



# **NEW MEXICO SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION**

**P.O. BOX 217**

**BERNALILLO, NM 87004**

The New Mexico Sheriffs Association 32 of 33 Sheriff's opposes Senate Bill 48 and House Bill 50. These measures would make it harder for law-abiding New Mexicans to exercise their Second Amendment rights, waste scarce law enforcement resources, and do nothing to keep guns out of the hands of criminals. These bills are part of a national gun control agenda funded by New York billionaire Michael Bloomberg. This gun control scheme would criminalize virtually every private firearms transfer in the state. To loan or share a gun with a close friend, neighbor or co-worker would require going to a federally licensed firearms dealer, paying a fee, and filling out government-mandated paperwork. This process would have to be repeated to return the firearm. Penalties for those who violate the law would be very stiff. For a first violation, a person could be imprisoned for up to a year, fined up to a \$1,000 or both. A second violation would be a fourth-degree felony, which is punishable by up to 18 months in prison. This conviction would also mean the person could lose their gun rights altogether under federal law.

Finally, this scheme would not be enforceable without creating a gun registry. We know this because a 2013 U.S. Department of Justice internal memo on gun violence prevention strategies stated that the success of expanded background check laws depends on requiring firearm registration.

As sheriffs, we know that criminals, by definition, ignore the law. This proposed gun control law would not stop them from getting their guns from other criminal associates and theft, as they already do. These bills are literally unenforceable by law enforcement. Leading criminologist Dr. John Lott, Jr. found in his research that murders are 49 percent higher and robberies are 75 percent higher in states with expanded background checks. Bloomberg's gun control scheme would cost law-abiding New Mexicans time, money, and freedom.

Sheriff White, Torrance County (NMSA President)

Sheriff Mace, Cibola County (NMSA Vice President)

Sheriff Sinclair, Colfax County

Sheriff Snyder, Chavez County

Sheriff Lucero, Los Alamos County

Sheriff Warren, Hildago County

Sheriff Lobb, Union County  
Sheriff Hogrefe, Taos County  
Sheriff Gannaway, Luna County  
Sheriff Harvey, De Baca County  
Sheriff Burkhard, Valencia County  
Sheriff Silversmith, McKinley County  
Sheriff Fletcher, Catron County  
Undersheriff Wiese, Sandoval County  
Sheriff Christesen, San Juan County  
Sheriff Hamilton, Sierra County  
Sheriff Sheppard, Lincoln County  
Sheriff Lucero, Guadalupe County  
Sheriff Shafer, Quay County  
Sheriff Waller, Curry County  
Sheriff Lujan, Rio Arriba County  
Sheriff Gutierrez, Harding County  
Sheriff Laumbach, Mora County  
Sheriff Gonzales, Bernallio County  
Sheriff Armijo, Socorro County  
Sheriff House, Otero County  
Sheriff Parker, Roosevelt County  
Sheriff Vigil, Dona Anna County  
Sheriff, Villanueva Grant County  
Sheriff, Wester Lea County  
Sheriff Gould, San Miguel County

Sheriff Cage, Eddy County