

As a Citizen of the State of Oregon, I would like to express my opposition to further gun control legislation in general and specifically to this bill.

In November of 2013, I attempted to purchase a firearm at a gun show and was put into limbo by the State of Oregon by receiving a "Pending" status on the state run background check. The Pending status had an time estimate of 3 weeks.

I couldn't understand why this would have happen. I had recently completed the required classes and been finger printed, photographed, vetted and issued an Oregon Concealed Handgun License. Also, in the past several years, I had successfully passed the background check and been approved to purchase firearms multiple times.

But the Pending status halted my transaction. I was given very little information as to why I was not approved and how to get the misunderstanding cleared up. I was given a phone number to leave a message for the State Police with my concern and sometime in the next 2 wks they would call back.

I did receive a call back from a Oregon State Police representative, whom I understand is 1 of 2 at the State Police tasked in resolving these Pending issues.

She was polite and informed me that unlike the Oregon Concealed Handgun License, which uses the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS), firearm purchases are approved by the Oregon State Police and that the two systems do not talk. She did tell me that these Pending status' are not Denials and are commonly misunderstandings.

The 3 wks came and went, so I went through the process of leaving another message and receiving a call back. This time expecting that since the usual time interval had not resolved the issue that there was in place a process to escalate.

I was informed that the time estimate is not real and was simply a place keeper. I was also told that the process was to mail the request to the court clerk for the records. No e-mail, fax or phone calls. Specifically, I was told that the clerks had strongly resented being contacted multiple times for the same request and that the results of bothering them would not help my cause.

The State Police representative did do some digging and explained to me that my issue was due to a 1978 suspended driver's license and that because 1 reason for a driver's license to be suspended was for a violent act, that they needed the specific court record before they could change the Pending status to Approved. (turned out to be a failure to appear for a speeding ticket)

Problem is that my traffic citation was issued by a court in Troutdale that had been long shut down and that the records were somewhere in the basement of the main Multnomah courthouse. I literally had to wait for a court clerk to get around to digging through old written records before I could exercise my constitution right.

In the end, it took 90 days for the Pending to be reissued as Approved. All because Oregon records and methods are antiquated, Oregon does not use the NICS and that the State Police "have been reprimanded by the court clerks not to escalate or communicate with them multiple times on the same issue".

This system is flawed at best and that is for legitimate purchased (i.e. ownership) of firearms. This bill is for all transfers of the firearms. It treats firearms as a controlled substance and puts the burden on Oregonians to PROVE that they can have in their possession an item guaranteed to them by their constitutional rights.

Also, I see no move to utilize the NICS, give an exception to CHL holders and/or any conversation of monies to increase State Police or court clerk staff.

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