



Arizona Citizens Defense League

Protecting Your Freedom

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AzCDL's Membership Newsletter

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Defeat Bloomberg!

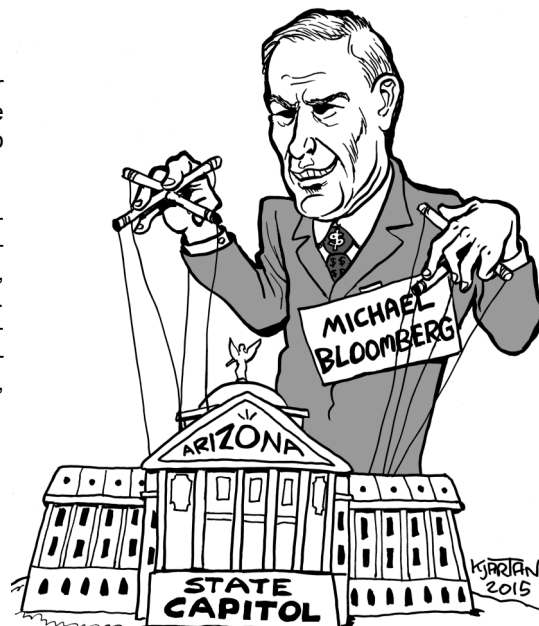
Arizona Targeted

Next year we expect to see a gun owner registration ballot measure, pushed by one of Bloomberg's AstroTurf subsidiaries, to appear on the 2016 general election ballot.

In 2014, Bloomberg and his billionaire buddies poured over \$10 million into the passage of a gun owner registration scheme, via a ballot measure, in Washington state. In a press release crowing about their success, Bloomberg's Everytown for Gun Safety stated they were also targeting Nevada, Maine and Arizona for the same treatment.

In 2015 Everytown met the requirements to get a gun owner registration scheme on the 2016 Nevada ballot and began working on doing the same in Maine.

In 2013 Bloomberg's Mayor's Against Illegal Guns, a Delaware corporation, set up shop in Arizona. In 2014 they changed their Arizona business name to Everytown for Gun Safety. In 2015 four identical bills were filed at the Arizona Legislature that were an obvious prelude to a Bloomberg sponsored ballot measure. Under these bills, it would have been a Class 5 Felony to privately transfer a firearm without going through a federally licensed firearms dealer (FFL). "Transfer" was so loosely defined it could include asking a friend to keep your firearms while you were away from home. In order for such a law to be enforced, gun owners and the firearms you own would need to be tracked in state databases. *Because of AzCDL's involvement, these bills were defeated.*



Bloomberg Pulled Strings—The Legislature Danced

Also in 2015, Bloomberg's Everytown hired a lobbying firm, the Dorn Policy Group, to quash progress on pro-rights legislation in Arizona. One bill that was targeted was AzCDL-requested legislation, HB 2431, that would have established an interstate compact where member states agreed not to exceed federal law concerning firearm transfers. Under federal law there are no restrictions on most private firearms transfers between non-prohibited possessors residing in the same state. When such a law is passed, it will have the effect of federal legislation and supersede any law passed to the contrary. It's kryptonite to a Bloomberg ballot measure.

HB 2431 passed out of the House and was working its way through the Senate when Everytown's paid lobbyists entered the picture. The final step was a review by the Senate Rules Committee, composed almost entirely of the Senate Leadership, the same folks who have complete control over the progress of every piece of legislation in the Senate. They held HB 2431 for weeks while the clock ran out on the session. Coincidence? Not likely.

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Stopping Bloomberg

(Continued from page 1)

More Legislative Legerdemain

HB 2431 wasn't the only bill subject to legislative sleight of hand this session.

Three Republican Senators, Adam Driggs, Steve Pierce and Bob Worsley, joined with the Democrats to kill HB 2320, a bill that would have exempted CCW permit holders from being disarmed on state and local government property unless everyone was screened for weapons.

SB 1219, an NRA supported bill which would have allowed for injunctions, fines and civil suits if a political subdivision violated state firearm preemption statutes, was mysteriously "misplaced" during the final hours of the session, causing the bill to fail.

SB 1330, a bill that would have made future federal acts that violated the Second Amendment invalid in Arizona, was stalled in the House Rules committee while the clock ran out on the session.

