

Esteemed Senators,

I write to you today offering my testimony in opposition to the proposed SB941.

After reading all 23 pages of the proposed bill, I am in a quandary. 1) exactly why is this bill labeled an emergency bill? 2) Does anyone else find it odd that Mr. Prozanski has arranged this hearing to coincide with the moms demand action rally? 3) How does this bill offer any protection to the citizens? 4) how exactly will this law be enforced?

This bill, with all that is written in it, fails to accomplish the single most important aspect it was designed to do. This will not keep guns out of the hands of criminals. This law will only effect law abiding citizens willing to follow the ridiculous rules in order to remain lawful.

A firearm is simply a tool. No different from any other item Americans own. There are more people killed each year in vehicles that are privately sold throughout this country than by firearms. Where is the demand to run a background check or breathalyzer on anyone wanting to buy a vehicle? How do you know they wont go run down another person or head straight to the bar for drinks and drive home intoxicated? The simple answer is you do not know..Nor, is it your responsibility to know. The tools used in the actions of PEOPLE are not of circumstance. In order to address violent acts, you must address the person committing the violence. It is not the burden of the citizen to verify if another citizen is a responsible party. It is the burden of the individual to prove they are allowed to own the said item. This bill creates undo steps and procedures that will cost citizens time and money. Not only is it undo stress on the parties involved in the sale, it created added work for the State police and a gun dealer that will be required to do work on a sale that he will make no profit on. So, the willingness of these dealers to assist will either be met with opposition or added fees.

It is very clear and has been reaffirmed by Mr. Prozanski himself that this bill will not stop violence, nor will it be able to be enforced. This bill is directed at establishing a gun registry, and not at curbing criminals from attaining restricted weapons. This will simply cause law abiding citizens to be deemed criminals when a regulation in the 23 page bill gets unintentionally violated.

If the State is willing to throw money at a project that would be successful, try something along the lines of a mark on our state id or drivers licenses. A prohibited designation is much less expensive than a background check system and puts the responsibility on the person of interest instead of the seller. Its very simple, if you want to be able to buy a gun, have your documents in order. No bureaucracy needed, no additional steps, and the law abiding citizens are left alone as they so desire to be. If I can show that I am not restricted to have a firearm and you can show the same, there is no need to have the government involved in the transfer. Very simple. If this is done by simply showing each other their ID, what else is there to know?

I understand the desire to work towards the safety of the public, but this is not the means to accomplish that goal. This bill not only violates the second amendment but creates undo burden on all the parties and agencies involved. There is a better way. Please do as the people of Oregon wish, and do not pass this bill.

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Sincerely,

BJ Soper
Central Oregon Constitutional Guard