

## Senate Judiciary Testimony for SB 941

Written Testimony of Robert Yuille,

Before the Senate Committee on Judiciary, Oregon State Senate

Hearing on S.B. 941

Thank you Chairman Prozanski and the members of the Committee, for holding this important hearing and for allowing me to share this testimony with you.

My name is Robert Yuille. I'm a strong supporter of the Second Amendment. I also know that we need to do a better job of keeping guns out of dangerous hands. I'm here to support S.B. 941 because I know that it will do just that.

I am here today to tell you about my wife Cindy, who was killed in the Clackamas mall shooting in December 2012 and to ask you to pass S.B. 941 so that no other family has to go through the pain that my family has suffered.

Cindy was an amazing woman. We were married for seven years and they were the best years of my life. Cindy had this amazing energy and spirit that just lit up the room. She was a caring mom who was an amazing cook. She loved gardening and being outdoors. She was a hospice nurse and gave an incredible amount of love and care to each of her patients.

On December 11, 2012, Cindy was shot and killed while doing some last minute shopping at the Clackamas. Her death has devastated our family. I think about her every day. I think about her unending love to travel and how we will not be able to spend the rest of our lives with each other or to travel across the world together. She will not be there when her children get married and it breaks my heart to know that her daughter Jenna will have to pick out her wedding dress without Cindy.

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I am here today for Cindy because she no longer has a voice. Since her death, my step-daughter Jenna and I have worked tirelessly to advocate for legislation that would require background checks on all gun sales, because we know that it is the single most effective thing we can do to save lives from gun violence.

I have traveled all across the state and have been heartened by the broad base of support for this bill. In fact, according to a recent independent poll, 81% of Oregonians support background checks for all gun sales. Other national polls show that 74% of NRA members support background checks for all gun sales. And just last year, Washington state voters overwhelmingly approved background checks for all gun sales by ballot.

Under federal law, licensed gun dealers are required to conduct background checks on all gun sales but unlicensed sellers, such as online sellers, are not required to do so. Oregon goes beyond federal law by requiring all unlicensed sellers at gun shows to also conduct background checks on all gun sales. This is a dangerous and growing loophole. Recent data from just four websites suggests that unlicensed sellers in Oregon post more than 25,000 gun ads every year.

I urge you to pass S.B. 941 because it is the most effective way to reduce gun violence. We know that in the states that already require background checks for all handgun sales, 46% fewer women are shot to death by intimate partners and 48% fewer law enforcement officers are shot to death with handguns. We'll never know whether this bill would have prevented the Clackamas shooting but we do know that it will prevent many future tragedies.

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Please vote in favor of S.B. 941 so that fewer families will have to suffer the way that my family has.

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