



Bill Summary and Position Paper

H.R. 715

House Bill

118th Congress (2023-24)

Universal Gun Registration

Rep. Brian K. Fitzpatrick [R-PA-1]

NAGR Position: Strongly Oppose

Last Updated: 3/15/2021

What the Bill Does

- H.R. 715 (which is Universal Gun Registration) creates a de facto national gun registry by recording and saving transactional paperwork for all firearms sales – expanding on the current federal registry maintained by the ATF. Record keeping on all firearms transactions through licensed dealers is already mandated through the Federally License’s Firearms dealer law (FLL).
- Private firearm sales between neighbors and close friends would become illegal, unless a federal background check is completed, forcing all gun owners to be funneled through the unconstitutional NICS database, and delaying the ability to exercise a Constitutional right.

Why it’s Bad for Gun Owners:

- This legislation is redundant. There are existing gun laws in every state to prevent ineligible people from purchasing firearms.
- Background checks are an unconstitutional invasion of privacy. The creation of this registry allows the government to trace every firearm and every gun owner.
- H.R. 715 disenfranchises lower income Americans from purchasing a firearm from a close friend or neighbor due to the extra fees associated with background checks.
- **Background checks do not stop crime**. It is inaccurate to assume that a background check will show future criminal intent. Also, criminals wanting a gun will find a way to get it illegally.
- Often times, “background checks” can take up to 8 days to process. This is a violation of the rights of people to purchase a gun and to protect themselves, putting law-abiding citizens in danger when they need to purchase a firearm quickly. **A right delayed is a right denied**.
- Up to 95% of NICS denials are false positives, denying law abiding Americans from purchasing firearms. Expanding NICS through H.R. 715 will lead to more unjustified denials.

Related Bills:

- S.494 – Mandatory Brady Background Checks, Sen. Christopher Murphy [D-CT]

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