

Tuesday 21 April 2015

As Appropriate:

I often wonder if anyone listens when I submit anything to state government... but I will try again.

At age 67 and a 40+ year Oregon resident, I have been handling firearms routinely since I was 12 years of age. I am NRA certified as an instructor for "Firearm Safety" and "Basic Handgun" courses. I served four years in the USCG --with some law enforcement experience.

Given the political machinations that have been evident in the recent efforts to get SB941 [re mandatory background checks] passed, I suspect my plea will fall on deaf ears.

However, **please do NOT pass this bill in its present form.**

You will accomplish little except hampering already law abiding firearms owners.

I grew up in Atlanta, GA at a time when most people who came into the family neighborhood hardware store were armed -and not legally.

The small cluster of 10 stores suffered 2-5 robberies every week and the police would do virtually nothing about it except to say -"protect yourself".

I have had a "near death -except for my handgun" experience with members of the Hell's Angel's gang- in a "calm" Benton County park.

Excluding military experience, I do know what it is like to face death from criminals as a civilian. Do you really think that SB941 in its present form is going

to change very much of anything regarding keeping firearms out of the hands of those who should not have them??? You delude yourselves.

We have very thorough federal laws already on the books that address the major concerns and **they are rarely being enforced**. Have you looked at the stats

on how many people are ever prosecuted when they knowingly apply to purchase a firearm when they are legally forbidden to own a firearm?

How much are you focusing on the will of the majority in this issue?

If you think that more regulation is going to affect the availability of firearms to the criminal or mentally unstable elements of our society,

you are simply uninformed or just playing to the public for political gain and not solving the issues of improper use of firearms.

If you claim honesty in your efforts to pass this bill, why all the back door political maneuvers in getting this bill through the House and Senate?

Why the efforts to make sure there is no public vote on the issue?

Why will we be required to "go before a licensed dealer" instead of continuing being able to use the OSP call in procedure as an individual?

I have seen nothing in print about the supposed loss of this option.

PLEASE DO NOT PASS SB-941 IN ITS PRESENT FORM!

Sincerely,
James W. Hay

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