

Good Morning Chair Prozanski and the Committee

I am here today to state that I oppose the effort of Senate Bill 941 in the 2015 legislative session calling for Universal Background Checks on privately owned firearms.

I have been a Federally Licensed gun dealer here in Oregon since 2002, in addition to my regular job as a Correctional Lieutenant with the Oregon Department of Corrections. I am in the unique position to have seen this issue not only from the perspective of gun owners, gun dealers and also Law Enforcement professionals.

The original intent of SB941 is admirable, however, it only places an additional burden on the law abiding gun owner, and will doubtfully have any real impact on those who perpetrate gun violence.

Look at the record of mass shooting episodes since 1984. The killers have used 22 shotguns, 23 revolvers, 29 rifles, and 77 semi-automatic handguns. According to Mother Jones, more than three-quarters of these have been legally purchased, and many of the remainder were stolen from a legal purchaser. And this is even with our current system of background checks.

SB941 would require every citizen buying and/or selling a firearm to go to a licensed dealer, turn over the gun to the dealer so he can log it onto my BATFE required Bound Book, and complete a form 4473, fingerprints, and have a State Police background check conducted. Even now, with things as they are, it can take 45 minutes to an hour to complete a State Police background check after the form is filled out.

This would place an undue burden on law abiding citizens and would soon be completely unenforceable. Why? Because there isn't currently any way to know for sure what gun actually belongs to which person, and whether or not the required background check has been done.

As to the so-called internet loophole, person to person sales via a web site is no different than if a person buys a firearm from an ad in the newspaper. You cannot legally have a purchased firearm shipped directly to your home from a seller. It must, by current law, be shipped from one dealer to another, and a background check conducted.

SB941 would accomplish nothing except to add to the burden of the law abiding, and be ignored by the criminal.

Thank you,

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