

Good Day, Fellow Oregonians,

Here is my testimony in opposition to SB 941. I am first going to ask you to do something that may be difficult for some of you. I ask that you put aside, at least for a few minutes, any bias you have against the 2nd. Amendment of the United States Constitution, firearms themselves, and people who lawfully and responsibly own and use them. I ask you to instead employ reason and logic as you evaluate my reasons for opposing the bill.

That said, I am going to list several reasons why SB 941, if passed, will be a bad law and wrong for Oregon.

1. It will definitely do almost nothing to stop crime. Do any of you *honestly* believe that criminals, particularly convicted felons, will obey this should it become law? If a criminal wants to get a firearm from someone, do you *really, truly* believe that he will submit to a background check, which could lead to not only a denial, but his arrest? Of course he won't! Criminals will just simply proceed to violate the law and sell, loan, or give firearms to each other as they have always done. That's why they're called criminals--they break the law!
2. Many Oregon sheriffs have stated that SB 941 will not control or stop crime, and that it will only serve to harass honest, law-abiding citizens who are *not* the ones committing crimes. It would be incredibly difficult to enforce, and would require much expenditure of scarce funds and manpower, and mostly be aimed at Oregon's honest people! Indeed, many sheriffs have said that if this bill becomes law, they *will not enforce it!*
3. Please consider this next statement carefully. **23 Oregon counties, representing about 2,000,000 Oregonians, have passed resolutions, orders, or ordinances opposing SB 941 and other infringements of the 2nd. Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, and including infringements of the Oregon State Constitution.** This response was brought on by the advent of SB 941. In other words, it is a safe bet that over half of Oregon's citizens are not in favor of SB 941, and are, in point of fact, becoming very tired of infringements of the 2nd. Amendment!
4. Please consider, also, a very important point which some people have either never known, have forgotten, or wish to conveniently ignore. The Constitution of the United States is "the law of the land." Any law that violates the Constitution is in reality *no law at all.*
5. SB 941 is quite clearly a violation of not only the U.S. Constitution but Oregon's constitution as well.
6. If the Legislature decides to "ram SB 941 down the throats" of the citizens of Oregon, it will cause many problems for our state. It will be very divisive. It will harass the honest people to no purpose. It will undoubtedly cause great resentment in a large segment of the population. In fact, it already has! Also, I fear that many people will simply refuse to comply, which will probably create criminals rather than stop criminals.

In closing, I ask that you carefully consider this testimony and that you decide to join me and over 2,000,000 other Oregonians in opposing SB 941. Please, stop this bad bill from being passed into law. It is not only fundamentally flawed, it is absolutely WRONG for Oregon!

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Hugh F. Simpson
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