

SB 941...IS IT ABOUT KEEPING GUNS OUT OF HANDS OF THE CRIMINAL, OR IS IT ABOUT REGISTERING FIREARMS?

I have been asked by numerous citizens and special interest groups to share my position on SB 941. SB 941 would be (if passed) an ineffective attempt to prevent firearms from getting into the hands of criminals. SB 941 would require private parties to conduct background checks prior to private party firearm transactions. I am certain that SB 941 would NOT prevent criminals from acquiring firearms. Criminal minds are often intuitive and devious, and they will find a way around background checks to acquire firearms. Creating more regulation and control over the transfer of firearms will only affect the honest, law-abiding majority of Oregon gun owners. That being the case, SB 941 would be more effective as a firearm registration system.

In my opinion there are two fundamental issues the legislature should be addressing to increase the safety of Oregonians. First, understanding that guns don't kill people, but people kill people. Anything can be used as a weapon to kill someone. We need to focus on the laws we currently have and encourage our courts to impose stiffer penalties for certain convicted criminals who are found in possession of firearms, or reoffend while possessing a firearm. Secondly, we have to address the mental health problems we are all facing. Right now, individuals roaming the county with unmanaged mental health issues present a bigger threat to our communities than does the unregulated private transfer of firearms.

As I hope you all know I stand committed to fighting crime here in Douglas County, and am forever committed to upholding, defending, and protecting the rights of law abiding citizens to keep and bear arms.

Respectfully,

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