

Testimony to

SB 941

2015 Session

I am an avid sportsman, hiking, fishing, hunting, shooting sports, you name it. I am also concerned with the exchange of freedom for perceived security. I feel this is what SB 941 essentially does. Please allow me to provide you with some background figures from 2012.

Oregon ranked 12<sup>th</sup> Nationally for Violent Crime 348.7/100,000 residents

Tied for 11<sup>th</sup> for murders 5.4/100,000 residents

28<sup>th</sup> for forcible rape 26.1/100,000 residents

15<sup>th</sup> for robbery 122.8/100,000 residents

14<sup>th</sup> for aggravated assault 194.4/100,000 residents

35<sup>th</sup> for property crime 2,166.30/100,000 residents

23<sup>rd</sup> for burglary 455.5/100,000 residents

47<sup>th</sup> for larceny theft 1,603.1/100,000 residents

41<sup>st</sup> for auto theft 117.7/100,000 residents

As you can see from the above statistics, crimes perpetrated against individuals in Oregon are highest for forcible rape, property crime, burglary, larceny theft, and auto theft.

I submit this quote from the U.S. Bureau of Statistics, "Overall, about 1.4 million guns, or an annual average of 232,400, were stolen during burglaries and other property crimes in the six-year period from 2005 through 2010. Of these stolen firearms, at least 80% (186,800) had not been recovered at the time of the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) interview." <http://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/fshbopc0510.pdf>

This is an indication that although the Oregon State Police and Oregon Organization of Sheriff's report that there is no evidence to support a claim that any violent crime was ever committed in Oregon with a firearm that was purchased through a private sale to a felon, there is evidence supporting the fact that firearms were stolen by criminals from law abiding citizens in the United States and that those firearms were used to later victimize other citizens of Oregon and the United States in general. **Expanding Background Checks would not break this chain of access.**

Essentially, expanded background checks would add another rung to the ladder which law abiding citizens have to climb in order to lawfully possess a firearm. This further disenfranchises those who are at the lower socioeconomic levels of our society by further making owning a firearm for self defense or any other purpose financially prohibitive.

For this reason, and just for the common sense of providing access to those who most need protection from the lawless in our communities, I urge you to vote against SB941 in its entirety.

Sincerely,

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