

House Committee on Rules
April 21, 2015

Chair Hoyle and Committee Members

My testimony is in opposition to SB 941A, which is the gun background check bill. It has been sold to Democrats by Senator Prozanski that this will help end gun violence, which is patently untrue. The focus of the anti-gun people has always been the school shootings and events like the Clackamas Town Center shooting. The reality is nothing in this legislation would have had an impact on any of those events; in fact it was a man with a concealed carry permit who stopped the shooter at the Clackamas Town Center.

The statistics and comparison of two cities will prove Senator Prozanski to be spreading fails propaganda to get your vote. Chicago with a population of 2.7 million and Houston with a population of 2.15 million. Chicago allows no concealed carry permits and has no gun stores, which means they should be a "gun free zone." Houston allows concealed carry and has 184 gun stores and an additional 1500 stores where guns can be purchased. If you vote for SB 941, you are claiming that Chicago is a safer city to your voters. However, what you would actually find should change your mind and voters that support you. In 2012 the number of homicides in Chicago was 1,806 and the number of homicides in Houston was 207. It should also be pointed out the country with the lowest level of gun violence is Switzerland where all citizens are not only trained in the use of guns but actually own one (or more).

The reality is that putting more restrictions on law-abiding citizens will not stop criminals from getting guns and this bill will in fact make people less safe. Gang members, drug cartels and other criminals will always be able to get guns because they don't care what you legislate. SB 941A will do nothing more than make it harder and more expensive for the average citizen to be able to protect themselves.

I encourage you to vote with the majority of citizens of Oregon who value their gun rights and elected you to protect their rights. Legislators are being evaluated for their individual stance and not their party loyalty. This bill is a major issue to Oregon voters.

Donna Bleiler