

Your 3D printer may soon have to ask permission before it prints.

New York already passed it. California is one vote away.

- **And it won't do what they claim it does.**



A stripped AR-15 lower receiver.
Under federal law, this single plastic part is “the firearm.”

SWIPE →

Two states decided the fix to “Ghost Guns” is Zero Trust Architecture built into every 3D printer sold.

Neither law bans 3D printers. Both ban selling one that will not screen your files first. The printer refuses to start until software contacts 3rd party servers which inspects your design and clears it.

NEW YORK

Signed into law May 27, 2026

\$5,000 per printer sold

CALIFORNIA

AB 2047 cleared its final committee August 13

Up to \$25,000 per violation

WASHINGTON

HB 2321 prefiled, still pending

Felony penalties proposed

The penalties fall on manufacturers, not on you. That’s why this reaches every printer on the shelf, not only the ones someone might misuse.

- **The opposition runs from the Electronic Frontier Foundation to the NRA. A coalition that unusual is worth a second look.**

A printed gun is mostly NOT printed.

Plastic cannot hold what happens when a round goes off. So, the printer makes the body, and **everything that contains the explosion is metal**, bought online, and NOT federally regulated as a part.

35,000

PSI

Pressure inside the chamber when a 9mm round fires.

~9,000

PSI

Where consumer 3D printer plastic gives out.



Roughly 4x more pressure than the material can survive.

Slide, barrel, recoil spring, magazine: all metal, all bought. Only the frame is plastic.

Image: Consumer Rights Wiki

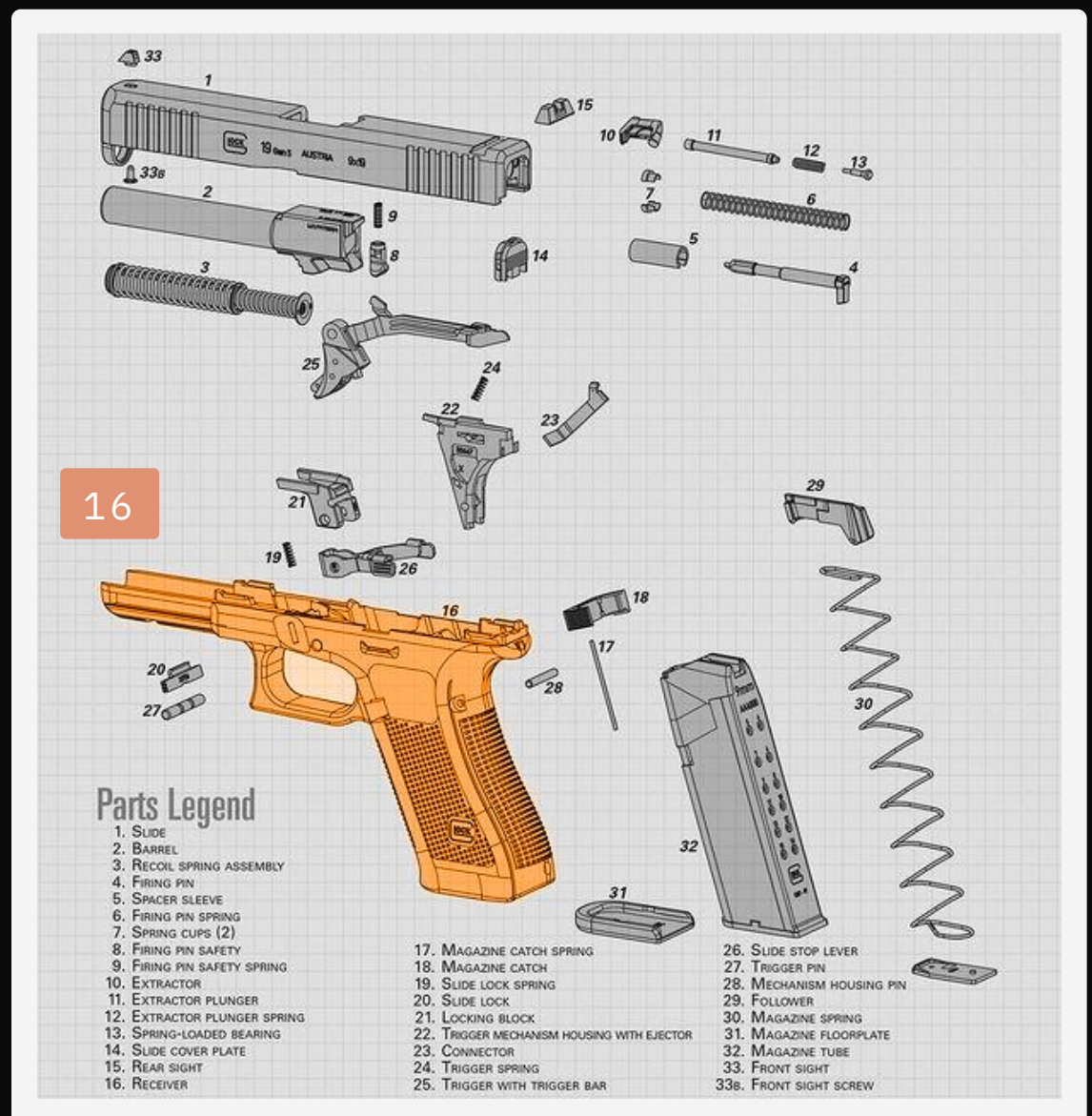
- **Every 3D-printed firearm documented in actual violence has been a HYBRID of plastic & metal.**

