

Senator Rhoades, Senate Judiciary Committee:

I understand that the Senate Judiciary Committee is now review-ing and considering SB 941, which imposes a strict requirement on 'Criminal background checks' for all private transfers of firearms, including the transfers of firearms from fathers or grandfathers to their sons and grandsons, etc. – and inheritances of the same nature.

It's a fact: Criminal background checks do nothing to reduce violent crime, and only affect law-abiding gun owners by imposing cumbersome mandates and restrictions and costs upon law-abiding citizens purchasing and/or possess-ing firearms.

At the same time, criminals, by definition, do not follow the law and do not subject themselves to gun control laws or bills or background checks. **It is already illegal to knowingly sell or transfer a firearm to someone classified as a prohibited person, and is already a felony for a prohibited person to buy, own or possess a firearm.** This is an ineffective and un-enforceable piece of legislation that will only impact the law abiding citizen.

It is also my understanding from the prevailing evidenciary history in Oregon that not one such sale or gift or inheritance of a firearm in such a manner (*without a background check*) has ever resulted in the commission of a crime.

The law already requires an individual to be 18 years of age (long arms) and 21 years of age (handguns), and have a clean criminal history (no violent Misdemeanors, no felony convictions, and no history of drug abuse).

The predominant history of firearm violence in Oregon revolves around gang-related crime – gang members who are generally too young to own a firearm, or have an extensive criminal history of violent and drug related crime, yet gang members (*and other firearms related felons*) are rarely, if ever, sentenced under the laws relating to the unlawful possession of a firearm, and are generally released from prison early (*because our prisons are over-flowing, or for 'good behavior in prison'...*)

This is a 'bad bill', and is another attempt at a 'progressive' (regressive) government to 'infringe' on the honest citizens' 2nd Amendment Constitutional rights.

A better bill would be to require the enforcement of strict laws regulating the use of firearms during the commission of a crime, and possession, sale, or transfer of stolen firearms – which I have observed over my 67 years as woefully lacking.

Please, do everything you can to stop this bill from passing, and at the same time, encourage law enforcement and judiciary to enforce and prosecute the laws 1) against the possession, sale, or transfer firearms to those not legally authorized to have them; and 2) the use of firearms/weapons in the commission of a crime – laws that we already have in effect.

Sincerely,

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