

The Gun-owner Registration Information Protection (GRIP) Act

Summary: The **GRIP Act** seeks to clarify existing law that bars the federal government from storing information acquired during the firearms background check process. The measure clarifies the prohibition on the use of any federal funding by states or local entities for the storage or “listing” of sensitive, personal information related to the legal ownership or possession of firearms. It also reinforces that all federal agencies must refrain from such activities. This bill does **not** include any limitations related to state recordkeeping for permitting, law enforcement-issued firearms, or lost or stolen firearms.

- The National Rifle Association endorses the GRIP Act.

Why do we need the GRIP Act?

- In recent years, many states have passed a variety of gun laws. For example, the [State of New York enacted](#) a statute requiring gun owners to register their handguns with state police by January 2018.
 - The **GRIP Act** seeks to reinforce the federal government’s stance on firearms registries, even in a changing, political landscape.
- In 2012 and 2013, a local [New York newspaper](#) and a [Manhattan-based website](#) published databases showing where licensed gun owners and permit holders lived.
 - The **GRIP Act** would ensure federal funds should not contribute to state recordkeeping that could allow this kind of breach of privacy.
- Under current law ([18 USC section 926\(a\)](#)), the federal government may not store information acquired during the firearms background check process.
 - The **GRIP Act** clarifies that prohibition and promotes consistency by extending the restriction to federal funding provided to states.
- Several state supreme courts have decreed that storing personally identifiable information related to firearm purchases and ownership is not in violation of state laws, creating a loophole for the states to keep registries of gun owners.
 - The **GRIP Act** would ensure the federal government does not support, either intentionally or otherwise, misguided efforts to collect and store personally identifiable information related to legal firearm purchases and ownership—even in the case of such a legal loophole.
- States benefit from federal grant programs, such as the National Criminal Histories Improvement Program (NCHIP), the NICS Amendment Records Improvement Program (NARIP), and the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) program, to improve criminal recordkeeping and help fulfill reporting requirements.
 - The **GRIP Act** would prevent states from using any of this funding to assist with the creation of a full or partial registry.