

I am in favor of passing House Bill 2543 (HB 2543) which closes the Charleston Loophole that exists in relation to background checks. The importance of background checks is imperative in order to keep guns out of the hands of potentially dangerous people. Our country and the people have been broken down time and time again over the repeated gun violence in our communities, but the truth is we have been failed by the lack of strength in gun legislation and addressing of loopholes in the system. If a person has a past criminal record, they should not be allowed to obtain any sort of firearm and gun sellers should not have the authority to sell those same people weapons to get around the system of laws already in place. Evading detection and avoiding background checks does not improve the problem, it only makes it worse. Mandating strict background checks and closing loopholes in a meaningful way has been proven to reduce gun violence in our communities by over 10%. More specifically, background checks and closing loopholes helps keep guns out of the hands of convicted felons, domestic abusers, people with suicidal thoughts, etc, which helps keep our communities, peers and loved ones safe. I genuinely hope you consider passing HB 2543 and help keep guns out of the wrong hands.