

I would like to cast my unofficial vote against SB941, the universal background check bill. There are multiple issues with the bill, not least of which is its inability to stop criminals from owning firearms.

First, the idea of the law is to stop the sale of firearms to criminals. A criminal cannot legally own a firearm in Oregon (or anywhere else in the US for that matter), so the law will require any private transfers to undergo a background check. Well, criminals have been buying and selling firearms illegally ever since there were laws on criminals owning firearms. So for those who are already criminals who would fail the check, literally nothing will change. They will keep on buying and selling as they please.

Who will be effected? Me. Others who own firearms. And anyone who wants to own firearms. Those who are currently not criminals. This law will not cut down on the number of criminals, it will CREATE criminals.

What this law essentially does is strengthen the governments idea that we, as citizens, are guilty unless we can prove our innocence. That is basically copy/paste from 1984. That is NOT a good society for us to live in. The US was not founded on that. Our constitution actually was built to show we ARE innocent, unless we can be proven otherwise. That system is already corrupted, it is already failing. We do NOT want to accelerate that change.

Forget your feelings on guns. If you ignore that its for firearms, and pay attention to the underlying theme, of guilty until proven innocent, then you should be able to see why this is an issue.

A big problem is a lot of gun stores don't like doing background checks for private sales, which is currently an option for those who choose to do so. A lot of gun stores will NOT do the checks, as they will spend time on it gaining no cash. So those who will, will add a fee. Which takes the money out of the pocket of the person buying a gun, who is trying to get a deal, or the person who is selling, who isn't selling to a gun store because they don't want to get a low ball offer. So people will naturally try to avoid the check, because its a hassle, it takes money out of there pockets, and it is ultimately unconstitutional (for more than one reason). Those who avoid the check and law will become criminals instantly, regardless of how well they follow the laws otherwise. This will simply make more criminals than we already have, at no gain at all to public safety.

Please help to fight against this bill. It will cause more issues than it will solve, and ultimately it does nothing more than infringe upon the rights of United States citizens.

Patriot and Oregonian,  
Patrick Pilip