

Oregon Senate Judiciary Committee

SB 941 April 1, 2014

Testimony by: Brandi Hawkins

Resident: Linn County, Or.

In light of the senate bill in question, I would like to lay a bit of foundation before getting to the guts of this testimony.

Pat Garrett, Washington County Sheriff says the following: “ 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. 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.”

Senator Floyd Prozanski said the following on KATU “Your Voice, Your Vote”

- “It won’t stop criminals who want to get a gun.”
- “The issue of stolen guns will not be addressed by this bill”
- “If someone wants to obtain a gun, they are going to get it through some illegal means.”
- CeaseFire Oregon, a lobby group paid by out-of-state financier Michael Bloomberg has made similar statements.

2nd Amendment Action Center Study

- In 2013, Oregon had 1.5 homicides with Firearms per 100,000 pop. States with background checks are 4.5/100,000.
- FBI DATA shows violent crime statistics: Oregon 275 per 100,000 population. States with background checks: 500/100,000 people almost 2x as high
- Oregon is safer than 41 other states, including 15 states with enhanced background checks.

Having pointed all of this information out, many of the current esteemed body of Or legislators, ran on a platform of fiscal responsibility. Please explain to the people of Oregon who pay your wages, how you can justify such a colossal waste of time and state resources on this bill. To date, 23 of 36 counties have issued resolutions, proclamations, initiatives or measures to state they are NOT in support of this bill due to its lack of enforceability and constitutionality.

Explain to the Oregonians who write your paychecks why you cannot simply stand up and call this bill what it is. This bill is a thinly disguised gun registry (forbidden by federal law) and not intended for background checks at all.