

Senators of the Judiciary Committee;

In my world, everything should be peaceful...we shouldn't hate or harm each other. However, that's not the world we live in. We live in a violent world...crazies are out there constantly. You lawmakers need to get real and accept this fact.

SB 941, which would create a universal background check system in Oregon, is a gun control bill that is not really about reducing violence. This gun control bill is about extending the reach of government farther into our private lives - in violation of our Constitutional rights. Gun control bills are about power and control over law abiding citizens. Since gun control bills are about power and control, they are founded on incorrect, diseased thinking. Consider this - it is already illegal to commit murder or assault with any kind of weapon, but that does not stop law breakers from doing so. One more law further controlling guns will not change this sad fact.

If gun control bills were about reducing violence they would focus on the real cause for violence - people. People commit violence, not guns. People who commit violence with guns are criminals. Until we are willing to deal with and solve the root cause for violent people, we must accept that the only thing one of these criminals fears who is intent upon inflicting harm on others is failure. The only way to instill fear of failure in this criminal is to present him/her with the high likelihood their actions will be met with effective resistance from common ordinary citizens. Just as obstacles in violent video games do not stop players from finding ways around those obstacles (that is part of the fun you know), gun control laws will not stop or even hinder criminals from committing crimes with guns. The only thing gun control laws will accomplish is providing more targets for those criminals. Are you willing to take the responsibility for providing more targets?

In conclusion, people who choose to use weapons of any kind (hands, clubs, knives, firearms, etc) to inflict harm on others are not decent, law abiding, healthy people. Adding laws restricting ownership or use of firearms (in this case universal background checks) will not stop or affect this kind of person. The only people who will be affected are decent, law abiding, healthy people who choose to exercise their Second Amendment rights.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer this written testimony in opposition to SB 941.

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