The actions of the Republican majority, and its Leadership, in the Arizona Legislature during the 2015 session demonstrate that we cannot assume they will protect your right to keep and bear arms without pressure from you.

The Attack is Coming

Bloomberg *will* target Arizona for a gun owner registration scheme disguised as "universal background checks." The vehicle we expect him to use will be an "initiative petition" for a ballot measure.

Per the Arizona Constitution, once the required number of signatures are obtained (easy work for a Billionaire):

- An initiative cannot be prevented from appearing on a ballot for a vote.
- Once passed, it cannot be overturned by the Legislature.

However, Bloomberg's efforts to strip away your private property rights and turn you into a criminal CAN be stopped.

In the coming 2016 legislative session we are counting on the re-introduction of

an AzCDL-requested interstate compact bill. During the 2015 session this legislation survived two committee hearings and four floor votes in the House before being sent to the Senate, where it passed out of yet another committee prior to being side-lined by the Senate Leadership. This time we can take it all the way to the Governor's desk—with *your help*!

Interstate compacts are nothing new. The reason your Arizona driver's license is recognized by all other states is because of an interstate compact.

Arizona is a party to [27 interstate compacts](#). Arizona's share of the [Colorado River](#) water is the result of an interstate compact established in 1922.

AzCDL's proposed interstate compact is not complicated. Member states agreeing to the compact cannot pass firearms background check legislation exceeding current federal law which has almost no restriction on private firearms transfers between non-prohibited possessors.

Participating in this interstate compact would, in effect, create the equivalent of a federal level law that no state law or ballot measure can violate.

You Control the Outcome

Regardless of how enthusiastic legislators may or may not be about a bill, or how much influence Bloomberg can wield, in our ten years at the Capitol we have learned one very important lesson—when they get bombarded with your emails and letters, they listen. The greater the volume, the more they pay attention.

In past years AzCDL members have overloaded the email servers at the Capitol, and in one instance convinced a legislator to reconsider her vote on a critical bill.

Constitutional Carry was passed in large part because of the emails legislators and the Governor received from AzCDL members.

We make it very easy for you to voice your opinion via our [Legislative Action Center](#). At critical points in the progress of legislation, we prepare emails to committee members, your Representa-

tives, Senator, and the Governor. When we send out an "action" alert, all you need to do is click on the link in the alert and then click your mouse a couple more times to send a pre-written email. How hard is that?

If you are an AzCDL member, you have already been subscribed to our alerts. If you are not getting our email alerts, or are not an AzCDL member, you can subscribe here:

http://www.azcdl.org/html/subscribe_to_alerts.html

Are You Willing to Fight?

We have a critical battle in the next session. We can defeat Bloomberg at the Legislature before the November election, but only if you are willing to fight for your rights.

Not participating in this fight for your rights is the equivalent of supporting Bloomberg's and Obama's efforts to take your rights away.

If you expect the "other guy" to fight your battles, then you have surrendered to Bloomberg.

If you don't take the time to contact your elected officials to support legislation to stop Bloomberg, you have surrendered.

Can We Count on You?

While your membership and donations help us pay for tools, like our [Legislative Action Center](#), *it's your activism that makes the real difference*. AzCDL will soon have over 13,000 members. That's enough to make even the most reluctant politician nervous—but only if they hear from *all* of us. But, if you don't have the time or don't want them to know who you are, then we have lost the battle.

WHICH WOULD YOU RATHER USE TO DEFEND YOUR RIGHTS?



PROVE IT. GET ACTIVE.

The NICS Success?

The rationale we hear from those who want to disarm us is that, for our own good, private transfers of firearms need to be processed through the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) in order to keep bad guys from getting guns.

Aside from the ridiculous belief that you routinely sell your guns to criminals, and the fantasy that criminals will always report who they sell or give their guns to, let's look at what has been "accomplished" under NICS.

From 1998 through October 2015, [per FBI data](#), there have been 220,120,868 background checks conducted using NICS. During that period there were 1,247,848 "Denials" (6/10ths of 1%).

That means over 1.2 Million "criminals" waltzed into a gun dealer, filled out a Form 4473 with all their identifying information, address, birth date, social security number, etc. and hung around while the FFL called the FBI for a NICS check. Logic would dictate that within a few minutes of the phone call a black SUV full of federal agents costumed in SWAT gear would be pulling up to arrest someone. That's not what has happened.

