

Dear Representatives,

I am unable to give a statement in person on Wednesday, so I must use e-mail to urge you oppose Senate Bill 941.

The bill is bad for many reasons. Here are just three:

1. The law would not have prevented any of the highly visible gun crimes over the past years; not one. The murderers passed their background checks or stole their guns.
2. Many sheriffs are opposed to the bill. Some have vowed that they will not enforce this law.
3. The law creates a de facto gun registry.

Points 1 and 2 are undeniable facts.

Regarding point 2, the lack of consistent enforcement deprives citizens of equal protection under the law. That is, the force of this law will apply or not apply depending on the county in which a citizen lives.

Supporters of this law have attempted to deny point 3. However, a simple thought experiment will prove this to be the actual intent. Suppose that all private sales require a background check on the buyer except when the buyer holds a Concealed Handgun License. CHL holders are not criminals. Each has passed a background check, been fingerprinted, been trained and has submitted character references. If it is true that SB941 will keep guns out of the hands of criminals, this proposal will be at least as effective. But I expect that supporters will be opposed to such a law or any variation that does not produce a record of each transfer. The only conceivable reason is because they really want a gun registry, just what records of all transfers provide. Supporters of the bill need to be honest with the citizens. Admit that they want a gun registry or come up with an alternative that doesn't create one.

There is no wisdom in a bill that has little support from law enforcement and targets the law abiding while doing nothing to arrest and punish the criminals.

Please oppose this ill advised bill.

Best regards,

Bill Boucher
2040 NE Conifer Blvd.
Corvallis, OR 97330
541-224-3065