

Episode 120-- Fighting for Expanded Brady Background Checks

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SPEAKERS

Stephan Abrams, Christian Heyne, Kelly Sampson, Colin Goddard, Kris Brown, JJ Janflone



JJ Janflone 00:08

This is the legal disclaimer where I tell you that the views, thoughts, and opinions shared in this podcast belong solely to our guests and hosts, and not necessarily Brady or Brady's affiliates. Please note, this podcast contains discussions of violence that some people may find disturbing. It's okay, we find it disturbing too.



JJ Janflone 00:37

Welcome back everybody to another episode of Red, Blue, and Brady now brought to you on Fridays. As always, I'm your host, JJ,



Kelly Sampson 00:43

And I'm your co host, Kelly.



JJ Janflone 00:45

While we may have a new release day. unfortunately, we are still working from home. I for 1 am greeting you from an increasingly cluttered corner of my apartment that I refuse to

show on camera. Kelly, where are you exactly? It looks fancy, looks nice.



Kelly Sampson 00:57

I'm recording from the illustrious dining room table recording studios. It's very exclusive.



JJ Janflone 01:02

I was gonna say, I haven't gotten an invite. So



Kelly Sampson 01:06

Yeah, you know, it's a pretty elite recording studio. We've got a couple Grammys, no big deal.



JJ Janflone 01:14

Dr. Fauci is the only one who's allowed to approve guests to attend.



Kelly Sampson 01:18

Basically, yeah.



JJ Janflone 01:20

Well, I am very excited to talk to today's guests. Unfortunately, also not in person, who once upon a time, I actually got to do a four hour in-person interview with if you can imagine a time where such a thing was actually physically possible.



Kelly Sampson 01:31


If I try really hard, I think I can, but it is pretty unimaginable right now.





JJ Janflone 01:36


Right? It feels like a completely different life. But luckily, at least digitally, we get to talk with Colin Goddard, Christian Heyne, Kris Brown and Stephan Abrams, all of whom are these great gun violence prevention advocates. And in particular, Colin, Christian and


Stephan have something in common that I think our listeners may not expect.

 Kelly Sampson 01:54
And you're not going to tell us


 JJ Janflone 01:55
I'm absolutely not going to tell you. They have to listen. How dare I?

 Kelly Sampson 02:00
Tricky

 JJ Janflone 02:01
Yes, we're going to get there. But together just you know, some hints, we're discussing the passage of HR 8 and HR 1446 in the US House of Representatives. And we're going to tackle questions like, what are these bills? What do they do? And what is even the point of a background check anyway?

 Kelly Sampson 02:16
Yeah. And I know, some of our listeners are with us from day one, and so they may be like, oh, I totally know about all these bills and background checks, which is awesome. But I think what this episode, you know, even if you know all about background checks and these bills, it's still gonna be a really illuminating conversation. So definitely stay tuned. Could you all introduce yourselves?

 Kris Brown 02:36
Hi, everyone. I'm Kris Brown. I'm the President of Brady.

 Stephan Abrams 02:40
Hey, everyone. My name is Stephan Abrams. I am the Executive Council member of Team Enough, as well as I work at the Brady office, as the Team Enough fellow, and I'm also in the National Chapter Coordinator here as well. So I wear a lot of hats at Team Enough, but I love the voice of the youth. And I really think it's very important, especially right now,

under our current political climate, and I'm really excited to be here.



Christian Heyne 03:02

I'm Christian Heyne, Vice President of Policy here at Brady,



JJ Janflone 03:05

And then Colin our lone non-Brady person on this podcast, but you, you were once Brady, so I feel like



Christian Heyne 03:13

He's Brady at heart. He can't



Colin Goddard 03:14

I was going to say, I know, once you're, once you're in, you're never out. Hi, my name is Colin Goddard. I'm a survivor of the 2007 shootings at Virginia Tech, former Team Brady member, and a gun violence prevention advocate.