Federal law calls the plastic part “the gun.”

The regulated component is the frame, the body everything else bolts onto. It is the one piece a printer can make, which is why printers became the target.

Thirty-four numbered parts. but only ONE, no. 16, the plastic receiver, is legally “the firearm.”

Diagram: Consumer Rights Wiki. Callout added.



ALL 34 PARTS

PLASTIC GRIP — PART 16

DETAIL: PART 16 IN FULL — FRAME, DUST COVER AND GRIP ARE ONE PIECE

- The mandate reaches the part that was already regulated, and leaves the barrel and slide a checkout page away.

On paper, the job sounds simple.

Before printing, software inspects your design file and refuses anything that looks like a gun part. California writes it into statute like this:

“Firearm blueprint detection algorithm” means a software service that evaluates three-dimensional printing files — whether STL files or other computer-aided design files or geometric code — to determine if the files can be used to program a three-dimensional printer to produce a firearm or illegal firearm parts.

CALIFORNIA AB 2047, AS AMENDED

SEP 1, 2028 California DOJ publishes the detection standard

MAR 1, 2029 Manufacturers attest that their printers comply

JUN 1, 2029 DOJ publishes the approved-printer list

DEC 1, 2029 Non-compliant printers can no longer be sold

- The bill concedes in its own text that the software will NOT be accurate.
It only has to be accurate enough to flag.

“Copiers already refuse to print money.”

This is the analogy in Everytown’s own policy report, and it is why the idea sounds obvious. It does not survive contact with the problem.

A BANKNOTE

carries a marker the issuer deliberately printed into it.



The scanner is hunting a pattern someone planted on purpose, here, the EURion constellation on a €5 note.

A GUN PART

carries nothing. Nobody plants a marker in a shape.

