



FINISH THE JOB SCORECARD: **LAP DOG** EDITION

When it comes to addressing the problem of gun violence in America, the 114th United States Congress took no meaningful steps to keep this nation safer or to reduce gun death and injury. In June 2016, the United States Senate failed to pass common-sense legislation to expand Brady background checks to all gun sales. House legislation, H.R. 3411 and H.R. 1217, has also languished in the U.S. House of Representatives where the majority leadership refused to bring the legislation to a vote or allow even a hearing in committee.

There is a reason why Congress continues to block legislation that can save lives. Members of Congress choose to pander to the corporate gun lobby, instead of protecting the people who elected them to office. More than half of all members of Congress take money from the corporate gun lobby in exchange for blocking gun violence prevention legislation. These senators and representatives are Lap Dogs to the corporate gun lobby, choosing their money over the safety of the American people.

THE LAP DOG RATING

The Lap Dog rating for the 114th Congress is based on two basic criteria:

1) Did you block legislation to expand background checks on gun sales?

AND

2) Did you take money from the corporate gun lobby?

A Lap Dog is a member of Congress who blocked legislation to expand background checks and took money from the corporate gun lobby.



Senators are rated based on how they voted on the Murphy amendment legislation in June of 2016 that would have expanded background checks to all gun sales.

-  A **“Thumbs Up” rating** means the senator voted for the Murphy amendment.
-  A **“Thumbs Down” rating** means the senator voted against the Murphy amendment.

Five senators voted against the Murphy amendment, but voted for a previous background check compromise in December 2015, the Manchin-Toomey amendment. As a result, their record is mixed and their rating has been left unassigned.

House Representatives are rated based on whether or not they have signed on to co-sponsor H.R. 3411 or H.R. 1217. These bills will expand background checks on gun sales.

-  A **“Thumbs Up” rating** means the representative is a co-sponsor on H.R. 3411 or H.R. 1217, or both.
-  A **“Thumbs Down” rating** means the representative is not a co-sponsor on H.R. 3411 or H.R. 1217.

The corporate gun lobby is defined to include: the National Rifle Association; the National Shooting Sports Foundation; Gun Owners of America; and other gun lobby groups. For a complete list, please see <http://www.opensecrets.org/industries/contrib.php?ind=Q13&Bkdn=Source>.

Total money contributions from the corporate gun lobby, dating back to 1990 for the 114th Congress, are based on a dollar sign (\$) scale of one to five, and is defined as the following:

no money received	\$1 - \$10,000	\$10,001 - \$50,000	\$50,001 - \$100,000	\$100,001 - \$200,000	\$200,001 +
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THE LAP DOGS OF THE 114TH CONGRESS

Lap Dogs are members of the 114th Congress who take money from the corporate gun lobby and continue to block progress on expanding Brady background checks.

The Worst of the Worst who get the most corporate gun lobby money

Sen. Tom Cotton (R-AR): \$2,021,131.00

Sen. Tom Tills (R-NC): \$1,997,168.00

Sen. Cory Gardner (R-CO): \$1,422,254.00

Sen. Rob Portman (R-OH): \$1,080,700.00

Sen. Roy Blunt (R-MO): \$927,915.00

Sen. Richard Burr (R-NC): \$912,017.00

Rep. Kenneth Buck (R-CO-4): \$897,888.00

Sen. Pat Roberts (R-KS): \$753,534.00

Sen. John Thune (R-SD): \$736,745.00

Sen. Ron Johnson (R-WI): \$707,689.00

GOP House Leadership blocking background check legislation

House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI-08): \$167,623.00

Judiciary Committee Chair, Rep. Robert W. Goodlatte (R-VA-6): \$122,277.00

GOP Senate Leadership blocking background check legislation

Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY): \$903,875.00

Voted for the original Brady bill, but voted against the Murphy amendment

Sen. Dan Coats (R-IN): \$22,900.00

Sources:

The total money contributions are based on FEC filings since 1990 accessed from www.opensecrets.org; June 2016.

For the vote tally on the Murphy amendment: http://www.senate.gov/legislative/LIS/roll_call_lists/roll_call_vote_cfm.cfm?congress=114&session=2&vote=00104

For a list of H.R. 3411 Co-Sponsors: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-bill/3411/cosponsors>

For a list of H.R. 1217 Co-Sponsors: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-bill/1217/cosponsors>



WHO ARE THE LAP DOGS OF THE GUN LOBBY?

93% of Americans favor expanding background checks on gun sales, yet more than half (55%) of members of Congress take money from the corporate gun lobby and continue to block background check legislation.

THIS IS WHAT WE CALL A LAP DOG.

114th CONGRESS

294 lap dogs

532 members of Congress*

THE SENATE

	seats	lap dogs
REPUBLICAN	246	236
DEMOCRAT	186	7
TOTAL	432	243

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

	seats	lap dogs
REPUBLICAN	54	50
DEMOCRAT	44	1
INDEPENDENT	2	0
TOTAL	100	51

*There are three vacant seats in the House of Representatives.