**KOLO Written Rebuttal**

Nevadans for Background Checks is committed to doing everything we can to make our state safer, and to ensuring that voters have the information they need to make an informed decision about Question 1 on this year’s ballot.

Given that, Nevadans for Background checks would like to correct the record on a few points raised by Assemblyman Jim Wheeler during the recent debate hosted by KOLO.

**Myth: There are no loopholes at guns shows.**

This is simply false.

Under current law, criminal background checks are required for gun sales conducted by a licensed dealer, but not required for guns sold by unlicensed dealers – and gun shows frequently feature unlicensed sellers. That sounds like the definition of a loophole to us. But regardless of what you want to call it, we know that by not requiring background checks on all gun sales, we’re making it far too easy for dangerous people here in Nevada to acquire guns.

**Myth: Every dealer at gun shows is a FFL.**

Again, this is also blatantly false. While *some* gun shows do require every seller to be licensed and conduct background checks, not all do. You can walk into a gun show and at one booth a background check would be required, but just a few booths down you can buy the same gun with no background check, no questions asked.

And this loophole – yes, we said loophole – doesn’t just apply to gun shows. On just four Nevada websites, unlicensed sellers post more than 35,000 unique gun ads for sale. And criminals flock to this unregulated marketplace – one recent study of the online gun market in Nevada found that nearly 1 in 11 people shopping online for a gun in Nevada is legally prohibited from having guns, including felons and domestic abusers. [Source: Everytown for Gun Safety, *The Wild Wild Web: Investigating Online Gun Markets in Nevada*, January 2016, available at <http://every.tw/1TJel1K>.]

Question 1 would level the playing field so that all gun sales – whether at a gun store, a gun show, or online – would require a background check and help to keep guns out of the hands of dangerous people.

**Myth: 50% of illegal guns are sold through straw purchasers.**

And again, this is also false. The study this statistic is likely referring to only looked at trafficked guns, which account for a very minor subset of the overall illegal gun market. There is no evidence whatsoever that straw purchasers fuel such a high percentage of all illegal gun possession.

But that’s also beside the point – we know that dangerous people who are banned from having guns frequently do, in fact, try to buy guns themselves and fail background checks. Just between 2012-2014 here in Nevada, 5,379 gun sales to prohibited people were blocked by background checks. [Analysis of data obtained directly from the FBI, June 2015.]

**Myth: Question 1 is unenforceable.**

Background checks are inherently an enforcement mechanism. It is already illegal for certain people, like felons and domestic abusers, to buy guns – and background checks help to keep these dangerous people from easily accessing guns.

Colorado closed the background check loophole in 2013, and since its law went into effect there have been more than 40,000 background checks conducted for unlicensed sales – and these background checks on unlicensed sales have blocked more than 1,000 sales to dangerous people trying to illegally buy guns. [Analysis of Colorado Bureau of Investigation data, available at: <http://bit.ly/2dpEzsK>.]

Clearly this is enforceable.

Extending background checks to all gun sales will put another hurdle in front of these dangerous people, who are already not legally allowed to have a gun. And doing so will make our state safer for all of us.

Vote Yes on 1 to close the background check loophole.