

Bloomberg article missed the mark

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The Lowell Sun

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Recently, The Sun exercised poor discretion in publishing a Bloomberg Opinion article praising yet another attack on private property rights by the House Democrats. The essence of the piece was that criminals are buying their guns via private sales at gun shows and on the internet, so we must act now before its too late.

As usual, this blatant assault on the Second Amendment and private property is flawed on many levels.

* If you buy a gun from a dealer there is a mandatory background check, but not via a private sale. Bloomberg finds the "... disparity is absurd."

Except that this is America, and that's how most private business is transacted. If you buy a car from a dealer, they will only sell to you if you are over 18, have a driver's license, and your name gets recorded. A private sale may occur at any age, and record-keeping is not required. More people die by cars than firearms.

* Bloomberg states that "Criminals know how easy it is to buy guns at guns shows and on websites."

Except it's not. Any firearm crossing a state line must be shipped to Federal Firearms License. Period. FFL does background checks. Same at gun shows. The National Institute for Justice, shows that less than 7 percent of all illegal guns are from these "other" sources. NIJ states illegal "straw purchases" are how criminals get guns.

* Since 1994 more than 3.5 million attempted gun purchases have been denied. What happens when they are denied? Law-abiding citizens in Massachusetts are fingerprinted, recorded (and then demonized by opportunistic politicians).

Criminals who fail the background check walk away.

Massachusetts already has "universal background checks." And yet the largest state of origin for guns used in crime here is Massachusetts, not other less restrictive states. Rather than demonizing inanimate objects, we should focus on stopping criminals.

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