JJ Janflone 03:25

Thank you so much for all that you've done at you work an amazing job now too in water access right so



Colin Goddard 03:31

It's cool, really cool job I feel like in a lot of ways similar to engaging a constituency in America that feels like they've been ignored that their voices aren't being heard and you know, working alongside them to fight to make change. So it's in a lot of ways, right, very similar to the work at Brady and take a lot of the learnings and experiences in carrying it forward.



Christian Heyne 03:51

And look at you have a whole workout station in there. Is that a Peloton? You got a Peloton?



Colin Goddard 03:55

That's a Peloton but that's, we use the mirror now. The mirror's mich better.



Christian Heyne 04:00

Come see me I got the, let's get on Peloton. Let's on a ride, man. Comne on, I've been out here, I've been out here pedaling these things let's get on a ride man.



Colin Goddard 04:08

Alright we gotta, we can look at each other's track record and motivate each other. Awesome.



Christian Heyne 04:13

There you go.



JJ Janflone 04:13

I'm very worried about your Peloton obsession Christian. It concerns me a little bit. You're a Peloton pusher and, and it's, it's concerning.



Christian Heyne 04:20

I want to be Pelotoning today.



JJ Janflone 04:23

So let's start from talking about biking to talking about bills. Kris, just to start us off, can you even break down at a very basic level what a Brady Background Check is?



Kris Brown 04:32

Sure. So the Brady Background Check System was put into effect about 27 years ago and a few days and change. And when it was first adopted, it was in response to actually the 1968 Gun Control Act which required background checks to be conducted. So this is something that already was part of the federal law, but there was no mechanism to ensure that there was real record keeping or even technology to make sure that could

happen. So the Brady law put into effect this apparatus, or sought to, to ensure that every federally licensed firearm dealer, or FFL, was required by law to conduct a background check and use technology that was adopted by the government to conduct that check, and that just requires a look at a database that includes records, criminal history, etc. about prohibited purchasers. In order for that law to work at the time, it was based on where most gun transactions happened, which were FFLs. At the time, let's just go back to the 80s, there was no internet, and big gun shows were not big business. They didn't exist. Today they do, right? And you can go online, and unfortunately, if you are a prohibited purchaser, meaning you have some category that you fall into that makes you viewed as a prohibited purchaser, then, technically, if you're buying a gun from a private seller over the internet, no background check in most states needs to occur. The same is true for gun shows, and that is the loophole that is being addressed by HR 8. It requires a gun background check to occur before almost any transaction, regardless of who the seller is, because it doesn't matter. If we're all agreeing from a societal standpoint, that we want to make sure these checks occur, they need to occur with every gun sale. Right now estimates indicate, and they are just estimates because we don't have any hard data about the number of guns sold, but estimates indicate, indicate about 23%, almost one in five guns sold today, is sold with no background check at all. So HR 8 fixes that particular issue.



JJ Janflone 07:02

And before we dig more into those bills, HR 8 and HR 1446. Colin, Christian and Stephan, can you, can you detail your own experiences in buying a firearm without a background check?



Colin Goddard 07:11

So when I started in the gun safety and gun violence prevention movement, you know, background checks were really the issue I thought was most salient and the most kind of common sense and needed to happen. And yet, you know, most people didn't really know that you could buy a gun so easily without a check. So my first actually project at Brady was to go undercover at gun shows at five different states around the United, around the US, and buy different firearms without a background check and record it. So you know, to put a video to it, to make it real and and show people how simple it was. And so I took just a wad of cash in my pocket, took my ID out and waltzed into publicly advertised gun shows in five different states throughout the summer, and bought all sorts of firearms, handguns, long guns, and got it all on tape. And it was so easy for me to figure out which dealers were the ones that weren't going to do a check on me and weren't gonna ask me any questions. And I just found them and walked out with a gun every single time. And,

you know, it always blew me away how quick the transaction was, and how, you know, I was just meeting a stranger for the first time and they, you know, they weren't required to know if I could legally own the firearm in the first place. And so please don't, you know, I think it helps to illuminate this issue and make it real for people to say that, why should we make it so easy for just about anybody to buy a firearm without a check?

