VERMONT MEDICAL SOCIETY RESOLUTION

Universal Background Checks for Sales of Firearms

Adopted by November 7, 2015

WHEREAS, Since the federal background check requirement was adopted in 1994, over two million
prohibited persons have been denied a firearm transfer or permit. In 2010 alone, more than 117,000 gun
transfers were denied using the federal background check system; and

WHEREAS, the growth of the Internet has significantly increased the ability of individuals prohibited from
possessing firearms to find sellers willing to transfer firearms to them without background checks; and

WHEREAS, as of September 2013, about 67,000 firearms were listed for sale online from private, unlicensed
sellers, and according to an undercover investigation conducted by the City of New York, 62% of private
online firearm sellers agreed to sell a firearm to a buyer even after the buyer had told the seller that he or she
probably could not pass a background check; and

WHEREAS, The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives (ATF) found that during one 29-
month period, unlicensed sellers were involved in about one-fifth of illegal trafficking investigations
nationwide and associated with nearly 23,000 trafficked guns; and

WHEREAS, a study which used crime gun trace data from 53 U.S. cities for the years 2000–2002 found that
laws regulating private handgun sales are strongly associated with fewer trafficked guns; and

WHEREAS, a survey of state prison inmates in 13 states who were convicted of gun offenses found that only
13.4% obtained the gun from a gun store or pawnshop, where background checks are required. Nearly all
(96.1%) of those inmates who were already prohibited from possessing a gun at the time of the crime
obtained the firearm through an unlicensed private seller; and

WHEREAS, research has found that states with universal background check laws experience 48 percent less
gun trafficking, 38 percent fewer deaths of women shot by intimate partners, and 17 percent fewer firearms
involved in aggravated assaults; and

WHEREAS, states with universal background check requirements also have a 53 percent lower gun suicide
rate, and 31 percent fewer suicides per capita than states without these laws; and

WHEREAS, Vermont law does not currently require individuals who sell their guns at gun shows, flea
markets or via the internet to do a background; now therefore be it

RESOLVED that the VMS support a background-check requirement on all firearm sales to include
the sale of firearms at gun shows, over the Internet, in classified ads and private sales.

Resources: http://smartgunlaws.org/universal-gun-background-checks-policy-summary