

Honorable members of House Committee on Rules,

SB 941 is now in the Oregon House Committee on Rules for your consideration. I would ask that you reject this proposal for the following four reasons.

First, Oregon is already suffering from fiscal shortfalls. This new proposal will cost the state hundreds of thousands of dollars to an already shrinking Oregon budget.

Second, this law will not affect people who are intent on being criminals. Criminals won't observe this law, they will still steal, buy, sell, and utilized straw-purchasers to acquire their firearms. This law will only penalize law abiding citizens.

Third, crime against people has again declined from 2011 to 2012. This law won't increase that decrease even more. Nationwide we are at an all time low. Oregon has a lower crime rate than California, and California has this type of law. Using that as a test case, it is clear it doesn't decrease crime.

Fourth, gun rights is a huge hot button right now, which due to the previous reasons is a lose-lose situation. Right now everyone is seeing anyone on the Democrat side of the house as people against guns. They also see them as lap dogs of people like Bloomberg. Politically, it doesn't make sense to support these laws when they will do nothing to actually improve the situation. And in fact, support of these may target members of the house for recall petitions. The return on the investment, is just not worth it.

In closing, if you truly are looking for a way to help prevent then you need to seek ways to improve the economy and work to give people home of a better life. It is understood that is much more difficult, and requires more thought on the part of legislature. That is the hard job. Improving our local economy to help improve the overall standing of all Oregonians. Give them the ability to make a better living which moves people out of the poverty cycle which increases their likelihood to resort to criminal activity.

Please, vote no on SB 941.

Thank you,
Matt Buckley
The Dalles, OR
Member of Democratic Party of Oregon - Gun Owners Caucus