

1 VERMONT MEDICAL SOCIETY RESOLUTION

2
3 Universal Background Checks for Sales of Firearms

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5 *Adopted by November 7, 2015*

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7 WHEREAS, Since the federal background check requirement was adopted in 1994, over two million
8 prohibited persons have been denied a firearm transfer or permit. In 2010 alone, more than 117,000 gun
9 transfers were denied using the federal background check system; and

10 WHEREAS, the growth of the Internet has significantly increased the ability of individuals prohibited from
11 possessing firearms to find sellers willing to transfer firearms to them without background checks; and

12 WHEREAS, as of September 2013, about 67,000 firearms were listed for sale online from private, unlicensed
13 sellers. and according to an undercover investigation conducted by the City of New York, 62% of private
14 online firearm sellers agreed to sell a firearm to a buyer even after the buyer had told the seller that he or she
15 probably could not pass a background check; and

16 WHEREAS, The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives (ATF) found that during one 29-
17 month period, unlicensed sellers were involved in about one-fifth of illegal trafficking investigations
18 nationwide and associated with nearly 23,000 trafficked guns; and

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20 WHEREAS, a study which used crime gun trace data from 53 U.S. cities for the years 2000–2002 found that
21 laws regulating private handgun sales are strongly associated with fewer trafficked guns; and

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23 WHEREAS a survey of state prison inmates in 13 states who were convicted of gun offenses found that only
24 13.4% obtained the gun from a gun store or pawnshop, where background checks are required. Nearly all
25 (96.1%) of those inmates who were already prohibited from possessing a gun at the time of the crime
26 obtained the firearm through an unlicensed private seller; and

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28 WHEREAS, research has found that states with universal background check laws experience 48 percent less
29 gun trafficking, 38 percent fewer deaths of women shot by intimate partners, and 17 percent fewer firearms
30 involved in aggravated assaults; and

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32 WHEREAS, states with universal background check requirements also have a 53 percent lower gun suicide
33 rate, and 31 percent fewer suicides per capita than states without these laws; and

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35 WHEREAS, Vermont law does not currently require individuals who sell their guns at gun shows, flea
36 markets or via the internet to do a background; now therefore be it

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38 **RESOLVED that the VMS support a background-check requirement on all firearm sales to include**
39 **the sale of firearms at gun shows, over the Internet, in classified ads and private sales.**