smith (R-NJ-4) (202-225-3765)

Related Bills:

- S. 42 (116th Congress)

References:

1. Official Bill Text and Status: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/8/all-info>
2. Quick Takes — The Democrats's Coming Assault on the Second Amendment, The Political Hat 1/17/19
3. IBID
4. Firearms Transaction Record Part I - Over-the-Counter." Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. 10/2016 <<https://www.atf.gov/firearms/docs/4473-part-1-firearms-transaction-record-over-counter-atf-form-53009/download>> Accessed May, 2017.

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