

I am writing today to voice my extreme opposition to Senate Bill 941 that imposes background checks on the private sale of firearms without background checks. I don't think the state has any business regulating whether I can give a 22 rifle to my son or give my wife a handgun for personal protection without going down and going through a background check at a local gun shop with a federal firearms license. Not only is it an added tax to me the law abiding citizen, it will overload the current system which already works very poorly. I have a concealed carry permit and I still can't walk into a gun store, purchase a gun and walk out with it.

Beyond that people in rural Oregon will be severely impacted. Some people might need to drive an hour or more to go find someplace to get a background check performed to sell a gun to a lifelong friend. There are many people in rural Oregon that rarely get to town. Are we really going to make these people criminals with this law when they buy a gun from a buddy rather than having to go to town, get their application held and then have to go back again when it finally clears the background check system.

I thought that Senator Thatcher's offered amendment to place a code on a person's driver's license was a common sense compromise to give an individual the ability to verify that someone wasn't a felon if they didn't know the person. I was extremely disappointed that more consideration was not given to this approach. I think the argument that it is a type of scarlet letter was extremely weak. A felon's rights should not come before my rights in this situation and I should not have to pay an additional tax because a felon doesn't want to be held accountable for their actions.

It is asinine and naive to think that criminals would be deterred in any way by this law. The only people that this law is going to effect are those people who are willing to follow it. It is not going to help keep guns out of the hands of criminals, it will only make it more difficult for law abiding citizens to buy and sell guns. Nobody wants guns in the hands of the bad guys and I believe that gun owners would not sell a gun to someone they believed was going to go use it to commit a crime or was a convicted felon. We don't need a government entity to verify it. We need more guns in the hands of citizens not less to have a safer society. This is just another issue where government is trying to further erode an individual's freedom and liberty.

We have a constitutional right to keep and bear arms from the second amendment that is constantly under assault. From banning AR-15's, to banning ammunition for them, to this background check issue. The government needs to quit trying to chisel an individual's ability to defend themselves and their families. The government can not protect people from criminals who will not obey the law. We need the ability to defend ourselves. That is one of the principles this country was founded on.

World War II happened during our grandfathers generation. How soon we forget what happens when governments take guns from their citizens.

Please stand and defend the individual's right to buy and sell firearms without government intervention.

This bill is not good for Oregon.

Brad Barcroft