

Dear Senator--

I would encourage a NO vote on SB 941.

Bill Title: Relating to firearms; declaring an emergency.
Summary: Requires private person to complete transfer of firearm by appearing with transferee before gun dealer to request criminal background check.

Who are we kidding here---It is already illegal to knowingly sell or transfer a firearm to someone classified as a prohibited person, and is a felony for a prohibited person to buy, own or possess a firearm. This is an ineffective and unenforceable piece of legislation that will only impact the law abiding.

And since when would those with criminal intent participate.

An example from our society---The registration and recorded private (or public) sale of automobiles does not keep drunks from killing people with cars does it? Likewise, the regulated private sale of firearms among law abiding will not keep criminals from shooting people or the accidental misuse of a gun.

I am however a big believer in responsible ownership, education & training. As a licensed instrument rated pilot, I have seen first hand the difference between the responsibly trained and untrained. The survival rate between the two is dramatic.

Therefore, I would make a suggestion in the firearms arena,--- a responsible gun owner and education bill. This would be aimed (no pun intended) at promoting responsible gun ownership in all its facets---storage, use, care and responsible transfer. This would have emphasis on the owner and not the identification of a firearm. Proof of a buyers training prior to a private sale or transfer of a firearm would promote keeping guns out of the hands that should not have them. And those who do have guns would tend to be safer with them. This is already an integral part of obtaining a concealed handgun license in most states. (explains why the crime rate among concealed holders is so incredibly low).

The citizens of Oregon have always encouraged proper firearms usage. You know this to be true. Our pioneer spirit lives in Oregon's citizens today, which is why our constitution and the ORS statutes are even more explicit in support of gun ownership than the 2nd amendment of the US constitution. I caution going against this spirit with your votes for such an irresponsible law as SB 941 indicates.

Great Day to You---
Dale Stuewe
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reprint from Sheriff Garrett, Washington county----

....." However, I have concerns about some provisions of SB 941.

I am concerned criminals will get around the new law by accessing firearms another way. For more than a few criminals, the threat of a misdemeanor criminal charge will not be a significant deterrent.

The law will be onerous for law abiding citizens with layers of new requirements. Many Oregonians are serious sport shooters, hunters and collectors. Frequently and with great care, they buy, sell and trade firearms with each other.

I am concerned this law could create crimes and criminals out of otherwise law abiding people. Also, it's unclear what priority prosecutors and stressed court systems will place on charging people who have no prior criminal record for an unauthorized gun transfer under this new law.

I am concerned that much of this law will be unenforceable. It's unclear how law enforcement will learn of unauthorized transfers, and in many cases it will be very challenging to disprove a claim that a transfer was temporary in nature and therefore authorized. Laws that are largely unenforceable diminish respect for the law in general, which we do not need in today's environment.

I am concerned how the State plans to account for the fiscal impact and increased pressure on the current background check system. The State's background system is already heavily burdened, and additional requests could significantly slow the system further, unless additional funds are provided to bolster capacity."

Please reconsider this bill that does not solve any problems, rather just creates them----

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