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PRESS RELEASE

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UNH Poll Shows that New Hampshire Citizens Strongly Support Responsible Firearms Legislation to Reduce Gun Violence

A University of New Hampshire Survey Center poll shows overwhelming support throughout the state for sensible, responsible firearms legislation. Chuck Drew, Executive Director of New Hampshire Ceasefire, an organization dedicated to enhancing public safety by reducing gun violence, said "With 42% of all responses coming from households with guns, this poll shows that even New Hampshire gun owners support responsible firearms legislation to reduce gun violence and injuries in our communities."

The poll was collected as part of the Survey Center's Granite State Poll, a quarterly survey of public opinion in New Hampshire. The purpose of the questions was to assess the attitudes of New Hampshire adults toward guns, gun violence and several proposed laws regarding firearms. Five hundred fifty-five (555) New Hampshire adults were interviewed by telephone between January 25 and February 3, 2002 about their attitudes toward firearms. The margin of sampling error for a survey of this size is +/-4.1 %.

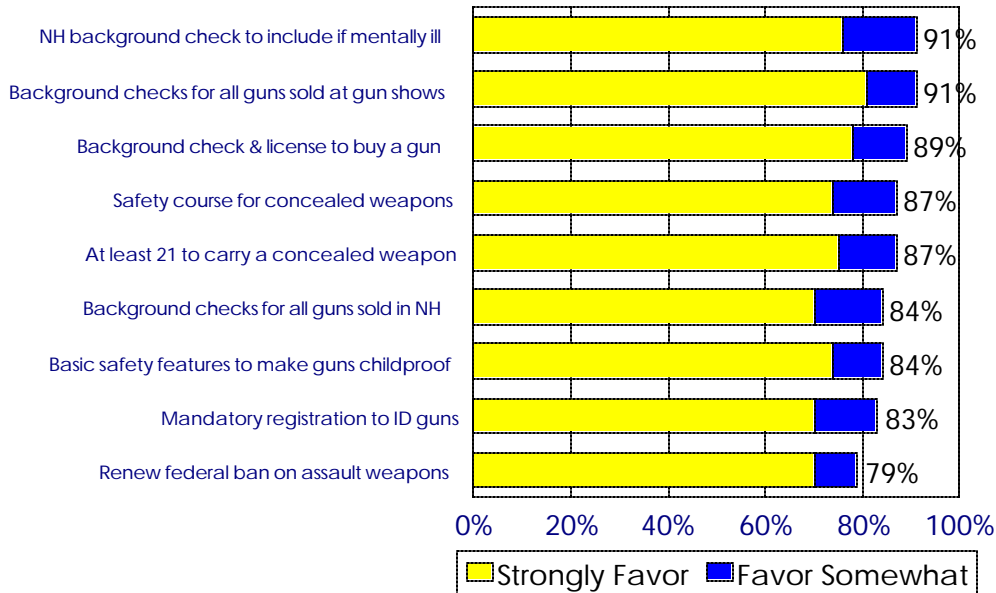
Chuck Drew said, "Ninety-one percent of respondents support updating New Hampshire's background check to keep guns out of the hands of persons who have been declared mentally ill by a judge. Since it is already federal law to prohibit mentally ill persons from purchasing a firearm, we hope state legislators will support this sensible measure that is being voted on by the Senate Judiciary Committee this week.

Some important findings from the UNH Survey Center Poll:

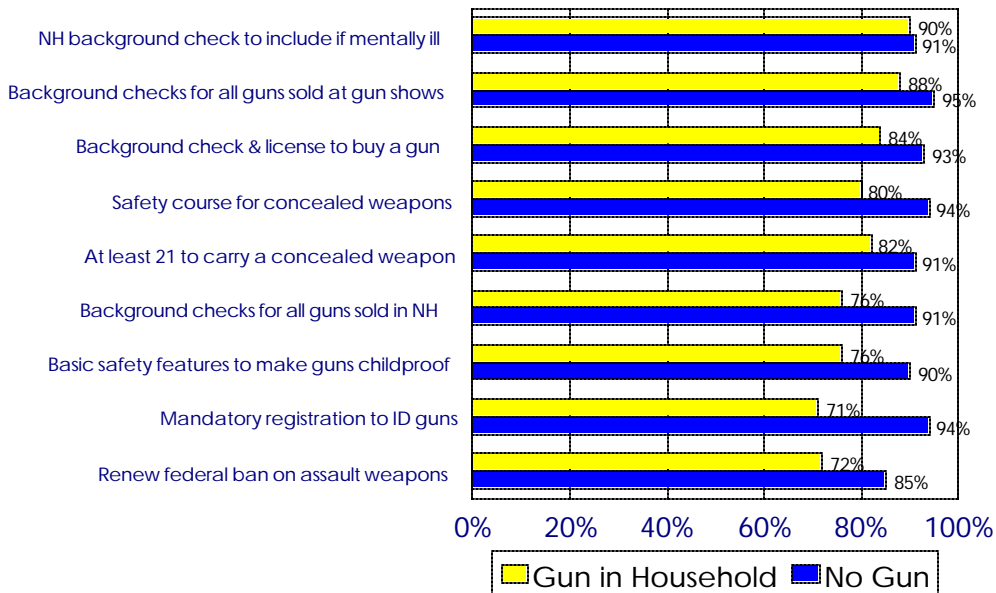
- 91%** Support updating New Hampshire's background check system to prohibit persons declared mentally ill by a judge from purchasing a gun.
- 91%** Support background checks for all gun sales at gun shows
- 83%** Support background checks for all gun sales (gun shows, flea markets, classified ads, etc).
- 84%** Support requiring handguns to have basic safety features to help prevent small children from firing them (even if it made the handgun more expensive).

Between 71% - 90% of households with guns support passage of the proposed legislation.

New Hampshire Support for Proposed Gun Legislation



New Hampshire Support for Proposed Gun Legislation* by Ownership of Gun



*Percentages represent those who Strongly favor or Favor somewhat each legislation.

Over half of the respondents have lived in New Hampshire for twenty years or more, and approximately 40% of the respondents consider themselves to be Republican, 40% to be Democrat, and 20% to be Independent. Andrew Smith, Ph. D., Director of UNH Survey Center, stated, “This poll shows that New Hampshire citizens, whether they are Democrats, Republicans, Gun Owners, Non-gun owners, all support passing the proposed legislation.”

The poll results are even more significant considering that approximately 42% of all responses came from households with guns. These strong numbers indicate that even gun owners support responsible firearms legislation.

People can contact their State Senator, the Senate Judiciary Committee, or New Hampshire Ceasefire for further information about the measure to upgrade the background check system to keep guns out of the hands of those persons who have been declared mentally ill by a judge. This measure is presently in front of the Judiciary Committee.

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(New Hampshire Ceasefire is a state-wide organization working with concerned citizens and organizations to enhance public safety by reducing gun violence and injury.)