

Let me start by saying that I totally oppose this legislation. It does nothing for firearms safety in Oregon and is only going to be followed by those who are law abiding citizens, it does nothing to keep guns out of the hands of criminals.

I am an Eagle scout, CHL holder (Oregon and Utah), federal 03 FFL (C&R) license holder, firearms collector, father, taxpayer, and voter. I have done nothing wrong, so why am I the target of this bill? Why can't I sell a firearm to my best friend, assuming his move to Oregon happens, the guy who stood next to me while we both received our Eagle scout awards?

Any transfer that would be denied under this bill is already a felony under state and/or federal law. The only difference is requiring a paper trail through the OSP system that is known to have bugs, require the use of a private business entity to exercise a constitutional right (and burdened by only being available during "business hours" to boot!), and unfairly burden those who are not already violating the law.

As a CHL holder I will not participate in private transactions without calling them in unless the other party is also a resident Oregon CHL holder. Why? Because to have an Oregon CHL one must already have passed a much much higher level of scrutiny than is provided through the background check system. In addition, if one is merely charged, let alone convicted, with a crime that would disqualify them from holding a CHL the county sheriff is required by law to collect the permit within 10 days.

This is a case of society fixing a problem.

Think about smoking cigarettes: 20, even 10 years ago, smoking in homes was common, as was smoking in cars. I still know a lot of people who smoke, but none of them do it in their homes. Why? Because society deemed it wrong and society changed. We can do the same for firearms transactions.

A pre-approved background check card would allow the buyer and seller to know that each is allowed to participate in a firearms transaction without requiring the involvement of OSP and a dealer. Use of said card wouldn't be a requirement, but if the barrier to getting one is low (easy paperwork, low cost, same requirements as ATF form 4473) then they will proliferate and the public will soon question anyone without one. There are other solutions to the problem is criminals getting firearms, unfairly burdening law abiding citizens is not one of them.

Additionally, based on the current language, 03 FFL ("Curious and Relics" or C&R) license holders will be unfairly disenfranchised. A C&R license is issued by the BATFE and allows the holder to participate in interstate commerce for the purpose of collecting 50+ year old firearms. To get said license, applications must be submitted to both the BATFE and local sheriff, background checks passed, and then each year the license holder is subject to a BATFE inspection. Since these licenses are explicitly not for conducting business, the holders of said licenses do not qualify for the "dealer" exceptions in the law as written.

Another group burdened are customers of the US government's Civilian Marksmanship Program (<http://www.thecmp.org>). The CMP has been promoting firearms safety and skills since 1903.

Part of what they do it sell surplus US military rifles to fund their operations, like the M1 Garand and M1 carbines, both from WWII. As a collector this is an *amazing* opportunity, but since they have a Federal exemption from requiring an FFL they do not fall under the "dealer" exemptions in SB941. Sales to collectors in states that have passes such laws, including CA, NY, and recently WA, are painful at best.

Finally, I want to question the purported "universality" of this bill. Even one exemption, even for law enforcement or dealers, negates that word. If there is something "universal" for our government to spend it's time working on how about a true universal single-payer healthcare system?

This bill is a waste of time, effort, and resources while doing nothing to keep guns out the hands of criminals. I call it like I see it, this is a registration bill and I cannot support it.

A note to the Democrats on the committee: I'm a lifetime Democrat, but please don't make me into a single issue voter. I hold Second Amendment/Section 27 rights very dear and will vote with them every time if that's what I have to do unless these unwarranted and unnecessary attacks cease. I don't vote on party lines and neither should you.

If you've read this far I really appreciate you doing so. Thank you for your time and consideration.

sincerely,
Christopher Williams
Mosier, OR