

National Survey: Federally Licensed Firearms Retailers Overwhelmingly Oppose 'Universal Background Checks'

A nationwide survey of federally licensed firearms retailers conducted by NSSF reveals that those who would be on the front line of implementing what is touted as "universal background checks" have serious concerns both about whether such proposals would work as well as the potential negative effects on their businesses.

Asked whether they supported or opposed "universal background checks," 85.7 percent of the responding firearms retailers said that they opposed them. To the question of whether they believed that such legislation would prevent criminals from obtaining firearms, a nearly unanimous 95.7 percent said no.

In addition, the retailers reported that that they feared these proposals would result in higher regulatory and additional record-keeping burdens, increased risk of license revocation for record-keeping errors related to private party transfers of firearms, additional delays in processing of National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) requests, low government-set fees that will not cover their costs, and increased liability exposure arising from having to process private-party transactions.

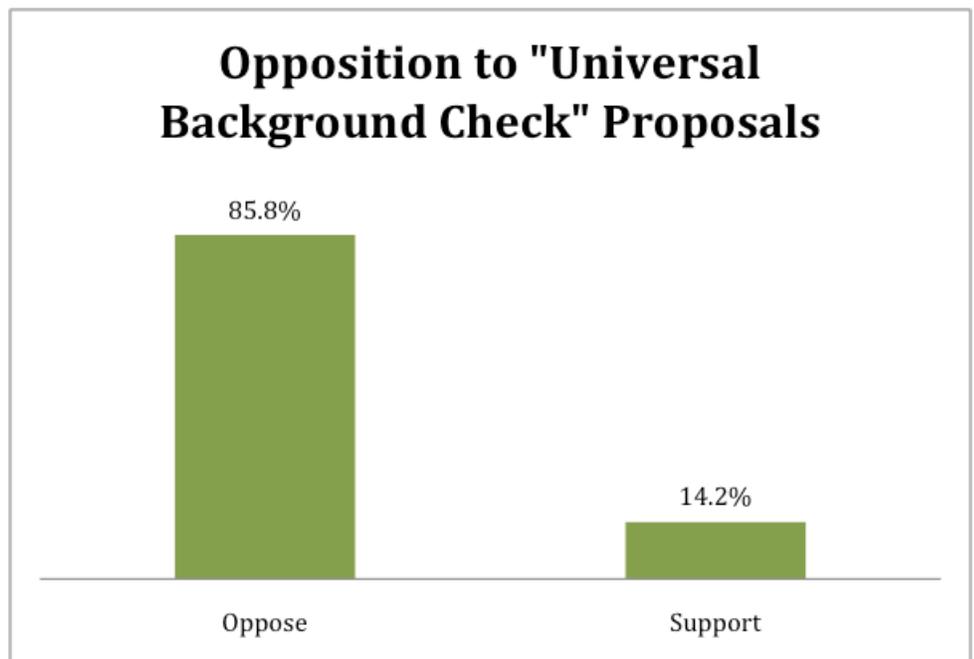
"The concept of universal

background checks sounds appealing on the surface, but the details involved in what actually would be required on the part of firearms retailers to make it work are quite another matter," said Lawrence G. Keane, NSSF senior vice president and general counsel. "In fact, the obligations and burdens that would be put in

place could be overwhelming for many of those who would be called upon to carry them out. It is unfair to call upon private companies, many of them quite small and with limited personnel, to conduct what essentially would be a government function."

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Do you support or oppose "universal background check" proposals?

