



CITY OF  
**PORTLAND, OREGON**

**Charlie Hales, Mayor**  
Amanda Fritz, Commissioner  
Nick Fish, Commissioner  
Dan Saltzman, Commissioner  
Steve Novick, Commissioner

April 22, 2015

Representative Val Hoyle, Chair  
House Rules Committee  
900 Court St, NE, Hearing Room 50  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Hoyle and Members of the Committee:

We write in support of SB 941-A, which requires criminal backgrounds checks for the private transfer of firearms.

In 2013, there were 461 deaths due to firearms in Oregon. Nationwide, over 30,000 people are killed by firearms every year. More than twice as many are injured. Oregon, along with the rest of the country, has experienced numerous mass casualty and tragic gun violence incidents in recent history. Public safety is a fundamental priority for the City of Portland and gun violence poses a serious threat to the security of our community.

Under current law, a prospective purchaser must undergo a background check before buying a gun at a gun show or from federally licensed firearms dealers. However, in Oregon, background checks are not required for private party sales, through newspaper ads or on the internet. Robust background checks for the purchase or transfer of firearms are an effective preventative measure against gun violence.

We applaud the Legislature for taking up this important safety issue. We urge your support for SB 941-A, to close loopholes in background check requirements for the purchase of firearms.

Sincerely,

Charlie Hales  
Mayor

Amanda Fritz  
Commissioner

Nick Fish  
Commissioner

Dan Saltzman  
Commissioner

Steve Novick  
Commissioner