

Chair Prozanski and members of the committee:

My name is Christian Bennett. As a resident of the State of Oregon I wish to encourage this committee to oppose Senate Bill 941. Senate Bill 941 is a false sense of security that only harms the law abiding. Should this bill become law, it will have insignificant to no impact on violent crime. According to a Bureau of Justice Statistics report¹, criminals who use firearms in the commission of a crime rarely purchase their firearms from private sales. The report states that approximately 40 percent of guns used in crime are sourced from family or friends. This segment will not be impacted by Senate Bill 941, as there are already laws in place making it illegal to knowingly provide a firearm to a prohibited person or provide a firearm to use in a crime. This Bureau of Justice Statistics report also found that prior offenders obtained firearms from black market sources in approximately 42 percent of cases. Senate bill 941 offers no solution to this figure. Individuals already committing a felony won't be deterred by adding another misdemeanor charge, only though the enforcement of the existing legal framework is there a good chance to reduce this figure. The next category in the report states that approximately 11 percent of firearms used in crime are obtained through retail channels. Senate Bill 941 only deals with private sales, thus this eleven percent is entirely out of the scope of this bill. Between these three main sources of firearms used in crime, Senate Bill 941 is incapable of having an impact on at least 93 percent of the underlying issue here today. This is far from shoving solvency to the issue at hand.

However Senate Bill 941 does present significant harms to law abiding citizens wishing to exercise their rights. Senate Bill 941 would force all individuals who wish to lawfully sell a firearm they own to do so at a licensed dealer that is willing to run the state police background check. This process is starts with the state police background check that a licensed dealer will

run; costing money that the individual will have to pay to both the state and the dealer to exercise an individual right². Once the request is sent to the state police, there is no guarantee that the result will be returned in a timely fashion. In recent years the Oregon State Police Identification Services unit has been overburdened, resulting in delays, and in some cases, complete shutdowns. Adding significantly more traffic to this already failing system will likely cause it to perform far below acceptable standards.

While there are many more shortcomings associated with expanding the State Police Background check system to include all private transfers as well, the important point to remember is that Senate Bill 941 cannot demonstrate evidence that it solves the problem it claims to. However, this bill introduces a series of harms to law-abiding citizens, and will incur costs to the already overburdened Oregon State Police Identification Services. I urge this committee to vote NO on measures such as Senate Bill 941.

Thank you for your time.

-Christian Bennett

[1]Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Firearm Use by Offenders: Survey of Inmates in State and Federal Correctional Facilities*. Nov. 2001

[2]*Heller vs. District of Columbia*