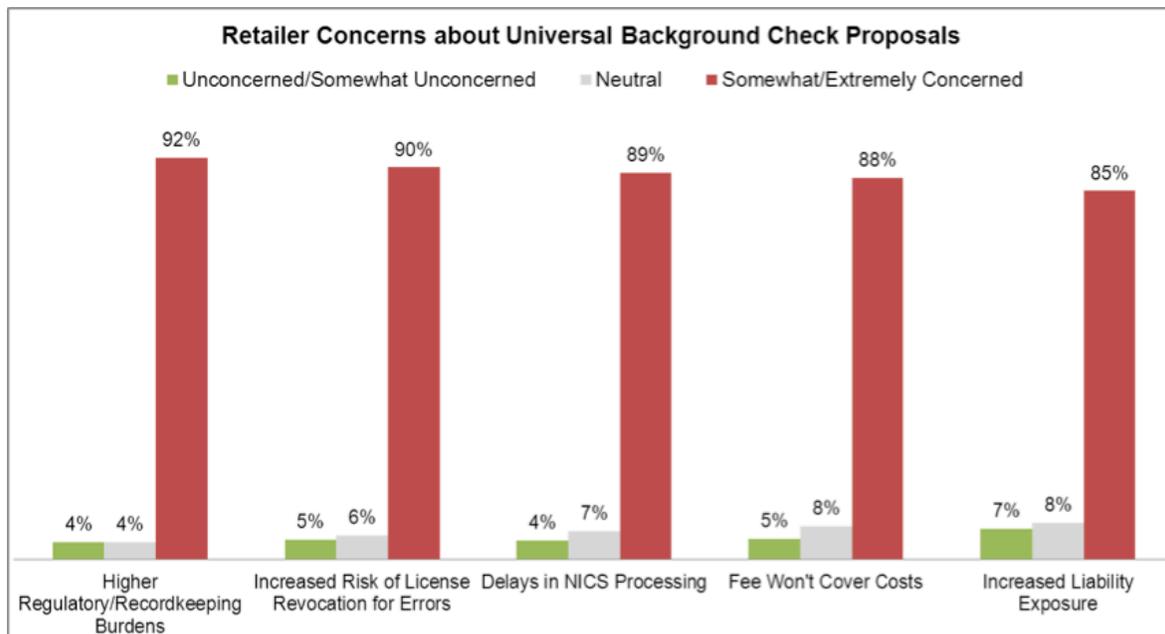


NSSF® Nationwide Universal Background Check Survey Results Methodology: *National Shooting Sports Foundation® conducted an online survey to 3,676 federal firearms licensees nationwide with a fielding period of March 18 – 21, 2013. A total of 676 responses were received resulting in a 99 percent confidence level with a 4.5 percent margin of error.*

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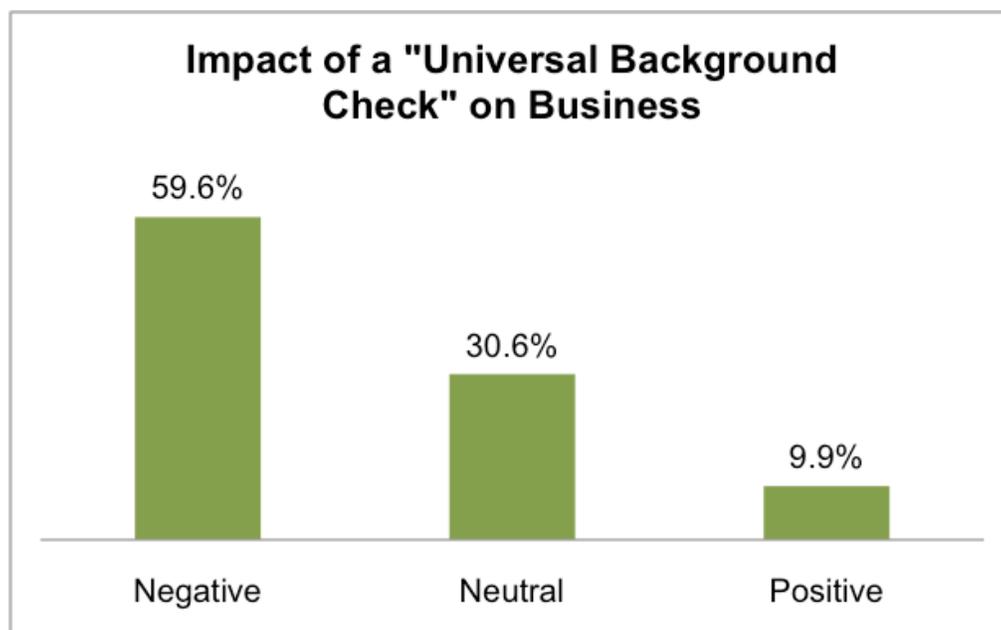


Lawmakers in several states and in Congress are proposing legislation to require background checks be performed by firearms retailers on all private party transfers. Of the following problems with this policy, please indicate whether you are unconcerned, somewhat concerned, or very concerned that each will affect your business:



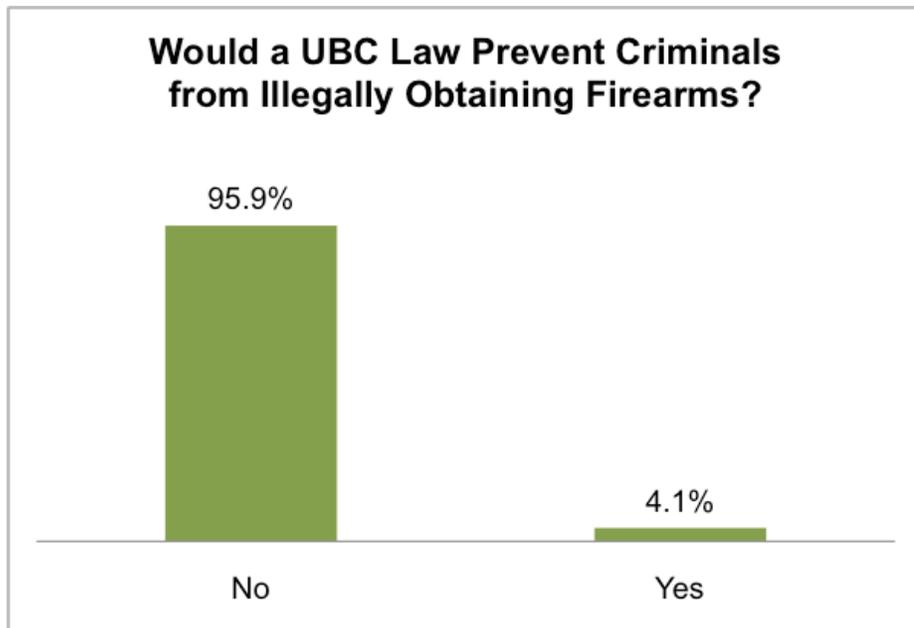
(n=670)

Would a “universal background check” law have a negative, positive or neutral impact on your business?



