

I'm a farmer in Southern Oregon.

Senate Bill 941 would have some real devastating consequences for our farm.

First, we use cracker shells, fired from a shotgun, to deter Canada Geese from running our crops. Under SB941, it would be against the law for me to temporarily loan an employee a shotgun that is compatible with these humane damage deterrent devices. The ability for me to keep a shotgun at my on-farm home under current laws keeps all employees from having to have their own and carry them in their trucks all the time. Farm trucks would make easy targets for theft of firearms.

Also, this bill would keep me from asking a neighbor to keep my firearms while I'm on vacation, as the local sheriff doesn't have the resources to keep an eye on unoccupied homes in rural parts of the county.

And, lastly, if a long time friend, employee or neighbor came to me asking for help in a dangerous situation, like her house being under surveillance from a criminal element, I would have to go through the business hours only background check to loan her a weapon for personal protection, then go through it again to retrieve my firearm from her.

But, more than these reasons, the absurdity of this law's ability to do what it claims is beyond anything I've seen. This is a law written for Law-abiding criminals. Anyone prohibited from obtaining a firearm is breaking the law by attempting to purchase one. If this law is to be effective, it puts the burden on criminals to seek legal channels for the purchase. That's absurd.

A better method of making a real difference is to give private citizens a tool to check when selling a firearm that's convenient and free, like an endorsement on state issued ID, or allow a concealed carry permit to serve as a background check.

The United States Constitution States that the right to bear arms shall not be infringed. It seems to me requiring a government fee for all transfers of firearms is placing a government fee to exercise a constitutional right. This wasn't ok with poll taxes for voting, and it isn't Okay here.

Senate Bill 941 deserves to be voted down, and a common sense alternative like ID endorsements be implemented in its stead.

Respectfully submitted,

EVAN KRUSE  
Roseburg, Ore.