C

Christian Heyne 08:31

Yeah and I'll jump in. I mean, my experience, years ago when we did this in Virginia, was similar to what, what Colin did, and in fact Colin with me at the time, when we went to that gun show as well. It is, still to this day, jarring to me that, that we were able to walk into a gun show with, with \$500 cash, walked up to a complete stranger, and without going through any kind of a system to verify that I should and can safely operate a firearm and don't have a history of violence or other disqualifying characteristics. No system whatsoever, no check whatsoever. They put the gun in a Food Lion bag, a paper bag for those of you not from the East Coast, you know, that's just like a grocery store. And, and we were on our way, and it was, it was, it was legal purchase. And in a majority of states in this country to this day, that is still legal. And, and that is just mind blowing. Right? I think that when you look at where, where most Americans think our gun laws are, I think that they are surprised to realize that, that a background check's not required for gun sales. Frankly, most gun owners have nothing to fear from a background check. So, so all of the guns that they have purchased most law abiding, responsible gun owners that I know, and they've gone through a background check. It's taken two minutes and they've been able to purchase that weapon. So, so yeah, it was jarring, then it's hard to believe with how much and how far we've come as a country that that loophole still exists. I will give a shout out to Virginia, that, that Virginia this last session, and especially because the voters in Virginia have spoken out and ensured that they have a group of legislators willing to do what's right for gun violence prevention. And, and that legislature has followed through, and they have closed that loophole in Virginia, and I think it'll have a huge effect and impact on the entire East Coast. But I'm very interested to hear about Stephan. Stephan has recently gone through an experience that I think highlights another massive issue that we need to deal with as a country too that is undermining even states like Virginia or California, where I'm from originally, that have done the right thing to close these loopholes. But the industry has continued to find ways to undermine and undercut that.

S

Stephan Abrams 10:52

Yeah, I mean, I do have to say my experience is a little different than Colin and Christian's just in the fact as in like, my purchase would have never have required a background

check. No matter what age I was, even though I was a minor when I purchased it, even though I do live in California where I can't own a handgun until I'm 21, and when I can, I do have to go through a background check. I was able to buy mine really simply online. And all I had to do was just look up the parts, and that's because the government doesn't recognize it as an actual gun. Even though I received all the parts, they all came to my door, and I could assemble it, and it is identical to any other handgun that you could buy from a manufacturer. But I think it raises the importance of background checks, because I should not have been able to qualify to purchase that gun. And I should be required to go through a background check because it is a gun, it should be recognized as a gun as well.



Christian Heyne 11:46

And, just, just to be clear that the problem that Stephan is describing, the loophole that Stephan is describing is that he was able to buy a ghost gun, and the government doesn't define ghost guns as firearms. Even though if you've ever put together IKEA furniture, you can put together a ghost gun. Shout out to Red, Blue, and Brady who has excellent episodes and content that can help you understand the ghost gun problem. And so to be clear too, it's, it's yet another loophole that undermines the background check system, which we know is effective when it is used, right? Like the Brady background check system has prevented 3.5 million prohibited persons from, who have attempted to purchase weapons, from doing so. The system does work, and so it's no wonder why there are industry attempts to make money by subverting and undermining that. That includes just simply preventing background checks from being required in the first place. But it also includes technology like ghost gun technology, where, where what Stephan went on and bought was completely legal because they consider them to be hunks of metal and plastic, even though they are with, with one drillbit, a fully operational firearm. So it's pretty alarming.



