

**NEW YORK**  
**STATE**  
**SENATE**

ALBANY, NEW YORK 12247



SENATOR MARK C. WALCZYK  
49<sup>TH</sup> SENATE DISTRICT

**ALBANY OFFICE**  
302 LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BLDG.  
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12247  
TEL (518) 455-3438  
FAX (518) 426-6740

**DISTRICT OFFICE**  
317 WASHINGTON ST., RM. 418  
WATERTOWN, NEW YORK 13601  
TEL (315) 782-3418  
FAX (315) 782-6357

**FULTON COUNTY SATELLITE OFFICE**  
223 WEST MAIN ST., SUITE B10  
JOHNSTOWN, NY 12095  
TEL (518) 762-3733

E-MAIL: WALCZYK@NYSenate.GOV

October 20, 2023

The Honorable Kathy Hochul  
Governor of New York State  
NYS Capitol Building  
Albany, New York 12224

Dear Governor Hochul,

We have a problem.

On September 13, 2023, you directed the New York State Police to oversee the background check process for transferring ammunition and firearms. The launch of this new program has been a disaster. Law abiding citizens are being put on hold or denied, local sheriffs offices are left without access to the system, and constituents are left feeling defeated for attempting to exercise their second amendment right.

Recently, a gun shop in Gouverneur, NY expressed their frustration with the NICS Hotline. I personally called the hotline and I was shocked when I asked "Operator 302" if he was a uniformed NYS Trooper he said, "I don't know."

I phoned your Public Information Office for the NYS Police and was unsuccessful in ascertaining basic facts about how background checks are being performed and by whom. My staff was also unsuccessful in attempts to meet with your administration about this.

In August of 2021, you vowed to New Yorkers that your office would be different from the previous administration. You vowed a "new era of transparency." I'm personally calling on you to be transparent with me, a duly elected member of the New York State Senate. I'm calling on you to be transparent with New Yorkers who exercise their second amendment rights.

Governor, we have the right to know:

- ***What qualifications are required of an employee before they're hired to perform background checks on New Yorkers who purchase guns and ammunition?***
- ***What training courses are required for these employees before personal information, including Social Security Numbers, are handled?***
- ***Why aren't uniformed NYS Troopers doing these checks?***

I look forward to reviewing your response in writing.

Sincerely,



Mark C. Walczyk  
Senator  
New York SD-49

MCW/tac