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DISHONESTY IS THE STANDARD FOR 594 PROONENTS

VOTE NO on INITIATIVE-594!

Sadly, the victims of two notorious tragedies are lending their names to the misguided effort to pass I-594. Former Congresswoman Gabby Giffords (Tucson, AZ - 2011) and Cheryl Stumbo (Seattle Jewish Federation - 2006) are leading the charge to enact I-594 and asserting that the initiative will prevent the types of crimes of which they were victims. They make these claims despite the fact that the dangerously unstable individuals who carried out these two atrocities both obtained their firearms legally after being subjected to background checks; just like the perpetrators who passed background checks in virtually every other incident of its kind, including the most recent tragedies in Santa Barbara, CA and Fort Hood, TX.

The entire campaign in support of I-594 is based on dishonesty and obfuscation. Consider the following claims, taken from the proponents' website and Facebook page:

Claim: I-594 is a "simple measure to ensure that a background check is conducted for every gun purchase."

FACT: No 18-page law is simple! Further, 594 is classic bait and switch...supporters constantly and dishonestly refer to "sales" when the language of the proposal regulates "transfers", very broadly defined! *Again, virtually every time a firearm changes hands, the transfer would be required to be processed through a licensed dealer. Of course, the most significant aspect of bait and switch dishonesty surrounding I-594 is the proponents' pushing of a handgun registration mandate disguised as, and referring to it as, a simple background check measure!*

Claim: I-594 proponents specifically claim that the initiative "does not create a registry."

FACT: NOT TRUE!!! Virtually every temporary transfer of a handgun under the provisions of I-594 is subject to dealer regulation and completion of the Pistol Transfer Application, a copy of which RCW 9.41.110(9) requires be sent to the Department of Licensing for *inclusion in the state database of law-abiding handgun owners.*

Claim: I-594 includes "reasonable exceptions."

FACT: There *are* some exceptions included in I-594 that *would* be reasonable were they not drafted so ridiculously narrowly as to be essentially meaningless. Examples:

- There is NO general loan exemption for family members or friends; even in the presence of the owner!
- A person couldn't loan her sister-in-law a firearm for self protection!
- You couldn't loan your adult sons shotguns to go hunting!
- A person could "gift" a firearm to a family member but could NOT loan or sell it to her!
- A police officer who loans a personal firearm to a fellow officer would face prosecution under I-594!
- Concealed Pistol License holders, who are subjected to fingerprint-based checks, are not exempt!

Claim: "Criminals go to gun shows to buy guns with no background check."

FACT: According to the U.S. Department of Justice, less than 1% of criminals obtain firearms at a gun show.

Claim: I-594 proponents cite a DoJ study claiming that 80% of criminals obtained a handgun in a private transfer.

FACT: The suggestion that I-594 would even put a dent in these "criminal private transfers" is laughable. These so-called private transfers include rentals & loans from family and friends, street buys, thefts and illegal sources such as drug dealers. Criminals will ignore I-594 and continue to use these illegal sources.

Claim: "Private parties complying with the background check requirement are exempt from sales tax."

FACT: Current law already exempts "casual and isolated sales of property" (such as private firearm sales) from sales tax...but subjects them to *use tax*. The sales tax exemption in I-594 is a disingenuous attempt to obfuscate the facts that private transfers will be subject to *use tax* and that the records created by these dealer transfers will give the government the necessary tool to single out and collect more tax from law-abiding firearm owners.

Claim: "Law enforcement agencies and public safety officials agree that this (private firearm sale) loophole promotes illegal gun trafficking and enables individuals with criminal intent to purchase firearms."

FACT: Numerous law enforcement officials have come out publicly opposed to I-594 and more are lending their voices every week. They understand that I-594 will divert their attention and resources away from keeping violent criminals off our streets and shift them to doing checks on law-abiding citizens, keeping us all less safe. Further, a police officer who loans a personal firearm to a fellow officer would face criminal prosecution under the provisions of I-594!

**I-594 is NOT about "Universal Background Checks" because criminals would ignore!
I-594 is REALLY "Universal Handgun Registration" because ALL law-abiding handgun
owners would be registered!**

*Initiative 594 would **NOT PREVENT CRIMINALS FROM OBTAINING FIREARMS**. It would create a **HUGE REGULATORY SCHEME** that would disproportionately burden law-abiding firearm sellers and purchasers. It would cause an **EXPENSIVE DIVERSION OF SCARCE LAW ENFORCEMENT RESOURCES**. It would be **UNENFORCEABLE**. Further, it would create a **MASSIVE GOVERNMENT DATABASE** of law-abiding handgun owners.*

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