Stephan Abrams 12:57

Also, since it was an online sale, I think it serves as a reminder that a large survey found that 45% of gun owners who acquired a gun online in the past two years did so without any background check, and that goes without ghost guns as well. And not only didn't my purchase, like as I said before, not run any background check, it totally undermined all those laws that we do have in California, because it was a ghost gun. And that should scare every parent, student, and teacher because it shows how accessible guns are and even in a state like California. Obviously, the issue might not be as big maybe in an area in the Midwest where gun laws are more lax. And that's also because there's no federal law requiring it, as well, for them to have a background check as well. So the reason why most Americans support this is because regardless of political affiliation, or how you were

raised, we all can agree that a minor should not be able to buy a handgun, and that guns can't fall into the wrong hands.



JJ Janflone 13:48

And I just want to underscore to because Stephan, from what I've heard you talk about the process, it was not though all that dissimilar from Christian and Collin's. Like it didn't, it didn't take you hours upon hours to find all the different parts. It wasn't prohibitively expensive.



Stephan Abrams 14:00

No, it was like Amazon. That's what I say. Throughout the whole process, it was really simple. I looked up all the parts. The only hard part about it was that it's sold out, and it's so popular. So I just had to just buy all the parts individually. But once you can, it's literally looking at a picture and looking for all the little pieces on the website. And they're actually cheaper than a regular gun as well that you'd buy from an actual store, or if you were to actually go through a background check and the whole process.



Colin Goddard 14:30

Wow, I mean, what Christian, and I did, right, was, you know, at gun shows, which are certainly a problem, right? I mean, they're publicly advertised events, you know, that you can find but, you know, that doesn't really speak to exactly what your point, the point you made Stephan was that, the gun show that happens online every single day through websites like Armslist and others, or where you can just connect with people who post, an I have a gun to sell ad, and you arrange to meet them up and transact money and you can walk away. I mean, it's, you know, unbelievable how many more guns are sold in this way, that still doesn't require a background check. And you know, in the places that, the states that do require a background check on all sales, we know that there are less online gun sellers willing and able to sell a gun without a check. So we know in half the states in this country, that do have strong gun laws on background checks and close these loopholes, that there are less firearms being sold in this unsafe manner. So we know that this law works, and now it's really time for a federal law to hold every state to the same standard, so we don't have pockets of strength and weakness that allow guns to be purchased easily in one place and brought somewhere else to contribute to the gun trafficking problem that so many places try to struggle with. So that's why the legislation has been introduced in Congress now is so important. It's, you know, it's, it's great to see federal leaders doing this and falling on the, on the wins and progress that so many states like

Virginia have made recently, that ultimately will get us to a point where you know, no matter who you are, no matter where you are, if you're buying a gun from somebody you don't know, or parts of a gun, from somebody you don't know, you've got to go through a background check. Clear and simple as that.

 Christian Heyne 16:04

That's exactly right. I mean, I think ultimately, what we're just trying to do, it's the same thing, right? We need to make sure that background checks are completed when people are buying firearms. And I think what these policies do to strengthen and expand the Brady Background Check System is, is very sensible. Right? And, and they're closing these, these just ludicrous loopholes. I mean, 90% of background checks, will, will take a couple minutes. This loophole allows, like Collin said, 1000s of people to purchase weapons who otherwise have disqualifying records. I mean, to be completely honest, since 2008, more than 43,000 to put a finer point on it, 43,000 prohibited purchasers were able to obtain firearms from FFLs due to these, this default proceed process due to the Charleston Loophole and, and, and to Colin's point, I mean, it only takes one to highlight how horrific this loophole can truly be, you know, an avowed white supremacist was able to, to acquire a weapon even though he didn't complete a background check. Because this has been this is, this is a problem and loophole in our code. And, and nine parishioners who were having a Bible study in, at the AME church in South Carolina, in Charleston, South Carolina, they, they brought him in, and he was able to do exactly what he wanted to in that hate filled attack. And we just need to do more. I don't think that Americans, especially the people listening here, but gun owners, non-gun owners like we, every time we see polling, every time that we ask gun owners, every time we ask non gun owners, when we ask Americans, do you think that people should go through a background check to buy a firearm? They say yes. And that's all we're trying to do here. So I, you know, it's so, there's so many things we need to do, right? Fixing our background check system, expanding our background check system that's not going to fix gun violence. But it's a critical first step. And it's the foundation upon which all other gun laws work, because we can't prevent domestic abusers from accessing buyers, we can't prevent avowed white supremacist with histories of violence from accessing weapons, we can't prevent all of the people that we know that are in an increased risk of violent behavior from accessing firearms, unless we have a background check system that we can rely on. And, and so the things that we're talking about here that the, the, the, the industry has fought so hard to make sure that they can continue to profit off of the, the sale of guns to those who would do harm with them. These are loopholes that we need to close, and the only people who will be upset about it are the gun industry and those who want to access guns to do the worst types of things and can't. Right? I mean, let's be really clear about it. This is, this is, this is not something that is controversial, more than 90% of Americans support it. We

