

---

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

---

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 192 Session of  
2013

---

INTRODUCED BY WATERS, FRANKEL, BISHOP, CLAY, MCGEEHAN,  
SCHLOSSBERG, SIMS, O'BRIEN, THOMAS, PASHINSKI, YOUNGBLOOD,  
K. BOYLE, SABATINA, BROWNLEE, KINSEY, DEAN, ROEBUCK AND  
COHEN, MARCH 25, 2013

---

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, MARCH 25, 2013

---

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Congress of the United States to pass and the  
2 President of the United States to sign legislation requiring  
3 universal background checks for individuals purchasing a  
4 firearm.

5 WHEREAS, The National Instant Criminal Background Check  
6 System (NICS) has been an effective means for keeping firearms  
7 from criminals and other dangerous individuals; and

8 WHEREAS, More than 100 million NICS checks have been made,  
9 resulting in more than 700,000 denials; and

10 WHEREAS, For the last 14 years, these checks have kept 1.5  
11 million criminals and mentally ill persons from wrongfully  
12 obtaining firearms; and

13 WHEREAS, Despite the success of the NICS checks, the system  
14 is weakened by loopholes and is missing records of individuals  
15 with dangerous mental illnesses; and

16 WHEREAS, Licensed firearms dealers are required to perform an  
17 NICS check before a firearm sale; and

18 WHEREAS, However, as many as 40% of firearm purchases occur

1 through transactions where background checks are not required,  
2 such as at private sales or gun shows or through Internet sales;  
3 and

4 WHEREAS, Federal and State agencies have failed to report as  
5 many as one million records of individuals with dangerous mental  
6 illnesses to the NICS database; and

7 WHEREAS, Jared Loughner, who killed six people and wounded  
8 thirteen others, including Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords, in  
9 Arizona, had a history of serious mental illness and was not  
10 included in the NICS database; and

11 WHEREAS, James Holmes, who carried out a mass shooting in  
12 Aurora, Colorado, used ammunition purchased through the Internet  
13 without any background check; and

14 WHEREAS, Recent shooting tragedies, including those at  
15 Virginia Tech; Aurora, Colorado; and Sandy Hook, Connecticut,  
16 have resulted in a national conversation about gun violence; and

17 WHEREAS, Sixty-one mass shootings have occurred over the last  
18 three decades; and

19 WHEREAS, More than 12,000 Americans are killed by firearms  
20 every year; and

21 WHEREAS, Felons were associated with selling or purchasing  
22 firearms in 46% of the gun show investigations conducted by the  
23 Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms; and

24 WHEREAS, For every time a firearm is used to injure or kill  
25 in self-defense, a firearm is used eleven times for a completed  
26 or attempted suicide, seven times in a criminal assault or  
27 homicide and four times in an unintentional shooting death or  
28 injury; and

29 WHEREAS, Recent polls have shown that more than 90% of  
30 Americans favor universal background checks and 83% of those in

1 favor of universal background checks own a firearm; therefore be  
2 it

3       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the  
4 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania urge the Congress of the United  
5 States to pass and the President of the United States to sign  
6 legislation requiring universal background checks for  
7 individuals purchasing a firearm; and be it further

8       RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to  
9 the President of the United States, the presiding officers of  
10 each house of Congress and each member of Congress from  
11 Pennsylvania.