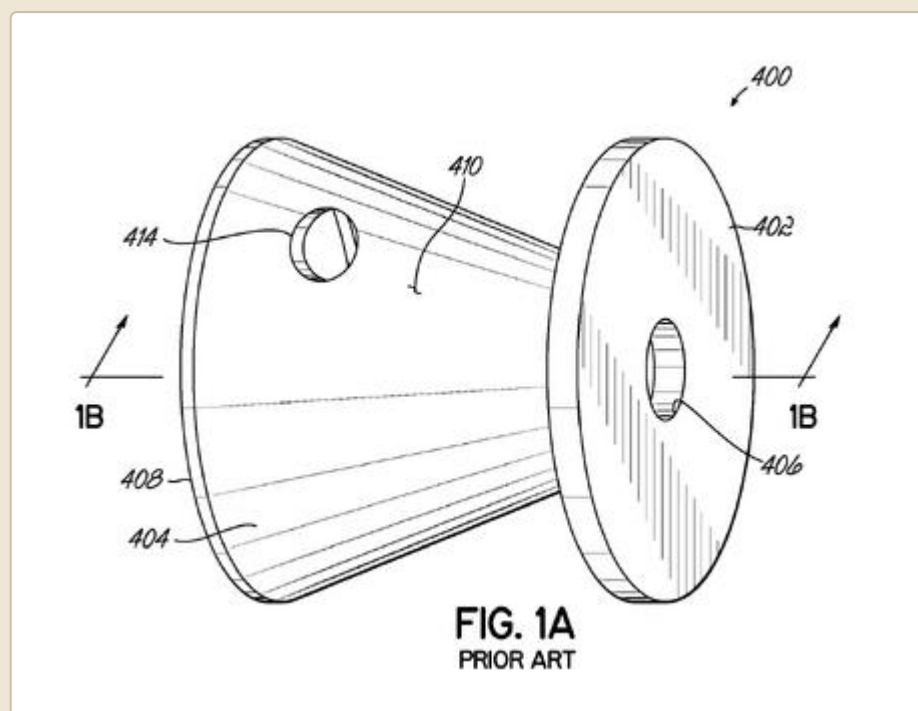
no watermark
no serial
no signal

The software has to **infer** what a shape is for, from the shape alone.

Image via Wikimedia Commons.
Full credits on the final slide.

- That is not the same task, made harder.
It’s a different task, and **nobody** has solved it.

These two patents are ninety years apart.



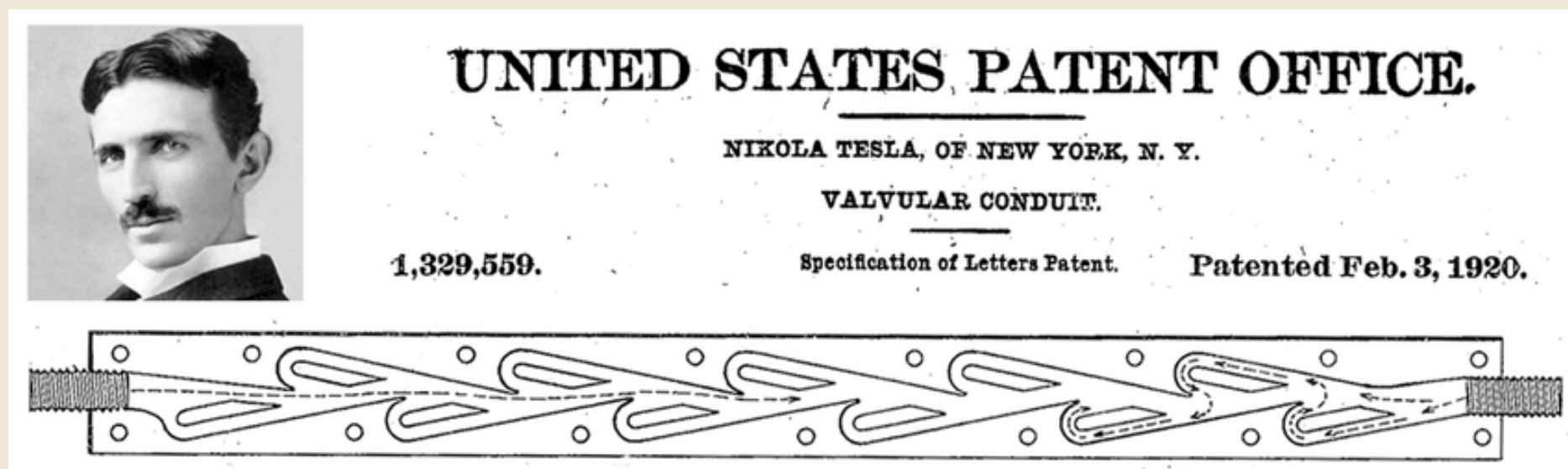
Suppressor baffle

US 7,987,944

One is a firearm sound suppressor baffle.

The other is a plumbing component patented in 1920.

Both are a cone with a hole down the middle.



Tesla's valvular conduit

US 1,329,559 · 1920

- Now ask an algorithm to tell them apart using geometry alone.

Same shape, different object.

Every restricted part below has an ordinary twin that shares its geometry. A filter set wide enough to catch the left column catches the right column too.

