

## *Defending Your Gun Rights*

Gun Owners of Maine is an all-volunteer, grassroots, nonprofit organization dedicated to defending and promoting the gun rights of Mainers, and we are the only Maine organization focused on this issue alone. We monitor developments affecting gun owners on both the State and Federal levels, tracking bills in the Legislature and the Congress, and act as a watchdog on governmental agencies.

Gun Owners of Maine tracks, analyzes and reports on issues of importance to gun owners, identifying and getting the word out to gun owners on threats to, and opportunities for our gun rights.

We believe that gun rights are fundamental to a free people, and it is our mission to preserve and extend them. The threats to our rights from anti-gun politicians and activists are constant; every year, new bills are introduced in the Legislature and the Congress which would hack away at our rights. Gun Owners of Maine opposes these threats through grassroots action, providing information, analysis and action plans to gun owners, to make their political might felt in Augusta and in Washington.

Please join us, to make our voice louder. Join our Facebook group or our web forums to keep abreast of current anti-gun threats as well as pro-gun opportunities. If you can, please seriously consider becoming a supporting member of Gun Owners of Maine with a paid membership. As a paying member, you not only support our mission financially, but you send a clear message to politicians that you are a serious and committed member of the gun rights community. The larger our member base, the more respect we command with elected officials.

Memberships start at \$20/year, or about 5 cents a day. That's a small price to help preserve a priceless right. Please join today.

## *Legislative Priority:* **Constitutional Carry**

Passing a Constitutional Carry bill is our major legislative priority in 2015. Constitutional Carry, which is already the law in Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Wyoming and our New England neighbor Vermont, would eliminate the need to obtain a Concealed Handgun Permit. Mainers can already openly carry handguns without the need for a government-issued permit, but to wear a shirt or a coat covering the gun requires training, background checks and fees.

Last session, Constitutional Carry came within a *single* vote of passing the House of Representatives. This session, with a more pro-gun Legislature, we believe that we can finally make Constitutional Carry the law here in Maine, fulfilling the promise of the Maine Constitution:

“Every citizen has a right to keep and bear arms and this right shall never be questioned”

– *Constitution of the State Of Maine*, Article I, Section 16

## *Defensive Priority:* **Stop Bloomberg Ban on Private Gun Sales**

In November 2014, the citizens of the State of Washington voted to approve a referendum backed by the Michael Bloomberg-funded anti-gun organization *Everytown for Gun Safety*. This initiative, called I-594, effectively bans the private transfer of a firearm, from private sales to gifts to family members, to temporary transfers, such as allowing a friend to try your gun, or even allowing someone to hold your gun for a moment. Instead, you would be required to go to a licensed dealer and pay him to conduct a background check and record the transfer.

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## Ban on Private Gun Sales *(continued)*

The Bloomberg campaign has vowed to bring the same law to Maine, using our Citizen Initiative mechanism, bypassing the Legislature.

This is no idle threat. The Washington initiative passed due, in large part, to misinformation and lies by the anti-gun forces, and ignorance on the part of the general public. And Everytown for Gun Safety is hiring staff, on the ground right here in Maine, to run their campaign and duplicate their success in Washington.

In short, we must be ready to defeat this attack. If it succeeds, it will be the most sweeping infringement on gun rights in Maine history. And worse, the only way that this law can be enforced is through the creation of a firearm registry, which will be the next step.

Gun Owners of Maine considers this the most pressing threat to our gun rights in the upcoming year, and we are absolutely committed to stopping it. But we will need the help of every gun owner to do so. We urge you to join our Facebook group or our web forums to keep informed on the progress of this extremely dangerous initiative. And *please* consider becoming a supporting member of Gun Owners of Maine. Your commitment, demonstrated with a \$20 membership, will go a long way in helping fend off this looming threat.

Please join now, and help us defend the rights of all. Join online at <http://www.gunownersofmaine.org>.

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Gun Owners of Maine, Inc. is an all volunteer, grassroots Maine nonprofit corporation dedicated to preserving and protecting the right of the people to keep and bear arms, and assists members and nonmembers alike in locating training and educational resources to further responsible firearms handlings and ownership. Gun Owners of Maine is a nonpartisan citizen activist group and does not endorse any political group.

# Gun Owners of Maine



## BULLETIN



[www.gunownersofmaine.com](http://www.gunownersofmaine.com)