



Yamhill County Sheriff's Office

Sheriff Tim Svenson

535 NE 5th Street, Room 143, McMinnville, Oregon 97128-4595
Business Office: (503) 434-7506 • Fax: (503) 472-5330
Jail: (503) 434-7507 Email: sheriff@co.yamhill.or.us

"Excellence In Service"

Legislators,

March 30, 2015

I am writing this letter to share my opposition to Senate Bill 941. All too often we are quick to act when it comes to gun violence and we attempt to pass new laws that only affect law abiding citizens. SB 941 will not provide any additional protection of Oregon citizens against violence. Criminals will still be able to access weapons by other means. Those people who commit these heinous crimes do not follow the laws we currently have in place.

SB 941 will create new layers of legal barriers to already law abiding citizens. Many citizens in my county enjoy the sport of shooting and hunting and often buy, sell and transfer guns in a legal manner. My fear with SB 941 is that these citizens will now become at risk of being charged and prosecuted for acts they have done several times before with no negative effect on our community.

As with many of these laws, it becomes very difficult for Law Enforcement to enforce and there is no consideration of the financial impact on the already stressed court system and back ground check process already in place.

It is my understanding that the Senate has made it clear that this bill will be pushed through no matter what; however as an elected official, it is my duty to voice my concerns. It is the duty of all elected officials to listen to both sides of the table prior to making an informed decision. I do not feel this has occurred in this case and I urge you to listen to your Elected Sheriffs who are opposed to this bill.

As the Sheriff of Yamhill County, the citizens elected me to be their voice in Salem when it comes to these issues. I swore to protect the citizens I serve by keeping guns out the hands of criminals. I also swore to not infringe on the rights of law abiding citizens. Because of this, I am opposed to SB 941 and urge you to reconsider this bill. If you have further questions of me, please feel free to contact me at my office.

Sincerely

Sheriff Tim Svenson