

Senate Judiciary Committee,

My name is Lewis White and I live in Linn County outside of Lebanon Oregon. I would respectfully ask that you oppose Senate Bill 941. This entire system has proven ineffective in preventing felons from obtaining firearms and in addition, it has denied constitutional rights to thousands of our citizens for frivolous reasons. Our high school students paying attention to what their peers are talking about have prevented more gun violence than what this background check system has. In addition, this system is very costly to the citizens of our state. Our law enforcement officers are being pulled off their duties protecting the public in order to handle the frivolous denials of 2nd amendment rights to law abiding Oregonians.

I would cite just two examples that hit close to home for me. A dear friend that served honorably in Vietnam came home and worked his way through college on the G.I. Bill and working in the woods in Southern Oregon and earned a masters degree in psychology. He spent his working career counseling Veterans as his way of helping his fellow Veterans and also to help him deal with survivor guilt. Due to his work, he was diagnosed with post traumatic stress dysfunction (PTSD). Over the years he purchased several firearms including some over the internet. Most, including the internet purchase were processed through a federally licensed dealer. In addition, he holds a concealed weapons permit (CWP).

The other individual is my brother who served in the U.S. Navy SeaBees in Vietnam. Forty years later, he was decorated for valor for rescuing an injured Vietnamese woman and her three injured children from a mortar attack. He came home and much as my friend purchased firearms through a dealer and passed many background checks. He also holds a CWP. My brother and my friend were recently denied a firearms purchase due to their diagnosis of PTSD. Neither of them has any criminal background.

We were treated rather badly when we came home from Vietnam but we were able to rise above that treatment and moved on. We did make a commitment that no generation of Veterans would be treated like we were. That effort has been successful until now. Our current generation of Veterans is coming home and many of them have PTSD. Denying them their 2nd amendment rights because they chose to serve their country is simply not right.

I respectfully ask you to do everything in your power to prevent this bill from moving forward. It is counter productive and does nothing to protect the citizens of our great state.

Thank you in advance for your consideration to this matter,

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