RESTRICTED



Suppressor tubes



AR-15 lower receiver

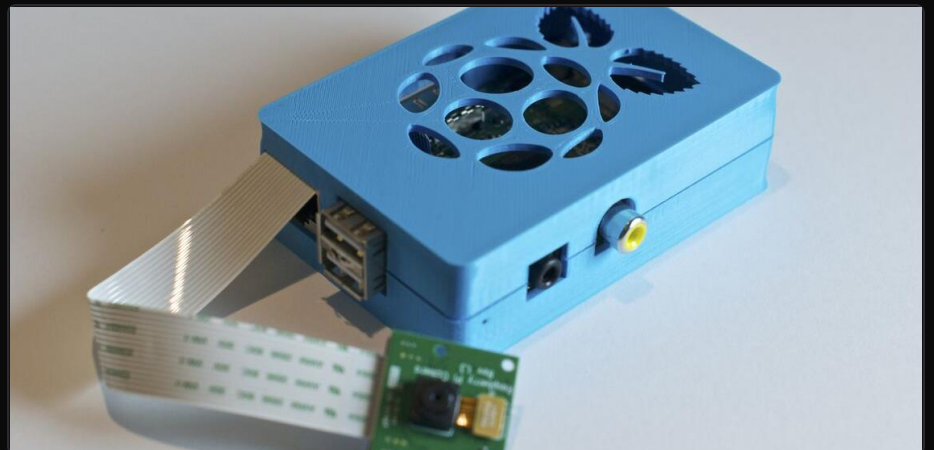


Pistol frame

ORDINARY



Flashlight body



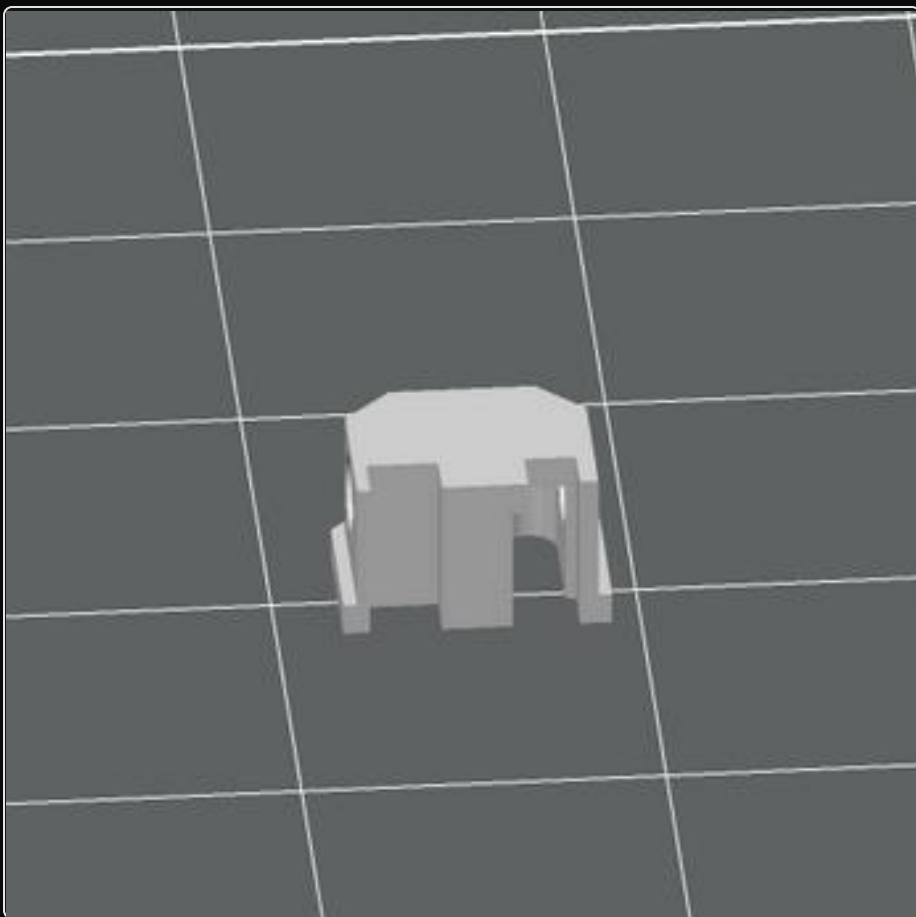
Raspberry Pi enclosure



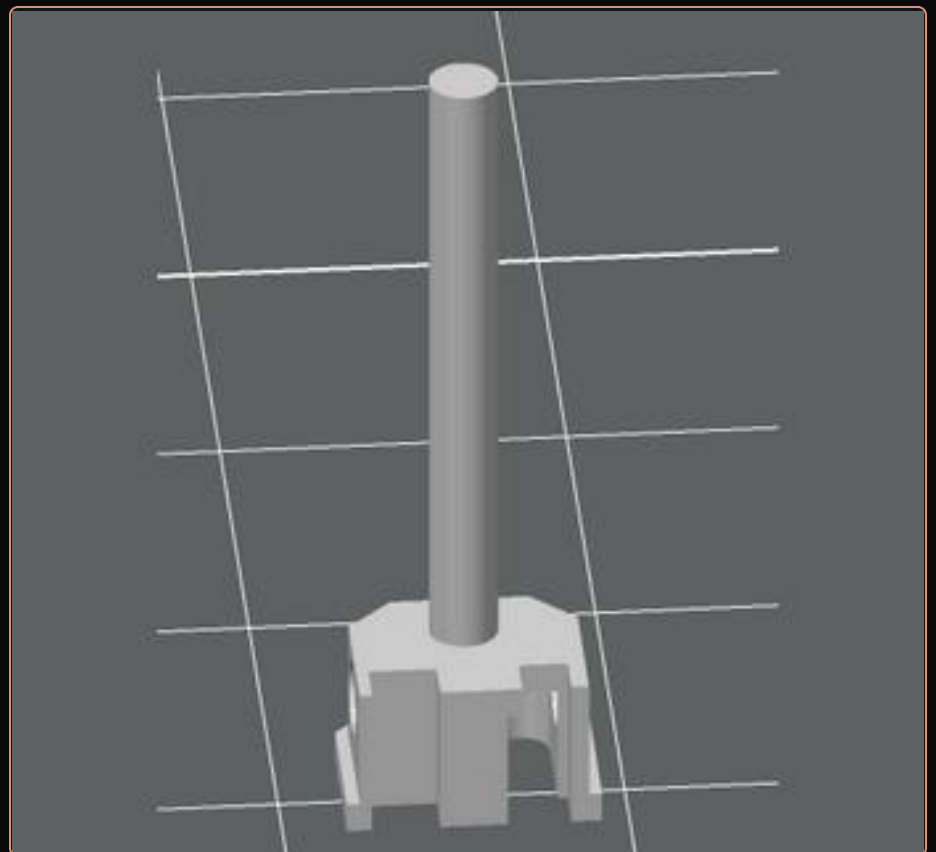
Cordless drill handle

Defeating it takes seconds.

Add a meaningless lump to the outside of the model.
Print it. File the rod off.



As modelled: a filter catches it



With a rod added: a different object entirely

Digital fingerprinting fails the same way. Nudge a single point by a hundredth of a millimeter and the file's fingerprint changes completely, while the object that comes off the print bed is identical.

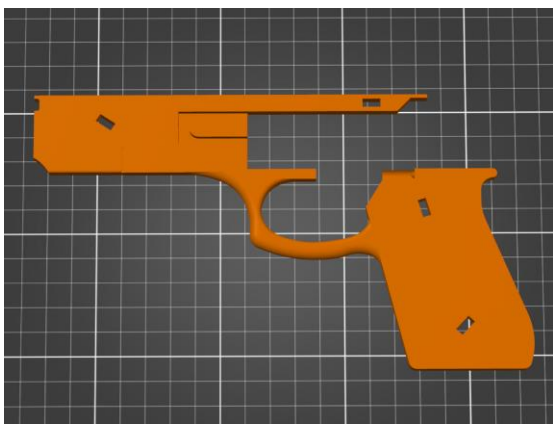
Images: Consumer Rights Wiki

- **Two files that the software reads as unrelated. One object, unchanged.**

Split one model into three and each piece becomes a box.