can't get more than 90% of Americans to agree that that pizza tastes great, or that that ice cream is cool, right? So like let's not pretend like this is a controversial issue. Let's just get it done. And, and that's why we're so thrilled that things are moving, that we're getting these, these, these votes on the floor and, and we're gonna, we're gonna fight like hell to make sure that they get signed into law.

S

Stephan Abrams 18:08

Also, just to finish off, people all the time, after horrible tragedies, they always say, how did this happen? Like how how did something this horrible happen? Well, it's because we don't have the most basic foundational laws in place that will allow that first check or that first wave of them actually trying to purchase a gun legally. We don't have that process where they could be rejected and not be able to purchase that firearm. And I think that goes back to even what's going on in Michigan right now at the University of Michigan where students can't feel safe doing protests on campus and doing political rallies, because guns are allowed on campus. And I think, obviously what Christian said is there's so many other things that we can focus on. But this, this step will already make our communities so much safer because it's already being the first step to deter people who shouldn't have guns, getting those firearms in the first place.

K

Kelly Sampson 20:21

I feel like we've covered HR 8 pretty well, so could you break down HR 1446?

K

Kris Brown 20:26

So basically, what HR 1446 does is expand the time period pursuant to which the FBI can complete the background check on any potential purchaser and says, instead of having a three day rule, after 10 days, the sale can proceed. That gives enough time, based on all of the data that we have seen, for the FBI to complete any potential check. And why is that important? Well, sometimes these things are very complicated. Let's just keep in mind that the list of prohibited purchasers, and what I mean by that are people who would not pass a background check, because they have a state law conviction, or a federal law conviction that makes them a prohibited purchaser. That's not always easy to research, right? I mean, when I say the vast majority of checks are completed within three days, really, what I'm saying is the vast majority of checks something like 97% happen in a few seconds. So but we have to keep in mind, millions of these checks happen any potential year, you know, and 12 million guns were sold just based on records in 2020 alone. So 97% of those checks, just let's think about that for a second. These are millions of potential purchasers. It's instantaneous, and the dealer has that information, and the sale either

proceeds or doesn't, because the person either passes that check or doesn't. If you, if you have a check that isn't come back, isn't coming back complete, it means that the FBI, that is the entity that is actually conducting these checks, has something on that person's record, that's a flag. It doesn't mean that they're a prohibited purchaser, what it means is that they don't have enough information to confirm that they're not potentially a prohibited purchaser, that they need to go into a mode of investigation to understand what that means. That could mean calling local police in a small town about a warrant that is outstanding for an individual or a conviction that, for whatever reason, isn't in the database, because it is a local kind of issue. And understanding what that might be, that takes time, that takes resources. In the case of the shooter, in Charleston, it's chilling and very upsetting to think about when you read the stories of the diligence that was done by the FBI there, and they really did try very hard. It's a story of voicemail messages left that weren't returned and, you know, issues in the local jurisdiction that, with more time and more resources, actually could have been tracked down. So this is the kind of diligence that we're expecting and that the FBI, look every day they're doing this. This is, this bill is only saying, let's give them sufficient time to do it. Let's extend that period by seven days because we think the default rule should be that someone who could be potentially dangerous doesn't easily get that. But after 10 days, that's enough time for the FBI. So it's not a complete forestalling of that transaction, a temporary one, to allow the FBI to do its job.

