

Chair Hoyle and Rules committee members,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition to SB 941.

The private sale or transfer of firearms from one individual to another has been occurring ever since the invention of the firearm. Does every transfer of a firearm result in an accidental death, murder or crime? No.

The bill may be ideologically well intentioned or just another banana peel on the slippery slope of the control every risk mentality of those who think they know better. Truth is; it's ineffective and unenforceable.

I'll share an analogy that may not be the vantage point of most legislators.

Once upon a time, as a legal resident alien, once a year I would go to the post office to dutifully report my current address to the INS and thus fulfilling a requirement to maintain my green card status. When I was a child, I went through the process multiple times so that once I became an adult, I'd be responsible for complying with the law on my own.

In college, I went to the post office to pick up that little post card to repeat that January ritual. There was NO card available and I was nearly apoplectic at the notion that I might be eligible for non-compliance with the INS. One of my housemates' parents was an INS employee and I was able to ask about the situation directly. The reporting of a legal immigrants address on an annual basis had been discontinued as a waste of resources. They were re-directing resources to pursuing the illegal immigrants. Immigrants who had religiously observed all the legal requirements to follow the process were not those likely to commit a crime or ever be a concern for deportation for any reason.

I became a US citizen and take the responsibilities of civic involvement seriously.

The parallel lessons from my experience to SB 941:

- 1) Asking every responsible law abiding individual to comply with an administrative process does NOT result in fewer problems.
- 2) Individuals who break the law are NOT motivated to observe the requirements of SB 941.
- 3) The online offering of firearms for sale is an excellent opportunity for law enforcement to monitor and sample true stranger to stranger transactions for those individual who are avoiding the existing background check sales channels. It's a funnel that concentrates the number of persons that may be seeking to circumvent the law.
- 4) When citizens follow the law, reduce the regulatory burden and re-deploy scarce resources to the actual problem. Waste not, want not.

**More effective options:**

*Create an online system available to potential sellers to verify the status of a potential buyer. Any citizen should be able to run a background check. Automate, don't burden private businesses and law enforcement personnel with a process that would consume resources.*

Overall, the vast, vast majority of gun owners in the State of Oregon are law abiding persons who should not be clogging up a background check system. Law breakers won't change their ways because responsible citizens are shackled by poor public policy.

PLEASE VOTE NO ON SB 941.

Thank You, Christine Ruck Lebanon OR