

owners. This flaw in the decision was clearly pointed out in the Minority decision. As a result, we believe the Pennsylvania Supreme Court will decisively overturn this tortured decision”, said Slavonic.

The Pennsylvania State Police has stated that, allowing them to retain records on law-abiding citizens “...provides a starting point for investigators when a handgun used in the commission of a crime is recovered by police”. Yet federal statistics show that 75% or more of crime guns are obtained illegally, making these claims questionable at best. Additionally, the PSP has been unable to show a comprehensive connection to crimes solved by this system.

PSP seeks to continue the deception that it is important to retain information on law abiding citizens, all the while they allow criminals to by pass this partial registry and dispose of firearms that may have been used in criminal activity without question, through illegal gun buy back programs, like the one recently held in Allegheny County.” said Slavonic. According to the ACSL, state firearm laws prohibit the transfer of a firearm between individuals unless a background check is performed through a licensed dealer, and only on the premises of a licensed dealer. Information on the transferee must be entered on the application record of sale, which is then submitted to the PSP where they enter the information on the transfer into the “record of sales database”. This requirement for a background check under the law is not done at these buy backs and, in fact, the firearms are not tested for criminal involvement at all. The PSP turns it head when such programs by-pass the very system they claim the loss of would “jeopardize the lives and safety of citizens and police officers”. “Why are criminals allowed to by-pass the system, and law-abiding citizens must be recorded in state computers”, said Slavonic.

According to the ACSL, the PSP also ignores the fact that the federal National Tracing Center, which contains a decentralized system for the tracing of ALL firearms distributed in the United States to the original owner, gives them all the necessary tools to trace all firearms used in a crime no matter where the firearms were purchased. The Pennsylvania State Police has revealed in court that the “record of sales database” is only a partial record of all handguns sold in Pennsylvania. “If the PSP believes it is essential that they retain a partial registry of handgun ownership, then what happens to the lives and safety of citizens and police officers who face criminal activity with the use firearms outside the scope of their systems tracking ability”, asked Slavonic?”

The ACSL would advise the Pennsylvania State Police not to put too much stock in this minor procedural success.

● ** End ** *

The Allegheny County Sportsmen's League is a non-profit educational organization representing 52 sportsmen clubs, and is the voice of over 100,000 sportsmen in and around Allegheny County. Founded in 1921 the ACSL is dedicated to the preservation of our natural wildlife resources through hunting and fishing. The ACSL also teams with other pro-gun organization and works to preserve the fundamental Constitutional Right to Keep and Bear Arms as protected under Article 1, Section 21 of the Pennsylvania Constitution's "Declaration of Rights" and the Second Amendment of the U. S. Constitution.