

I am writing to voice my opposition to SB941, expanding background checks. Our right to self-defense is a natural right, one granted by our Creator, not by the government. Therefore, only our Creator can infringe upon that right. Our nations founders, in their wisdom, recognized that simple truth and therefore amended our national Constitution to ensure that those natural rights SHALL NOT BE INFRINGED. Likewise, our state Constitution reaffirms those rights. SB941 is, in my opinion, a gross violation of that natural right to self-defense.

I attended the public hearing this morning, and testified, despite the personal hardship that this represents. I also want to echo this morning's testimony of two different witnesses. The first witness challenged the proposal on the basis of its unconstitutionality and that the simple act of introducing such an affront should be adequate grounds for pursuing charges of a violation of your sworn oath of office. I concur and plan to take that matter up with legal counsel. The second witness mentioned that what Sen. Prozanski likes to call a "loophole" is, in fact, freedom and the witness went on to quote Thomas Jefferson, "The tree of liberty must be refreshed from time to time with the blood of patriots and tyrants." The witness then asserted his status as a patriot and asked the committee members where they stood on that equation. Very well put.

My last point concerns the Chair of the committee, Sen. Prozanski and, specifically, his refusal to allow some of those who had appeared the opportunity to testify. As I recall, it is either an Oregon Revised Statute, or contained in our state Constitution (possibly both), that all those who appear at a public hearing need to be accorded equal opportunity to testify. Sen. Prozanski's blatant and transparent attempts to control the narrative of today's session precluded some of those present from doing so. As I was the last to testify, there were two who had not signed up to testify, but did not appear, so there were two opportunities right there. I mentioned this to the Committee and Sen. Prozanski refused to allow the two additional testimonies. I plan to pursue that with legal counsel as well.

Signed,

Terrence Schofield
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