

# IMPLEMENTING & ENFORCING LAWS



## Law Enforcement And Victim Safety

Last year (2016) in Washington state, 3,259 people attempted to purchase a firearm despite being prohibited from possessing one.

“That’s what scares me the most . . . victims like me, who have tried so hard to make my life safe – my children’s lives safe, and I don’t even get a courtesy call,” said Paula, a Pierce County domestic abuse survivor. Those words were in response to a joint KING 5 and public radio’s Northwest News Network investigation that found her boyfriend’s name among those of 200 others who attempted to buy firearms at Pierce County gun stores during a 13-month period.

Luckily for Paula, her boyfriend failed the background check and the sale was denied due to a permanent protection order put in place by a judge 20 years ago. Background checks on all firearm sales are already the law in Washington State, but it is critical to community safety that law enforcement officers have the tools they need to follow-up when someone who is prohibited, tries to illegally purchase a firearm. When an individual prohibited from possessing a firearm attempts a firearm purchase, it can be a signal that they are intending to harm themselves or others. This is critical information for law enforcement officers who may come into contact with the individual and for past victims to increase their safety measures.

Law Enforcement & Victim Safety legislation will:

- Create standards for investigating and prosecuting failed background checks.
- Increase officer safety by giving officers real-time access to information about whether someone has illegally attempted to purchase a firearm.
- Give domestic violence and other crime victims the ability to receive notifications when an offender illegally attempts to purchase a firearm so they can take proper precautions to keep themselves safe.

Law Enforcement & Victim Safety legislation will help safeguard the lives of officers, and give domestic violence and other survivors the information they need to protect themselves. *Ingalls, Chris. “Victims not notified when abuser tries to buy a gun, investigation finds.” King5.com [http://www.king5.com/news/investigations/investigation-victims-not-notified-when-abuser-tries-to-buy-a-gun/366569929?fb\\_comment\\_id=1150209168409830\\_1151643068266440#fae421df89c418](http://www.king5.com/news/investigations/investigation-victims-not-notified-when-abuser-tries-to-buy-a-gun/366569929?fb_comment_id=1150209168409830_1151643068266440#fae421df89c418) (accessed January 5, 2017).*

## Keeping Crime Guns Off The Street

Across the state, many law enforcement agencies choose to destroy confiscated crime guns rather than put them back on the street via auction. Today, however, the Washington State Patrol must auction or trade confiscated firearms. This Washington State Patrol Request Legislation helps keep our communities safer by giving the Washington State Patrol the ability to destroy confiscated crime guns.

**ALLIANCE**  
FOR GUN RESPONSIBILITY