K

Kelly Sampson 23:54

So now that it's past the house, where do we go next? What are you looking forward to?

K

Kris Brown 23:58

Well, this is where it gets interesting. So, we're so happy that we have these bills passed in the House and not surprised because they passed in the House last, last Congress, and they sat on Mitch McConnell's desk. We want to avoid that going forward. We obviously have a different composition in the Senate, but we have a filibuster too. And Brady understands the dynamics that we're facing. So we have really two potential opportunities here. One is with the Senate composition that it currently is the, the role of someone like Senator Manchin becomes all the more important. And our message to him and to others who will really be key leaders of moving this forward is HR 8 and HR 1446 are already compromised measures. We have negotiated. We have determined what the appropriate kinds of mechanisms are to reflect the will of the people around fixing our nation's background check system. And these provisions what, what are in these bills will allow transactions to occur before family members, grandparents are exempted who are putting the transfer of guns in their estates, all of these things are considered in this bil.

What it fixes is Armslist existing in a manner that's an internet site that allows people who have large caches of guns to sell them to individuals who would never pass a background check. And I hope that it means with the passage of these bills, that the Senate will take them up expeditiously and vote on them and pass them. If that does not happen, what that means is that we need filibuster reform.



JJ Janflone 25:56

Well, and that's a whole other podcast topic, which I promise we'll do one day. But Christian, I'm wondering, what about you? What is your opinion?



Christian Heyne 26:04

So look, we are just thrilled, right? Like, it is historic that the House came in, and made this such a high priority, that not only did they name it as one of their top 10 bills, right, with HR 8 once again, and the priorities that they're gonna move through. But they were able to introduce and get this passed quickly, decisively, within a one week period, to make sure that we, that we were able to send this over to the Senate as one of the very first packages of bills that this House of Representatives and the 117th Congress said is is an absolute priority to strengthen and expand the Brady Background Check System. It's huge, right? I mean, Collin and I worked for longer than a decade to try to just get one floor vote, right, man? I mean,



Colin Goddard 26:55

I know, right? Unbelievable to see the progress from when we, when we first started Christian, working together, right? We couldn't even get hearings on gun violence prevention bills. When we first started, then we advanced to, you know, getting hearings, and then we got actual votes. In a while we got majorities, we didn't get enough to break filibusters, when the, after, after the Sandy Hook school shooting, but still progress. And now we've progressed even further such that we're actually going to get pieces of legislation through a chamber of Congress. Right? And so every year, we are getting closer and closer and closer to where we ultimately want to be. And it's because they're, you know, this whole issue has changed because so many people have made it their issue and decided to vote for it and be speaking out against it and organize with it. And, and it's so incredible to see the progress that our movement in the gun safety movement in America has made over the past 10-15 years. And folks like Stephan and the youth generation entering this movement has been so massively inspiring, motivational, and game changing, to bring in so many more voices of people who live this reality, and want to see

something different and are actually taking action on that and inspiring so many others. So it's, it's it really is so good to hear that we're having votes. These votes are moving to be passed. We're going to move pieces of legislation down the road, because like I said, we were far, far away from this when we started this effort, and when so many people before us, were working so hard. And so we have come so far, we still have much more to go, no doubt. Right? But we should all be proud of where things are, and how much progress we've made and use that as motivation to keep pushing and keep fighting.

