

WHY AMERICA NEEDS BACKGROUND CHECKS ON AMMO SALES

WHY IT MATTERS:

When James Holmes walked into the theater in Aurora, Colorado, he carried with him a stockpile of ammunition. In the months before the shooting, Holmes legally purchased his immense cache of firepower online -- 3,000 rounds each of handgun and rifle ammunition and 350 shotgun shells, as well as a 100-round drum.

His purchases of such astronomical amounts of ammo were completely unregulated and untraced, allowing him to easily plan and execute murder on a massive scale anonymously. Laws regulating the sale of ammunition are virtually nonexistent.

It is far too easy for dangerous people who are prohibited from having ammunition to acquire as much as they desire. If a background check were required with ammunition sales, law enforcement would have the tools they need to stop a massive attack before it happens and help them identify illegal guns in the hands of criminals.

AMMO REGULATION HELPS LAW ENFORCEMENT

CASE STUDY: SACRAMENTO

In its first year with an ammo sales reporting law, Sacramento identified

156 PROHIBITED PEOPLE WHO PURCHASED
AMMO ILLEGALLY

CASE STUDY: LOS ANGELES

From 2004 to 2008, Los Angeles was able to use ammo sales records to conduct at least

93 INVESTIGATIONS TO UNCOVER
ILLEGAL WEAPONS

THE DETAILS:

- Because ammunition has to be purchased repeatedly, a background check on ammo sales would give law enforcement more opportunities to identify dangerous people illegally possessing guns.
- Background checks on ammunition would also allow law enforcement to know when someone like James Holmes purchases massive amounts of ammo -- giving them time to stop an attempt at mass murder before it happens.

PERFORMING BACKGROUND CHECKS ON AMMO SALES IS THE EASIEST WAY TO IDENTIFY CRIMINALS, VIOLENT ABUSERS, AND THE DANGEROUSLY MENTALLY ILL WITH ILLEGAL WEAPONS, WITHOUT PREVENTING A LAW ABIDING CITIZEN FROM PURCHASING AMMO FOR SELF DEFENSE OR SPORT.

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