

House Majority Leader Val Hoyle, members of the committee:

My name is Mary Senatori. I live in Portland. I am the mother of two children, ages 8 and 14. I urge you to support SB 941 to help further protect our children and our communities from gun violence.

I am a PATRIOT. A patriot who understand that we fought for RULE BY THE PEOPLE, not rule by the gun. A patriot who understands that "like most rights, the Second Amendment right is not unlimited" (SCOTUS: D.C. v. Heller, 2008). A patriot who wants to live FREE from the TYRANNY of gun violence. A patriot who understands that our most cherished rights are the right to LIFE, LIBERTY and the PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS, NOT gun ownership.

A few facts:

**\* SB 941 will help saves lives**, as demonstrated by FBI statistics showing that in states with background checks on all gun sales, 46% fewer women are shot to death by intimate partners and 48% fewer law enforcement officers are killed with handguns in the line of duty.

**\* SB 941 is Constitutional**, as supported by the **U.S. Supreme Court majority ruling** in District of Columbia v. Heller (2008): *"Like most rights, the Second Amendment right is not unlimited. It is not a right to keep and carry any weapon whatsoever in any manner whatsoever and for whatever purpose: For example, concealed weapons prohibitions have been upheld under the Amendment or state analogues. The Court's opinion should not be taken to cast doubt on longstanding prohibitions on the possession of firearms by felons and the mentally ill, or laws forbidding the carrying of firearms in sensitive places such as schools and government*

*buildings, or laws imposing conditions and qualifications on the commercial sale of arms."*

**\* SB 941 may inconvenience law-abiding gun owners** -- these same owners who took several hours out of their day to attend a hearing can surely spare an extra 30 minutes or more to pass a background check and help save 46 out of a 100 women and 48 out of 100 law-enforcement officers from being murdered by a felon, domestic abuser, or mentally unstable person! If they could save **EVEN ONE** life it should be worth it. Stop being so selfish, equating your minor inconvenience with the **LOSS OF LIFE**.

**\* SB 941 will need to be enforced.** Yes, like any law, it will need to be enforced. Shut down the online sites. Educate the public, both gun owners and sellers. Create and execute an enforcement and prosecutorial framework. Lather, rinse, repeat. Get it done, don't throw up enforcement details (as Senator Thatcher did) as an impediment to passing an effective public safety law.

In summary, 81% of Oregonians support background checks on all gun sales -- a proven and effective way to reduce gun violence. The law will help save lives and the law is 100% Constitutional. Let's get this done.

Thank you,

Mary Senatori

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