

House Rules Committee,

Senate Bill 941, recently and hastily introduced by members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary, **does nothing to stop prohibited people from obtaining guns!**

The bill is being unfairly rushed through the legislative process denying Oregonians their right to comment on the bill or to make any changes!

I am outraged that the Oregon Senate is attempting to push through a **poorly crafted and dangerous anti-rights bill**. SB 941 makes it as difficult as possible for me to transfer a firearm to a friend or loved one, but does **nothing** to stop the criminal element from acquiring firearms.

Why should Oregon support any expansion of the prohibited person's categories as defined by federal law?

Additional obstacles to the purchase of firearms by law abiding Oregonians only hampers our **rights of self-protection, family safety** and negatively impacts our lives, while having *'no' effect on elimination of crime or the lawless activity* it is alleged to be directed towards.

Does anyone believe that a person, who would ignore laws against crime and murder, would obey additional gun laws?

So-called "universal" background checks do nothing to reduce violent crime, and only affect law-abiding gun owners by imposing cumbersome mandates and restrictions on the lawful purchase and possession of firearms. Criminals, by definition, do not follow the law and do not subject themselves to gun control schemes or background checks. It is already illegal to knowingly sell or transfer a firearm to someone classified as a prohibited person, and is a felony for a prohibited person to buy, own or possess a firearm. This is an ineffective and unenforceable piece of legislation that will only impact the law abiding.

With all this "gun control" talk I haven't heard one politician say how they plan to take guns away from criminals, just law abiding Citizens.

Additionally, is it fair to tax a constitutional right? Essentially that's what's going on with additional firearms transfer regulations requiring background checks because FFLs are going to require a charge for every transaction. They're not going to simply run free background checks for private parties. So, the cost of expanding background checks and how it infringes on one's Second Amendment rights needs to be considered.

Our focus should be on real solutions to the problem of misuse of firearms, such as strengthening mental health and **"enforcement of existing laws"**.

Please remember, making good (Honest, Law Abiding) people helpless won't make bad people harmless!

Over 20 counties have expressed their opposition to this terrible invasion of privacy. Some in law enforcement have already said they will not enforce it.

Anti-gun activists boast on how many people are “denied” gun purchases under the current system but never talk about how many of those people are denied with no justification because of an inept bureaucracy. The State Police’s own figures show that almost all “denials” are unjustified.

Forcing me to run a background check on a friend or loved one before I give them a firearm will do nothing to prevent felons from obtaining weapons. Why should I have to run a background check on a friend I have known for 25 years? Why can’t I safeguard a firearm for a neighbor who is going out of town? It is clear that the entire purpose of this bill is to harass the law abiding.

When felons are denied firearms they are NOT held accountable, so nothing in this kind of legislation has any impact on them at all.

SB 941, like many other gun control schemes, is a step towards the full registration of firearms. In January 2013, the Department of Justice said that background checks on all firearm transfers “depends on...requiring gun registration.” You are well aware that in other places these kinds of laws have led to confiscation. In New York, their gun registration lists are being used by police to harass the family of gun owners who have died.

Instead of mismanaging tax payer’s money on efforts to restrict the rights of honest citizens, we should concentrate our efforts on improved crime control and prosecution aimed at decreasing violent crime!

This combined violation of the Second Amendment and invasion of personal freedom is something I find to be very frustrating.

This country was founded under the principles of freedom and personal responsibility. The Constitutions of both the United States and the State of Oregon were designed to specifically limit the scope of government. On the federal level government was significantly limited, with more duties assigned to the states than were assigned to the federal level. But in both documents the protection of personal freedoms and liberties are clearly defined and enumerated. We have moved far away, in many areas, from the original intent.

We now live in an era where a lot of politicians both at the state and federal level seem to have little faith or confidence in the people they are elected to serve. There truly are people in Salem who think we will be better off if we let the government make our decisions for us. As the size of the population who are dependent on government for many of their needs continues to grow, the problem continues to get worse.

In reality, the less government is involved in our lives, the greater is our chance to fulfill our dreams. It should also be understood that freedom includes the freedom to fail. If we look, we will find that a significant number of successful people have probably failed more than once before their success. Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness guarantees only one thing, and that is the ability to try. These are the principles that have made America great, and I hope we remember that before it is too late.

I am a voting Oregon citizen and I urge you to vote ‘Against any Restrictions’ on private firearms transfers or ownership.

I OPPOSE gun control legislation for the following reasons:

- Violates both your Oregon and Federal Constitutional rights.
- Does not guarantee any reduction of violent gun related crimes.
- Does not guarantee any reduction of gun related accidents.
- Sets us on a path of continued erosion of Second Amendment rights.
- Diminishes a person's ability to protect themselves and their families.
- Invades your privacy and freedom.
- It is poised to punish law abiding gun owners with onerous and overly broad restrictions.

Please stand up for your constituents; **protect the rights of all Oregonians by OPPOSING Senate Bill 941.**

Respectfully,

Tom Repp
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