

Good Morning Senators,

My name is Mark Callahan. I am a gun owner, an NRA member, and live in South Salem. I am here today to advocate against the potential passage of SB 700. This bill requires criminal background checks on all gun purchases and transactions except those between immediate family members, in other words on all private sales. Background checks are already required for all sales from a gun dealer, and at all sales at gun shows in Oregon. We should be spending time arming school staff, strengthening mental health databases, and making sure the NICS system is updated with that info, so that the background checks already being done might actually have some chance of doing any good. All this bill does is extend the ineffective current system to all gun sales in Oregon.

In addition, there is a unique problem with this bill: In Oregon, the FBI's NICS is not used; you must contact the Oregon State Police when you need to run a background check. This function must be removed as the point for instant checks for firearm purchases. With all due respect to the Oregon State Police, their system has experienced constant slowdowns and delays and if you had a problem with it you could not get a human on the phone to help. Only a nasty voicemail message saying in effect "leave us alone." The system actually closed down completely on March 8! There are three bills before the legislature that would move this function to the NICS system where it belongs. Why have those not had hearings?

In regards to the amendments to be considered for SB 700, The "Dash 14" replaces the entire original 5-page bill with this 12-page amendment, which still does the same thing. I understand "lawyer speak" can be verbose, but really, 12 pages up from 5 pages? The State Police background check unit is not required to perform their job by any defined time.

As recent evidence has indicated from the Sandy Hook shootings, the killer obtained the weapons from his mother, which means that he didn't purchase them. I can understand not wanting the tragic events of Sandy Hook to happen here in Oregon, but to make laws just to make laws, in order for certain liberal members of this legislature to feel good about themselves for doing something to one-up other states, and the Federal Government, without enforcing the existing laws already in place regarding background checks, is an exercise in senseless futility, and is unnecessary. Please vote No on SB 700. Thank you.