According to a Justice Department study, [Enforcement of the Brady Act](#), in 2010 there were 6,037,394 NICS checks. 76,142 of these were denied and referred to ATF's Denial Enforcement and NICS Intelligence (DENI) Branch. Eventually, only 62 were charged with a crime. 18 of those were declined by a prosecutor. Of the remaining 44, thirteen plead guilty, 10 were dismissed and 12 (less than 2/100ths of 1%) were prosecuted. Why only a handful of prosecutions?

Could it really be that there was no evidence to prove that the overwhelming majority of NICS denials are accurate?

Per Professor [John Lott](#), over 99% of those denied by NICS are false positives, such as people with names similar to a prohibited possessor. Like what happened to the late Senator Ted Kennedy who found himself on the federal "no fly" list.

A Registration System

What no one seems to want to talk about is what NICS has really accomplished—the centralized recording of the names and personal information of millions of Americans who have submitted to background checks to purchase a firearm.

Per the law that created NICS, your data is supposed to be immediately destroyed upon approval of a firearms transfer. Denials are retained indefinitely. No government computer record is ever completely deleted. Federal agencies routinely have "disaster recovery" procedures to avoid accidental loss of data. Most likely every NICS transaction resides on a back-up system, disk or tape drive (remember all those Lois Lerner "lost" IRS emails that were recovered from back-up tapes?).

Federal law also prohibits federal gun owner registration. However Administration officials have argued that since NICS does not contain information on every firearms owner, and it was not *intended* to be permanent, it is not a registration system. Right.....

NICS Does Not Stop Criminals

Mass murderers from Virginia Tech in 2007 to the recent shootings in South Carolina, Virginia and Oregon passed NICS background checks to *purchase* their guns. The school shooter in Newtown, CT (2012), stole his guns.

Now those who want to disarm you want to use a system with a 99% error rate, that has not stopped mass murderers, to track private property transfers between law-abiding citizens. To what end?

The Mental Health Ruse

There is also a push to expand prohibited possessors to include people with "mental health" issues. Included in this list of those who need to be disarmed for "mental health" reasons are folks who have difficulty handling their personal finances.

At the federal level, Veterans are finding they are becoming prohibited possessors because they lack the competency to balance their checkbooks. We are

seeing this being expanded to Social Security recipients who need help managing their finances.

In 2014, in response to a new federal law requiring states to populate NICS with data on those who are prohibited from owning firearms for mental health reasons by court order, the Arizona Legislature took an "everything but the kitchen sink" approach. The proposed law would have created a new state database for monitoring mental competency, and added to the list of the prohibited possessors in Arizona those determined to be incompetent by a court order.

Fortunately, with pressure from AzCDL members, this legislation was scaled back and the extreme proposals were eliminated.

With all this new data being captured in a government record keeping system that we are told is not a gun owner registration system, what could possibly go wrong?



The Big Lie

Proposals for expanding background checks are nothing more than Gun Owner Registration schemes.

Confiscation is the goal. It's already happening in states like New York and California that track gun ownership and private transfers.

We cannot let it happen in Arizona.

The "Some People" Trap

Those who want to disarm you are constantly repackaging their message. It used to be about "gun control." The "Gun Control Act of 1968" is the granddaddy of modern citizen disarmament laws.

Noticing that "control" doesn't sell like it used to, those who want to disarm you are now calling themselves "[gun safety](#)" organizations, as in Bloomberg's Evertown for Gun Safety.

And, they have repackaged their message. They now call for "commonsense gun laws" and "universal background checks," because they say "some people" should not have access to firearms. What they don't tell you is that "some people" means you!

In the 19th century it was believed that [racial minorities](#) were those "some people" that needed to be disarmed. Virtu-

ally every gun law in America is based on that concept.

In the 20th century those same laws have been used to justify restrictions for *all* gun ownership. Unfortunately many gun owners, and the organizations that represent us, took the bait.

Concealed weapons (CCW) permit laws are an acceptance that "some people" should not be allowed to carry a gun and that only government officials can properly determine who is *privileged* to carry. How many gun owners do you know that believe that the CCW permit is a good idea because "some people" should not be allowed to carry a gun? Is that what you believe?