C

Christian Heyne 28:40

Yeah, I think that's right. And look at you know, we can't give up. Right? I think that the, the reason that we are where we are and we're at the place that Colin is describing is because people keep showing up right? The folks who are listening here right now, y'all keep showing up. Stephan and, and, and Stephan's entire generation continue to show up. And, and, and that's going to make the difference. What happens next is, is we have to turn that same power and that same group voice and direct it at the Senate. We have no excuses for, for any governmental leader to not want to see a bill that will fundamentally keep Americans safe, that will save lives and will address this public health epidemic that we have in gun violence. And this is the easiest of first steps, right? It's, it just passed. Both, you know, both of these bills just passed with bipartisan support. We know that this is a bill that will have bipartisan support on the floor of the Senate as well, just like it did in 2013 the different version of a background check bill back then. And there is certainly no excuse now. The politics are hard and, and the question becomes even though 9 out of 10 Americans will say that they support these policies, there's one room in America where that's not true, and it's the US Senate for whatever reason, because the system is broken. And so, the question is with the procedural filibuster in place, can we get 60 votes? Because we know that the system that Mitch McConnell uses, what President Obama has called the relic of the Jim Crow era, in the procedural filibuster to prevent so much change that we desperately need. And, frankly, it cannot be an impediment to us protecting Americans from gun violence. So, so I, you know, it's more of a question, but it will be on us because there's certainly no excuse why these bills shouldn't be able to get 60 votes. There's no reason why they shouldn't be able to get 90 votes, right, if we are looking at what it is that the American constituents, gun owners, non-gun owners alike across America, from coast to coast, are demanding day in and day out to prevent gun violence. This is the simplest of first steps. So I'm excited for what comes next. I don't have a crystal ball. But I know what we have to do, and it's that.

S

Stephan Abrams 31:11

Coming from an organizing, an organizer's perspective as well. We're gonna do

everything we can to mobilize as many people as possible to call your senators. We are, we are mobilizing so many people, hosting virtual rallies, and the only way that you can keep track of all these is if you follow all of our social medias, and make sure that you are keeping up to date for when we host our large phone banks and when we are mobilizing because our organizing team is in full force right now. And we are so excited for the opportunity that this is actually going to be able to have a vote on the Senate floor. And that is something that hasn't happened in a very long time, unfortunately. But we are going to do everything in our power, even though our United States Senate is not the most welcoming place for us, we don't care. We are going to bust down their doors in, not in the insurrectionist way, but in a way, where we're gonna make sure our voices are heard. Because we understand the importance of democracy and to highlight the importance of why we should end things like the filibuster and why coalitions that team Enough is a part of such as Just Democracy are so important, especially right now. We need to do something to change how government represents the people because right now, it's not too good.

K

Kelly Sampson 32:26

So for those that are really concerned about the current gaps in the background check system who may be listening, what can they do after they finish this episode to push for change?

K

Kris Brown 32:36

Please, this is still a representative democracy, and it really does matter for your members of Congress to hear from you. And we hear about this all the time with my contacts with members of Congress. I just got off calls today with members asking me, what are you doing to mobilize and making sure people hear your voices? Call, call your member of Congress, your member in the US House of Representatives, and call your senators. You have two of them and tell them that they need to enact these life saving bills. It may feel like that doesn't matter, and I'm getting a voicemail, or I'm not hearing back from people. It does matter. They ask their staffers every day. I used to be one of those people for many years. How are the calls coming? How's the volume of calls? What's trending? Like, we need to flood, the members of Congress, both in the House and the Senate, the Senate is next to act now. So don't forget your two senators, and tell them you want these bills to fix the gaps in the background check system. You want them passed, and you'll be paying attention to it. That will make a huge difference. And I have to thank you in advance for doing that, taking five minutes to call to make that happen.



Kelly Sampson 33:55

And I'm just going to do a little democracy plug here. For people like me, who lives in DC and people who might be in Puerto Rico, that if you don't have two senators, you can also engage with democracy forum, and that'll also go a long way towards making change, like the ones that Chris mentioned around filibuster and just generally making our democracy more representative. So there's a place for us in this as well.



JJ Janflone 34:17

Well, I think too, and it's been made really clear, I think, especially by you, Stephan, is that we should all be checking out, you know, Team Enough and Brady social. So you know, @teamenough and @bradybuzz, just to keep on top of information about all of these bills and also, you know, things, what people can be doing at home to activate themselves around this issue. And, oh, and now I see that Collin's baby has woken up. So I think that's our sign actually to finish.