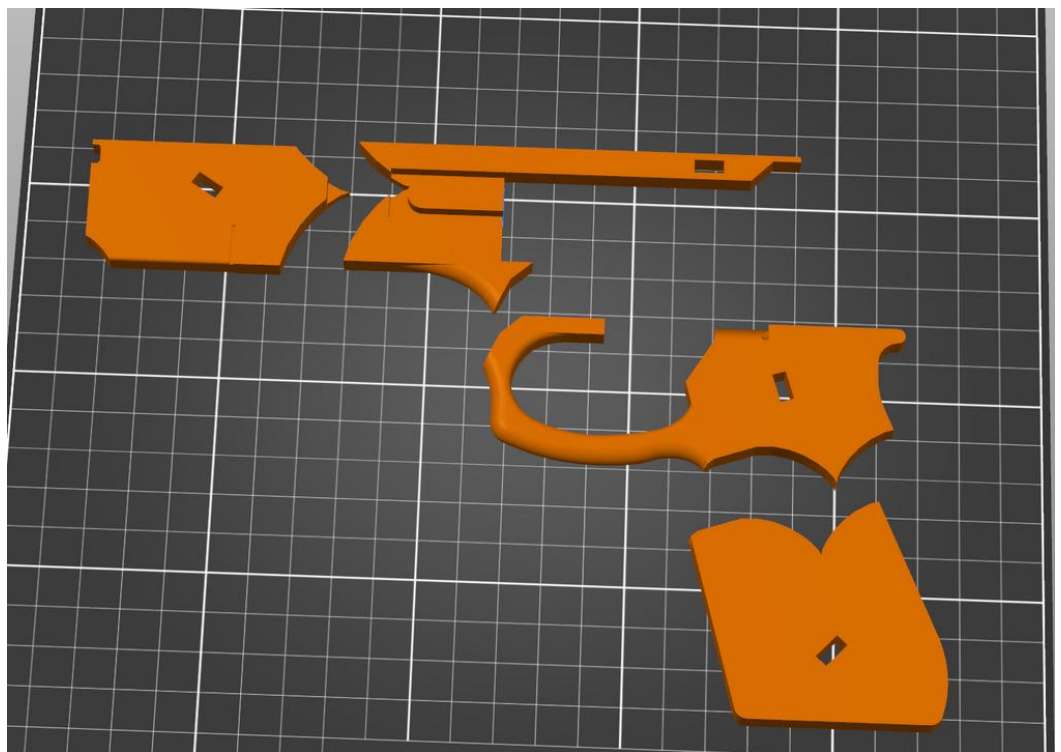
Shown here on a toy, a rubber band launcher, split into parts that resemble nothing in particular, printed, then reassembled.

01



The original model

02



Split into pieces that resemble nothing

03



Printed, then reassembled

Images: Consumer Rights Wiki

A file scanner sees three unremarkable shapes.
The finished object is unchanged.

- **Nothing about this requires skill, and it works on any model.**

So, who actually gets stopped?

Not the person who wanted a gun; they filed off a lump. The people who get stopped are printing pipe fittings, brackets, enclosures, lab equipment and film props. Tighten the filter to spare them and it stops catching gun parts at all.

“To an algorithm, a gun barrel and a piece of pipe are the same grooved cylinder.”

JAKUB KMOŠEK, PRUSA RESEARCH

Even the most restricted item in this debate has an ordinary twin:



Pistol conversion device



Camera flash shoe

■ No appeal. No review. No remedy.

Neither bill says what happens when your legitimate print is refused.

To check your file, a 3rd party has to read and clear it.

A printer's control board cannot do this. It cannot reconstruct a 3D model from machine instructions; it lacks the processing power outright. So, the file goes somewhere that can: a company's servers.

Every prototype. Every medical part. Every prop, every repair, every part you designed yourself: has to be submitted!

There is a second problem. Most 3D printer software, the slicers and the firmware, is open source, licensed so that anyone distributing a modified version must publish the code. Users could lawfully compile the software blocker OUT of the build.

IF THE CODE STAYS OPEN

the blocker can be removed, lawfully, by anyone who can follow a build guide.

IF THE CODE CLOSES

the repair, research and teaching ecosystem built on that software goes with it.

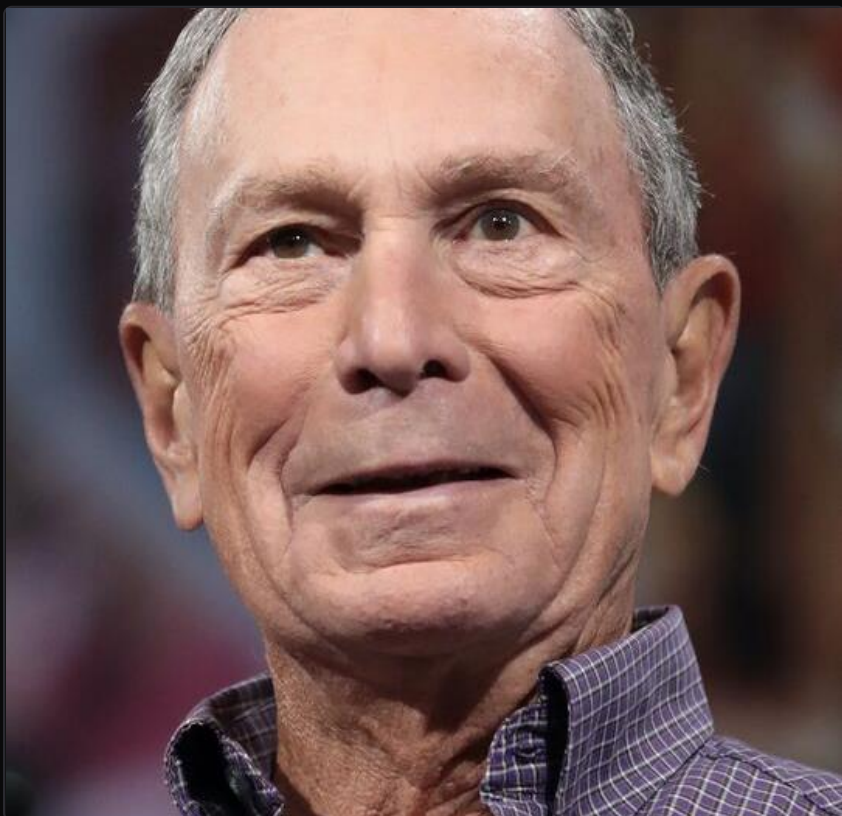
- **Which leaves one version that actually works: a closed, locked-down printer you do not fully own, eliminating open source.**