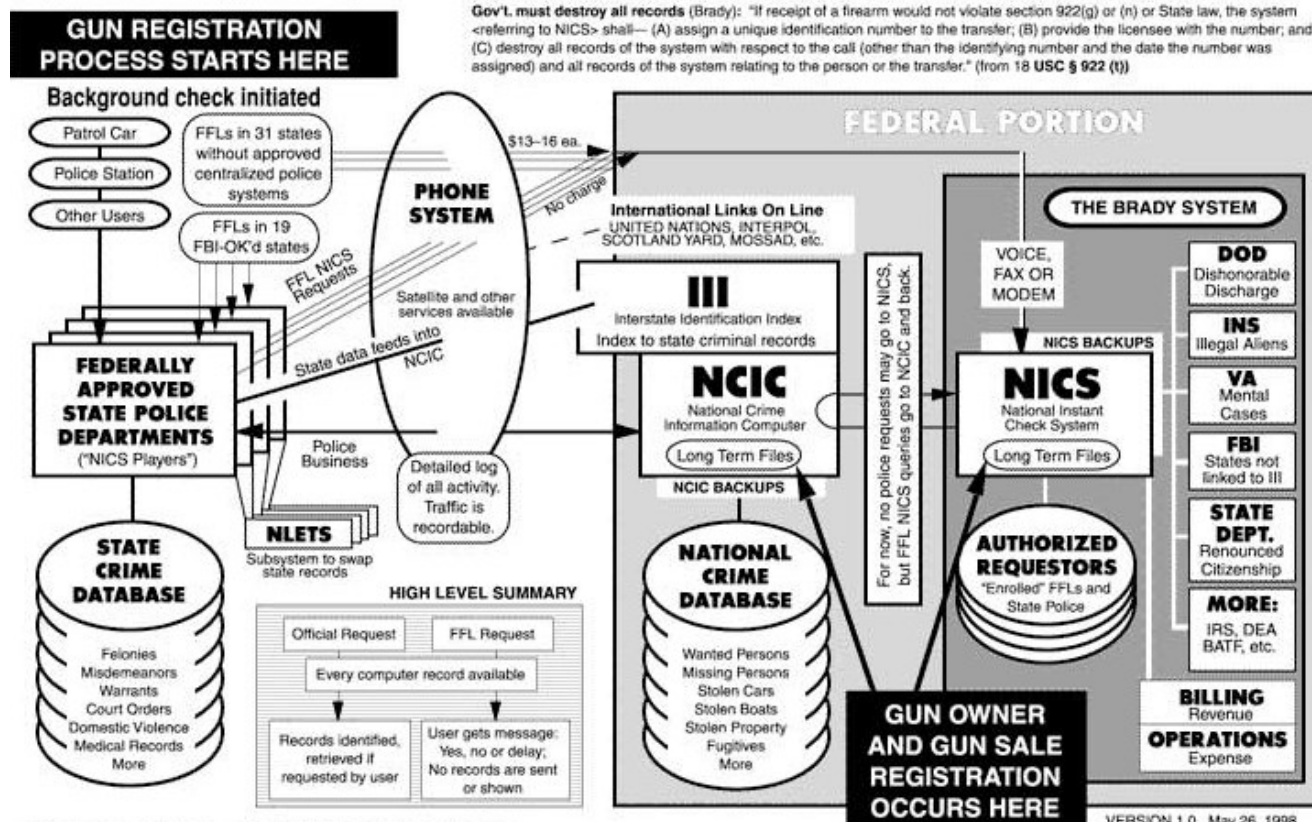
We are now seeing the next step in the "some people" argument cloaked as a mental health issue. The argument is that we need to disarm everyone with

mental health challenges because some of them might be a danger to themselves and others. Included in their list of dangerous people are those experiencing difficulties handling their financial affairs. Soon it will be people who have taken anti-depressants or had trouble concentrating in school.

To those who want to disarm you, *anyone* who wants to possess a firearm is mentally ill. Their ultimate goal is to make it impossible for you to acquire a firearm and to confiscate the ones you already own.

Once you accept that government screening is needed for everyone in order to prevent "some people" from possessing a firearm, you have surrendered your right to do the same.

How long before YOU become "some people" and they come for your guns?



BRADY PART 2, BEGINS NOV. 30, 1998:

NATIONAL INSTANT CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK (NICS)