Colin Goddard 34:50

I am, I am now back on duty.



JJ Janflone 34:53

So thank you all so, so much for coming on. This has, this has been great. Thank you. So now typically at this point in the podcast, we have a fun, yet shocking story like, you know, dog unintentionally shoots the owner of an expensive firearm. Yeah, I think people get the picture at this point. And we're still gonna continue to bring those stories to you from time to time. But we're going to start something a bit new as well, where we're going to be doing some, you know, firearm, or gun myth debunking.



Kelly Sampson 35:23

Oh, Brady debunks, I like it.



JJ Janflone 35:26

I like, it rolls off the tongue. You know, Brady Mythbusters.



Kelly Sampson 35:30

Please don't sue us.



JJ Janflone 35:33

Good point. So following the passage of HR 8 and HR 1446 in the House, which yay, the NRA tweeted, the opposite of yay, that quote, neither of these bills will do anything to solve that problem. And you know, the problem that he's referring to there being gun violence. If Congress is serious about the safety of law abiding citizens, it should have passed concealed carry reciprocity, end quote, and this is a statement from their executive director, Jason Ouimet.



Kelly Sampson 36:03

Okay, that's laughable, because concealed carry reciprocity basically means that if someone has a concealed carry permit in one place, they can carry that gun anywhere. So if you're enrolled for that, you would be able to take your concealed weapon to New York City or Washington, DC. So it's basically holding the whole country to the lowest standard for a concealed carry permit. Which, okay NRA.



JJ Janflone 36:29

Yeah. And, and more than that, it's like the passage of these bills addresses things like the one in five guns that are currently sold without a background check. It addresses the Charleston loophole, it gives more time for background checks to be processed, like, those are things that help to prevent gun violence.



Kelly Sampson 36:44

And we desperately need these pieces of legislation to prevent future tragedies.



JJ Janflone 36:49

And also, like more to the point like I get, you can't really do nuance in a tweet, right? That's the whole point of them, which is why I think they should mostly be used for, you know, cute animal pictures. But, you know, surveys have shown that more than 90%, including a majority of gun owners themselves, support a law requiring a background check for all firearm purchases. So this was a really popular measure, so I don't know

where the complaint here is.



Kelly Sampson 37:12

Yeah, it's a very popular measure. And that's something I hope the Senate, you know, will recognize.



JJ Janflone 37:18

I hope we all, I think that's something we all hope. So with even more policy news this week, just a sea of policy. On Tuesday, four Democratic senators urged President Biden in an open letter to take executive action curbing the use of ghost guns, which Stephan mentioned in this episode, which are untraceable firearms that are usually sold in kits and assembled at home. Specifically, their plan included the request for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, aka the ATF be advised to regulate these firearms under the Gun Control Act and ensure that they're subject to background checks.



Kelly Sampson 37:53

Meanwhile, in Colorado, there was a House debate about a proposed bill that would require firearms not in use to be stored securely in order to prevent children and teens from accessing weapons. The bill calls for licensed gun dealers to provide a locking device when selling or transferring firearms, and failure to do so could result in a misdemeanor and a fine between \$250 and \$1,000.



JJ Janflone 38:18

Hey, want to share with the podcast? Listeners can now get in touch with us here at Red, Blue, and Brady via phone or text message. Simply call or text us at 480-744-3452 with your thoughts, questions, concerns, ideas, whatever. Kelly and I are standing by.



Kelly Sampson 38:32

Thanks for listening. As always, Brady's life saving work in Congress, the courts, and communities across the country is made possible thanks to you. For more information on Brady or how to get involved in the fight against gun violence, please like and subscribe to the podcast. Get in touch with us at [Bradyunited.org](https://bradyunited.org) or on social at [Bradybuzz](https://bradybuzz.com). Be brave and remember, take action, not sides.

