

Hello,

I'm writing to you today because I cannot be present tomorrow morning for the 4/1/15 hearing concerning SB941. As a resident of the state of Oregon, I would like to have this email serve as my written testimony for this hearing.

The background check system in Oregon is inefficient and notoriously erroneous. I have personally been delayed in 50% of my firearms purchases for up to 30 days before I could take possession. We have no access to instant background check systems to provide expeditious service to the needs of our firearms dealers, and the load from them alone is enough to cripple our current system, creating queues in which people routinely wait for hours.

The proposition of requiring state police to take on the additional burden of processing background checks for every individual transfer is irresponsible at best. It puts undue burden on the transferor and transferee, who are simply trying to conduct a private transaction. Some of us do not live in urban areas with convenient access to an FFL dealer, and must drive for hours to conduct a simple sale of personal property. There will be inevitable delays and erroneous failures with these purchases as well, and will end up hindering hundreds of law-abiding citizens in conducting completely legal business with one another.

The proposed bill is not only irresponsible and wasteful, it is ultimately ineffective at preventing any crime whatsoever. Nearly every firearm that is used in a crime is either purchased by an individual with a clean background check, a straw purchase, or was stolen. Criminals do not go looking for the law-abiding citizen who will sell a gun to them. Criminals look for the other criminals who will purchase a gun and then sell it to them, regardless of any laws forbidding such a transfer. All this bill does is effectively say that this person has just committed two felonies instead of one. This is not an effective deterrent.

This bill will only be good for two things- adding delays and undue burden on completely legal transactions, and putting additional pressure on an already overburdened background check system. I strongly oppose this bill, and I strongly oppose any further restrictions or hindrances on the transfer of firearms.

I thank you for taking the time to read this testimony.

Adam Caldwell

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