

Chairman Prozanski, members of the committee, my name is Gerold Floyd. I live at 200 SE Walnut Rd. Dallas, OR 97338.

I would like to testify today that I believe SB 941 is completely unnecessary. This bill will create more of a burden on both the legal seller and purchaser of a privately owned firearm. It requires both parties to go to a local firearms dealer, which for some areas of our state could be an hour drive. It adds cost to the transaction by having to pay an FFL dealer to perform the back. It makes an honest gun owner potentially violate a Class A misdemeanor if they do not follow this language because they simply did not understand it.

While there is much opinion about closing the loophole for criminals to acquire firearms, this bill does nothing to address the larger issue of mental health issues that cause people without a criminal past to commit crimes.

People commit crimes using plenty of other physical items besides firearms, the recent plane crash in France is now being reported that the co-pilot had suffered from depression. People with mental illness use vehicles to crash into crowded areas, but Oregon doesn't require a background check to own a car.

People who have intentions to do bad things will find a way to do those bad things, whether that is purchase a firearm from criminals who don't care about the background checks, or if they use a car, or a plane.

Considering that many of the law enforcement agencies are severely underfunded, at the state, county and local level it seems like this is adding work for them by either adding additional court records to LEDS or to follow up on a report of a person attempting to purchase a firearm that is prohibited. When that law agency is not able to respond and that person finds some person who doesn't comply with SB 941 because they did not obtain it legally either and said person decides to commit a crime with that firearm, how will the public view the law agency that did not "stop" that person when they first tried to buy a firearm?

Why don't we stop focusing on the manner in which people commit crimes and start focusing on why they are committing crimes. Mental illness and understaffed, underfunded law enforcement create a society where the individual is either not aware of their actions or they are not deterred from their actions because they don't believe they will be caught. If the State of Oregon is truly concerned about reducing crimes of ALL kinds, then we need to increase our law enforcement funding and send people to prison for their crimes. We need to put more emphasis on our mental health treatments to better recognize and treat a variety of mental illnesses.

One last item, consider that if this bill does pass will it not actually create a situation where citizens will be deterred from seeking treatment because they could be forced to turn over their personal property before ever having been diagnosed or committing a crime?

Thank you