

Mr. Rhoades,

I have read through Senate Bill 941 and I wish to convey my opposition to this bill.

This bill will merely serve to put into force an unwieldy set of regulations that will not make our communities safer nor reduce the loss of life.

Instead, it will cause lawful Oregonians to bear an undue burden - those who are already cautious in the transfer of firearms. It will add additional expense. It will add time.

It will not, however, keep firearms out of the hands of criminals. Those firearms will transfer and they will transfer without the requisite background check.

It will not save lives. Those intent on bringing harm to others will not be foiled by paperwork. Those who wish to harm themselves will to be stalled when so many other options are available.

A firearm is nothing more than a tool. It is neither good nor evil - those descriptors are reserved for the hands which may hold it. It is not the firearm that decides to cross a moral threshold, it is the human behind it. And, unfortunately, it has been long-proved that morality cannot be legislated.

Rather than wasting State resources on legislation that will not benefit our citizens; rather than incrementally vilifying firearms and the hundreds of thousands of lawful firearms owners; rather than plotting as to how best to limit a fundamental right or narrow the scope of our federal constitution, why not work on those things that can really make a difference? Mental health care. Education. Poverty. Drug abuse. These are the catalysts to an illegal use of a firearm.

I encourage every member of our State Legislature to vote against Senate Bill 941 and to instead put their energies toward issues that will have real meaning to our communities.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Brett Veatch  
Newberg, Oregon