

Dear Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee,

I write to express my strongest opposition to SB941. The bill is a bad idea and beyond the issues wrong with the bill listed below it is infuriating that outside parties like Bloomberg and his followers have the gall to come to the state of Oregon to push for changes that aren't needed nor are they supported by the majority of the citizens who actually live in the state.

The bill is flawed:

1. I am concerned criminals will get around the new law by accessing firearms another way. For more than a few criminals, the threat of a misdemeanor criminal charge will not be a significant deterrent.
2. The law will be onerous for law abiding citizens with layers of new requirements. Many Oregonians are serious sport shooters, hunters and collectors. Frequently and with great care, they buy, sell and trade firearms with each other. I am concerned this law could create crimes and criminals out of otherwise law abiding people. Also, it's unclear what priority prosecutors and stressed court systems will place on charging people who up to this time were crime-free except for an unauthorized gun transfer under this new law.
3. I am concerned that much of this law will be unenforceable. It's unclear how law enforcement will learn of unauthorized transfers, and in many cases it will be very challenging to disprove a claim that a transfer was temporary in nature and therefore authorized. Laws that are largely unenforceable diminish respect for the law in general, which we do not need in today's environment.
4. I am concerned how the State plans to account for the fiscal impact and increased pressure on the current background check system. The State's background system is already heavily burdened, and additional requests could significantly slow the system further, unless additional funds are provided to bolster capacity.
5. It certainly isn't an "emergency" law and the Legislature does a further disservice to law-abiding gun owners by including an immediate effective date which doesn't allow for the public to be properly notified if the bill does pass.

I strongly urge you to not pass this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to present written testimony.

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