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## **Don't believe Sarah Brady: Gun fingerprinting won't stop snipers!**

*'High-tech' scheme designed to fool public, Libertarians say*

WASHINGTON, DC — Demands for a federal ballistic fingerprinting law should be rejected, Libertarians say, because such a measure is unlikely to stop a madman like the Beltway sniper — and could even turn innocent Americans into criminal suspects.

“Ballistic fingerprinting may sound scientific, but upon closer examination, it's completely full of holes,” said Libertarian Party Communications Director George Getz. “Criminals will circumvent it, as they do with every other gun law, and innocent Americans will pay the price.”

In the wake of the sniper shootings that have terrorized the Washington, DC area and killed nine people since October 2, Sarah Brady and other gun control proponents are demanding national ballistic fingerprinting and other “sensible gun laws.”

**Ballistic fingerprinting involves test firing a gun before it is sold to record the unique markings, or fingerprints, scratched onto the bullet as it travels through the barrel. The purpose is to trace a bullet used in a crime back to the gun buyer.**

But even a legally purchased, fingerprinted gun could be used in a crime spree without being traced, Getz said.

“Firearms experts point out that a ballistic fingerprint changes over time as more cartridges move through the barrel, and that the barrel can be altered intentionally,” he said. “In addition, barrels can be replaced, creating a completely new fingerprint that does not exist in any database.”

As Ken Watson of the Law Enforcement Alliance of America, says:

**“Imagine a fingerprint database where people can switch their fingerprints, and fingerprints wear down over time,” and you have an idea of why such a system won't work.**

But law-abiding gun owners have the most to fear from the plan, Libertarians say.

“If your gun is ever lost or stolen and used in a crime, expect the police to show up at your door — because you'll have some explaining to do,” Getz said. “Unfortunately, the only Americans who will be inconvenienced by this law are those who follow it.

“Meanwhile, the next Beltway sniper will continue to maim, murder, and mutilate — as innocent gun owners get harassed and politicians pass more ‘sensible’ gun laws.”