

# NY SAFE: What it does and doesn't do.



The NY SAFE Act is a common sense gun law that respects Second Amendment rights, keeps weapons out of the hands of dangerous people, and toughens criminal penalties for those who use illegal guns.

Despite the false claims of some corporate gun lobbyists, NY SAFE does not prevent law-abiding citizens from owning guns for hunting, target shooting, or self-defense at home.

Below are the real facts about the New York Secure Ammunition and Firearms Enforcement (NY SAFE) Act.

## The NY SAFE Act:

- **Does** require criminal background checks on all gun sales—so dangerous weapons can be kept away from convicted felons, domestic abusers, and the mentally ill.
- **Does** require recertification of gun licenses every five years, just like drivers' licenses. So if a gun owner engages in violent behavior, his or her gun license will be denied at renewal.
- **Does not** prohibit law-abiding citizens from owning or possessing guns for sport, hunting and self-defense.
- **Does** protect victims of domestic violence by requiring the court to suspend or revoke gun permits when addressing violations orders of protection.
- **Does** respect the Second Amendment. The constitutionality of NY SAFE has been upheld by both state and federal courts. In addition, the U.S. Supreme Court affirmed in the 2008 Heller decision that the Second Amendment allows reasonable regulation of dangerous and unusual weapons.
- **Does not** violate the Second Amendment (see above).
- **Does** strengthen the ban on the sale of military-style assault weapons and limit high-capacity magazines, which are designed to kill large numbers of people and not designed for hunting, sports or self-defense.
- **Does** allow people who already own assault weapons to keep them, but requires the weapons to be registered with the police.
- **Does** protect first responders by making the murder of a first responder engaged in his or her duties a Class A-1 felony, with a mandatory penalty of life in prison without parole.

Strong, common sense gun laws like NY SAFE do work—and they're a big reason why New York, a state of 20 million people, has the fourth lowest gun death rate in the nation. NY SAFE respects gun rights, keeps weapons from dangerous individuals, and toughens criminal penalties—and should be the model for other states to follow.