



## *The Gun-owner Registration Information Protection (GRIP) Act*

**Summary:** The GRIP Act clarifies and strengthens existing federal law prohibiting the storage of information obtained through the firearms background check process. The bill ensures that neither federal agencies nor states or local governments using federal funds may store, list, or maintain sensitive personal information related to the legal ownership or possession of firearms. It reinforces longstanding federal opposition to firearm registries while preserving state authority to maintain records for lawful purposes such as permitting, law enforcement-issued firearms, and reports of lost or stolen firearms.

The National Rifle Association (NRA) and the National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF) endorse the GRIP Act.

### **Why the GRIP Act Is Needed**

#### **1. Reinforces Federal Opposition to Gun Registries:**

As states adopt new firearm policies—such as [New York’s past requirement](#) for handgun registration, the GRIP Act reaffirms the federal government’s long-standing position against firearm owner registries, even in a shifting political environment.

#### **2. Protects Privacy and Prevents Public Disclosure**

In 2012–2013, media outlets published databases ([ex. 1](#), [ex. 2](#)) identifying the home locations of licensed gun owners. The GRIP Act would help prevent federal funds from supporting state recordkeeping systems that could enable similar privacy breaches or public exposure.

#### **3. Clarifies Existing Federal Law**

Current law ([18 U.S.C. § 926\(a\)](#)) prohibits the federal government from storing background check records. The GRIP Act clarifies and strengthens this prohibition and extends it to states or local entities using federal funds, ensuring consistent nationwide application.

#### **4. Closes State-Level Legal Loopholes**

Some state courts have ruled that storing personally identifiable firearm ownership data does not violate state law, creating pathways for registries. The GRIP Act ensures the federal government does not financially support these efforts—even when state legal loopholes exist.

#### **5. Ensures Federal Grants Aren’t Used to Build Registries**

States receive federal funding through programs such as: National Criminal Histories Improvement Program (NCHIP), NICS Amendment Records Improvement Program (NARIP), and Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG). The GRIP Act prevents these funds from being used to create full or partial firearm registries, while still allowing them to support legitimate law enforcement and public safety recordkeeping.

**Bottom Line:** The GRIP Act strengthens privacy protections, reinforces existing federal law, and prevents taxpayer dollars from supporting firearm registries, while preserving legitimate law enforcement and permitting functions.