

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

August 23, 2023

The Honorable Kathy Hochul
Governor of New York State
New York State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Hochul,

We are writing to express our grave concern over the implementation of New York State Executive Law 228. This overburdensome and unnecessary new state order, set to go into effect on September 13, 2023, is an assault on the Constitutional rights of all law-abiding, American citizens.

As you know, the U.S. Constitution stipulates American citizens' Second Amendment right to bear arms. As the strongest possible supporters of the Second Amendment, we oppose your Administration's continued infringement on that right and constant attacks on law-abiding citizens.

Executive Law 228 targets law-abiding gun owners. It furthers government overreach, is poor stewardship of taxpayers' dollars, and will duplicate and complicate federal processes that are already in place. Firearm purchases already undergo a background check facilitated by the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS), operated by the FBI. This state order creates a duplicative office run by the State Police to act as a middleman, transferring background checks from registered firearm dealers to the NICS on the dealer's behalf.

The sole purpose of this office will be collecting fees and increasing bureaucratic red tape. Not only will a background check be required for a firearm purchase, but any subsequent purchase of ammunition will undergo a background check as well. This system will only increase the likelihood of backlogs, the possibility of mishandled personal information, and fails to consider an appeals process for individuals denied during background checks.

State Police have enough on their hands dealing with the New York crime spree due to failed bail reform and Far Left Democrats soft-on-crime policies. Diverting State Police attention from keeping New Yorkers safe and pursuing criminals in the streets to standing up an unnecessary and duplicative background check system will surely lead to more crime, not less.

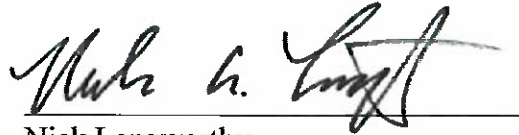
It is said that the revenue collected from the background and ammunition tax will go to fund programs that prevent gun violence in the State. Taxing responsible gun owners at a time of rising prices and out of control government spending is shameful and irresponsible. Responsible gun owners should not be the ones footing the bill to pay for the failures of Albany Democrats whose misguided policies have made our communities less safe. Taxing law-abiding citizens to clean up for failed Far Left policies is not only unconstitutional, but morally reprehensible.

As governor, you have continuously attacked the Second Amendment rights of New Yorkers. From attempting to implement concealed carry restrictions to shutting down gun shows across the State, your blatant attacks on law-abiding gun owners are clear. As such, we call on you to delay the September 13th implementation deadline for the New York State background check program and redirect your resources in a manner that will actually reduce crime across the state.


Sincerely,




Elise M. Stefanik
Member of Congress (NY-21)



Nick Langworthy
Member of Congress (NY-23)



Claudia Tenney
Member of Congress (NY-24)



Brandon Williams
Member of Congress (NY-22)