

## **SENATE BILL 700**

**I encourage you to vote against bringing this bill forward:**

**As someone who has processed hundreds of background checks, let me say that the process is not nearly as simple as this bill makes it sound. It takes between 15 and 20 minutes to obtain an approval. The form must be completed, fingerprints taken, and data entered into the computer. There are times when the computer is down, sometimes the wait to get the entry reviewed once it is submitted can be in excess of an hr., the request can be approved, denied, or pended for a month or more. There are multiple things that can cause problems for a person experienced at entering the information. Without the weapon box, it can be challenging to identify the model number or serial number, or even know how to find it. You are expecting a private party to know that they may have to open the cylinder on a revolver to find the model number, or remove the grips on one to find the serial number, and some guns may not even have a serial number.**

**I cannot speak for other stores, but I can tell you that the Oregon Trail Trader is not looking for business running background checks. We sold in excess of 600 guns last year, and running the checks is a huge workload on a one person business. We not only have to take the time away from other customers to process these, but we get to face a hostile customer if they are delayed or denied, and assume the liability if there are any errors.**

**When ATF shows up at the store, errors can result in loss of our license. During the last review, in which every gun in the store or sold, every form, every denial, every approval was accounted for, the reviewers were concerned that we had not always checked “proceed” in the designated box on the form. During the discussion of the results, we were asked what we should be doing to address this. I said, “I guess we should just take whatever time it takes to correctly check every box and leave the other customers waiting.” I was told that was the right answer.**

**Now, this bill is proposing that whichever one of us is running the store must assume the liability, and the loss of business, the potential risk of robbery or burglary that comes from processing gun transfers for people who are not our customers and not known to us. I was of the understanding that a business owner had the right to refuse service to anyone they chose not to serve. The law allows us to refuse to sell a gun to**

**anyone we do not feel comfortable selling one to. This is a right we have exercised in the past.**

**In addition, this bill will make criminals out of a lot of Oregonians. If this bill goes forward, it needs to be amended to include the construction of jails to house all the little old men and ladies who sell a firearm to a neighbor or a friend without doing a background check. This bill is creating a complicated, costly system that will require hiring a bunch of people to process paperwork that may or may not be generated, and it is basically unenforceable. You have no way of knowing without putting surveillance cameras in everyone's home who sells what weapons to whom out of their private homes. The few people who you do find out about will be ordinary law abiding citizens who just happened to be unlucky. This law makes poor use of law enforcement and the court system which will have to deal with those who get caught. It will have no impact on crime in the state other than perhaps increasing it due to diverting resources in an attempt to enforce an unenforceable law.**

**Those who have submitted this bill appear to be confused about how the system works and how unrealistic the expectations are. Criminals do not tend to concern themselves with the law and this law will only impact law abiding citizens, often in a negative way.**

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