

HB 941 is a blatant assault on the rights of law-abiding Oregonians, and shouldn't be allowed to pass. It does nothing to stop criminals from obtaining guns and does everything to inhibit the freedom of lawful Oregonian gun owners.

This bill does nothing to stop criminals - criminals don't use a background check system to get guns. They either steal them, or illegally obtain them from law-breakers willing to sell to them. In either case, criminals will continue to break the law, no matter what, while the law-abiding will continue to follow the law.

It makes no sense to punish law-abiding gun-owners, unless of course the end-game *isn't* the prevention of crime, but an expansion of gun registration in Oregon.

Gun registration has historically lead to confiscation, which has lead to all kinds of abuses of power, including murder. Professor R.J Rummel, the world's leading expert on "democide" – the murder of civilians by their own governments – writes that in the 20th Century alone, governments killed close to 262 million of their own citizens. This is evidenced in countries such as Turkey, the Soviet Union, China, Guatemala, Uganda, Cambodia, Rwanda, and Nazi Germany.

Case in point: It was the Wiemar Republic's strict gun registration laws that allowed the Nazi party to disarm and systematically murder civilians when they took over Germany. That is the danger of bills like SB 941. You may *intend* good things, but we have to think about our children and grandchildren.

Regardless, **there isn't enough criminal activity to warrant expanding Oregon's background check system**. There has been no evidence presented that warrants an expansion of the background check system, as defined by SB 941.

The statistics of the background check system, as provided by the Oregon State Police themselves is as follows:

From June 17, 2014 to August 31, 2014, 331 people were denied firearms purchases at gun stores. The number of arrests of "felons"? A whopping 3!

Of the 40 people the OSP claimed were actually *wanted for a crime a the time of the denial*, *exactly 4 were arrested!*

In September of 2014, 136 people were denied firearms transfers at gun stores. The number of "felons" arrested? Exactly 2.

Of the 15 people OSP claims were actively "wanted" the number arrested was again, a mere 4!

In October of 2014 the OSP denied 196 transfers. The number of arrests of "felons" was....none.

Of the 26 people the OSP claimed were "wanted" at the time, the number of people arrested was, oddly, again only 4!

In November, OSP denied 203 sales. Felons arrested? One. Yes. One. But in November, the OSP jacked its arrests of actively wanted people up to 6. That's 6 out of 33! 27 "wanted" people walked away.

In December there were 197 denials. Felons arrested? 3. Yes, 3! Of the 20 people OSP said were "wanted" they arrested 6. Once again the other 14 were free to walk the streets.

This is not ringing endorsement for the system that HB 941 proposes to expand. Especially since most people who are denied are denied with no justification.

I am not convinced Senate Bill 941 will encourage criminals to go to a federally licensed gun dealer (assuming one is available and willing to do the transfer) to run a background check on their fellow criminals. Those people will break whatever laws are in place if they seek to do harm to others, while citizens who try to obey the law will have onerous burdens to bear.

This is an unnecessary, frivolous, and dangerous bill, and we need to stop it.

Sincerely,

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