It did not come from engineers.

On February 12, 2026, a lawyer for Everytown for Gun Safety testified to New York's budget committees requesting exactly this mandate. It became law fifteen weeks later.

“The strongest state law would bar any company from selling a 3D printer capable of producing a 3D-printed firearm.”

EVERYTOWN RESEARCH, “PRINTING VIOLENCE”



ON THE RECORD

Michael Bloomberg founded Everytown in 2014 with a pledge of at least \$50 million. Eight of its board members came out of his orbit.

Image: Consumer Rights Wiki

- **Everytown calls itself grassroots. Its filings describe something else... \$\$\$**

“Grassroots” is doing some work in that sentence.

Everytown’s lobbying arm reported this on a single catch-all line of its 2024 Form 990:

\$55,448,288

in contributions, 2024
The 2019 figure was \$80,682,875!

other contributions, gifts, grants, and similar amounts not included above	1f
55,448,288	
Noncash contributions included in lines 1a - 1f:\$	1g
24,137	
Total. Add lines 1a-1f	

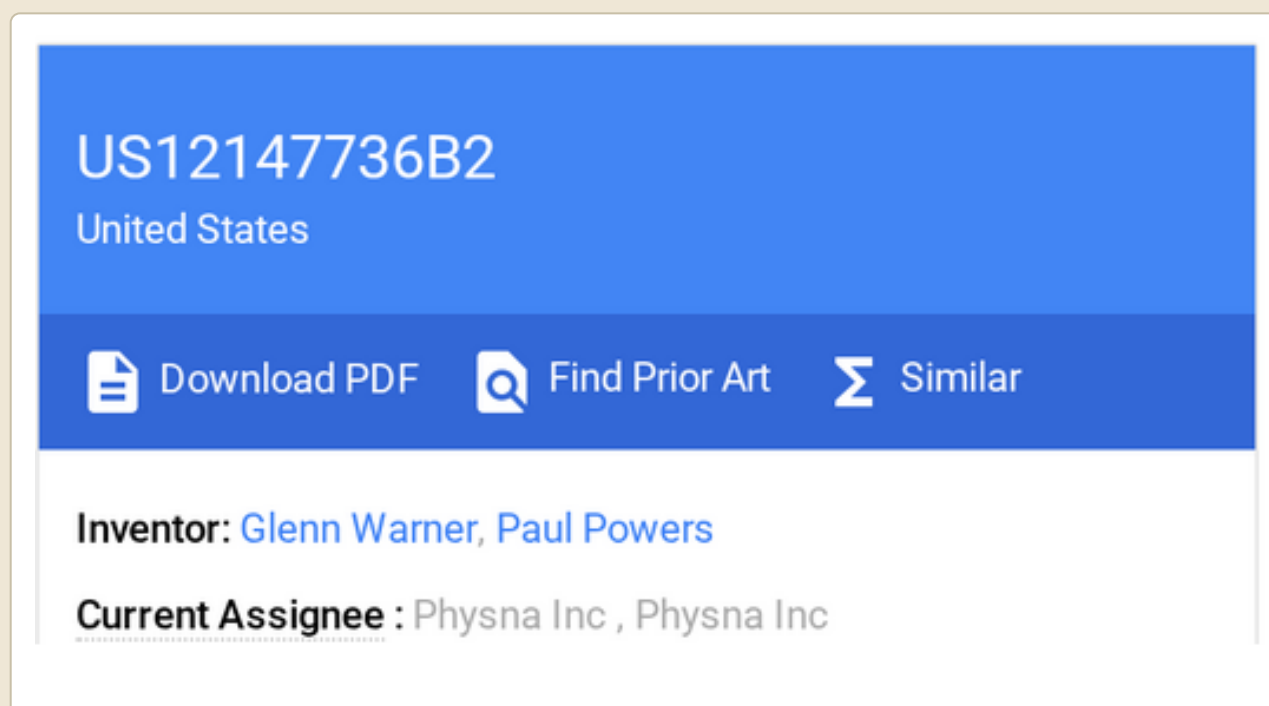
FORM 990, PART VIII, LINE 1F – “OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS”

