

Shooters Committee on Political Education

Position Paper



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Makes all personal information regarding pistol licensees confidential except to law enforcement agencies and requests concerning a named individual.

PURPOSE

This legislation is intended to limit the access to pistol license records to the specific investigative requirements of law enforcement and to requests concerning a specific, named licensee. Requests for information on all licensees or those in a specific geographic area will not be honored except for law enforcement. The object is to prevent the unnecessary and potentially dangerous disclosures created by creating websites listing the name and address of all license holders in the state or in a specific geographic area.

POSITION

We fully support this legislation. It is in the best interests of both the licensees and the general public to limit access to this information to specific requests for legitimate purposes. The present system of “opt out” is a costly burden on the counties and provides nothing that would not be better served by this proposal.

Clearly, this information, in the wrong hands, poses an unnecessary risk to public safety. This proposal provides the ability to make specific inquiries on single individuals and thus provides adequate access for those who might have a legitimate need for this information. There is no need to facilitate anonymous fishing expeditions for potentially nefarious purposes

Disclosure is an unwarranted invasion of privacy.

There is no legitimate governmental purpose served by the disclosure of this information, save for information necessary for legitimate investigative purposes. And there is no private need for access to this information on such a broad basis.

Anonymous access to this information represents a threat to public safety.

The blanket disclosure of this information is of inestimable value to the criminal classes:

The data can be readily used as a shopping list for gun thieves. Targeting homes to steal a pistol or revolver from a person whose address is listed in the license files can not only put guns in the hands of dangerous individuals but puts anyone in that home at increased risk of injury during a robbery attempt.

Conversely, this information tells criminals which homes are not protected by a person with a pistol permit. This is once again a roadmap for individuals who want to break into someone's home to commit a serious offense without having to worry that their intended victim possesses the means to defend themselves against an attack.