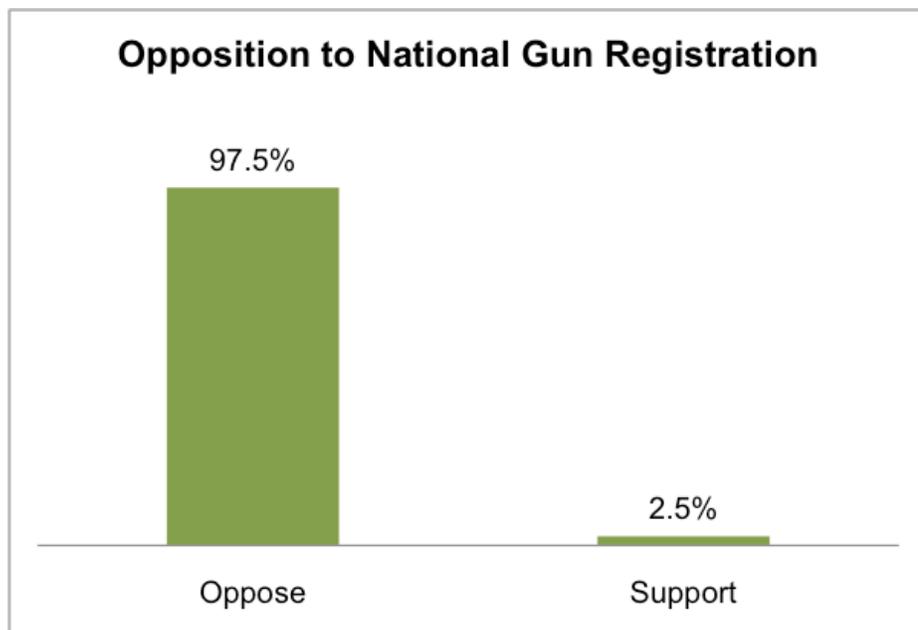
(n=670)

Do you believe a “universal background check” law would prevent criminals from illegally obtaining firearms?



(n=676)

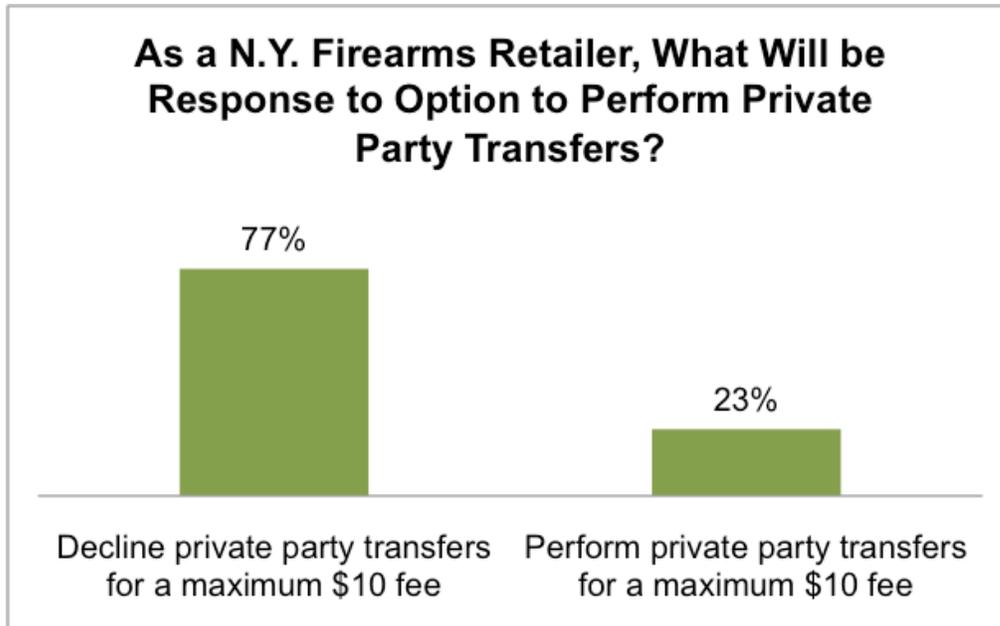
Do you support or oppose national gun registration?



(n=675)

For New York Retailers Only:

Beginning March 16, 2013, pursuant to the NY SAFE Act, firearm retailers will have the option to perform private party transfers (including ATF Form 4473), but can only charge a maximum of \$10. As a N.Y. firearm retailer would you:



(n=22)

Please tell us why you would decline the option to perform private party transfers (including ATF Form 4473) for a maximum of \$10.