Bloomberg LP’s own accounting firm serves as Everytown’s CFO and records custodian. **Its board chair runs Bloomberg’s super PAC**; its president was his policy advisor. The Ballmer Group has given millions more.

Worth saying plainly: donor names are withheld on these filings by IRS rule for every group of this type, so that part is not unusual. The concentration is. Figures verified against the filings via ProPublica Nonprofit Explorer.

One company holds patents on the exact method the law would require. Just one.

Physna was granted two patents on matching 3D shapes against a reference library, in 2022 and 2024 - which is, precisely, the thing these bills mandate.



US 12,147,736 – “MATCHING 3D MODELS AGAINST A REFERENCE LIBRARY”

“It’s mature, it’s deployed, it is ready to be applied to this problem.”

PHYSNA, TO PBS NEWSHOUR

Deployed on data-centre hardware, though, not on the control board of a \$200 printer. No lobbying is on record, and none is needed.

- **Writing a technology category into law when ONE firm owns that category is the conflict, whether or not anyone did anything improper.**

New York's law may never switch on.

The statute contains an escape hatch. If the expert working group finds the technology is not feasible, the regulations never get written, and the sales ban never takes effect.

THE NEAR DEADLINE

That group's first deadline lands around August 25, 2026.

California's bill awaits a Senate floor vote. Washington has its own version pending. If you build, print, teach or prototype with these machines, this is the narrow window where technical evidence still counts for something.

New York's working group sits under the Division of Criminal Justice Services in Albany. Written technical evidence is exactly what the feasibility question turns on.

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- **The technology does not work.
The deadline is real.**

Where this comes from.

LEGISLATION

New York Executive Law 837-aa and General Business Law 396-eeee, enacted May 27, 2026. California AB 2047 (Bauer-Kahan), as amended in Senate July 2, 2026; passed Senate Appropriations August 13, 2026. Washington HB 2321, pending.

ANALYSIS AND REPORTING

California Senate Committee on Public Safety bill analysis. Electronic Frontier Foundation. PBS NewsHour. Adafruit. Consumer Rights Wiki. Everytown Research, “Printing Violence.”

FINANCIAL RECORDS & PATENTS

IRS Forms 990, Everytown for Gun Safety Action Fund (EIN 20-8802884) and Support Fund (EIN 26-1598353), verified via ProPublica Nonprofit Explorer. FEC filings. Patents US 7,987,944; US 1,329,559; US 11,422,531; US 12,147,736 (Justia).

IMAGE CREDITS

Suppressor tubes, Cortland, public domain. Flashlight, redjar, CC BY-SA 2.0. AR-15 lower receiver, Thewellman, CC0. Raspberry Pi enclosure, Gary C Martin, CC BY 2.0. Pistol frame, Askid Antonsen, CC BY 2.0. Cordless electric (screw) drill, Black & Decker" by Fructibus, CC0 1.0 Universal. Camera flash shoe, Alex.K.NY, CC BY-SA 3.0. Conversion device, ATF, public domain. Obverse (cutout) of €5 (series ES2) showing the EURion constellation, ECB / Reinhold Gerstetter, ECB decisions ECB/2003/4 and ECB/2003/5. Nikola Tesla at age 34" by Napoleon Sarony, circa 1890, CC0/PDM. All via Wikimedia Commons. Patent drawings public domain. Remaining figures via Consumer Rights Wiki.

Two things more recent than most coverage of this issue: AB 2047’s criminal penalties for circumventing the blocker were struck by amendment in July 2026, and New York’s feasibility deadline arrives this month.