

Testimony on Senate Bill 1551

Good morning Chairman Prozanski and members of the committee. As a resident of Oregon even when I served outside of the state as a veteran of the U.S. Air Force for nearly twenty three years before retirement and returned here. I come before you this day to express my opposition to Senate Bill 1551.

The bill as I have before me that came from this committee is claimed in many circles as a way to close a loophole in the system to purchase a firearm by requiring private transfers or buyers between a private owner of a firearm to submit to a criminal background check which in the state is handled by the Firearms Instant Check System (FICS) operated by the Firearms Transfer Unit of the Oregon State Police.

To me this is an over reach in power of the state to in effect accuse all private transfers of firearms to be indeed dealers of firearms and become agents of the state of Oregon to determine another private citizen is a possible criminal. It is saying that I must seek State Police permission to sell firearms that is my personal private property to people I may have known for years

I as an individual owner under this bill am being told that if I wish to sell my personal private property in a form of a firearm, a criminal background check and the record of the transaction is to be recorded with the make, model, serial number of the weapons for whatever period of time as well as the buyers information. That alone is amounts to a registration list, and no where in the bill is language of how long that transaction is to remain recorded. The only way a universal background check is to work is by creating a registration list no matter what language one uses to justify it. So why is that being included in this bill?

Although it is true that new purchases of firearms must be made via a background check since the implementation of the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act of 1993. Under this Senate Bill, Any firearm even ones purchased legally before the Brady Act was passed would be recorded into the FICS system if I choose to privately sell or transfer the weapon to someone, if I should pass away, my heirs or the person I would will the weapons too essentially would be on record to the state of Oregon.

I have several firearms that my father purchased in this state following the laws at the time before the FICS creation, paid hunting license to use in Oregon per state law and I inherited after his death. If I decide to will those weapons to my relatives or sell or transfer them to another person.. the state must have a record of that? Why? My grandfather in Nebraska willed me a firearm legally purchased there to me before he passed away.. and again. If I do the same thing to my heirs or decide to sell it privately it suddenly becomes part of a police database. I again ask the question Why.

No where within the bill does it determine or mention if the Firearms Transfer Unit will have additional personnel to handle the increased amount background checks assumed under this proposed law. There is no mechanism of telling me what happens if a background check is not completed by the OSP.. and it has happened to even licensed dealers in the state with people who have no previous record. State Law says a dealer can transfer a weapon within three days but under this bill private sales do not. No where does it say how long that record is maintained so I am to assume its a permanent list?

A Section is provided if I wish to sell or will my weapons of to family members if I should die. But that section is not all inclusive and does not allow my situation in my own personal life. I am single, never married and my only living relatives are cousins within the state and out side of the state.. No provision is made for that eventuality within this bill. So is the State of Oregon intending to dictate to me that I must marry? Have children? Who becomes owner of the weapons if I should pass away then? Is the State of Oregon saying my personal firearms is its property then without compensation to my heirs? If they must submit to this criminal background check, are you accusing my relatives of being criminals without basis of fact?

There is so much more within this bill that instances where in this bill would cause me as a gun owner problems and having to transfer a weapon via a background check in every day use. The list created is a list that gives me great pause. We have seen in the past two years similar registration schemes in other states be used for those states to confiscate firearms. I see this bill as another such mechanism despite the innocent explanations in the media and press releases about it.

What I am saying is creating laws like this is a slap in the face of legal firearm owners who just are tired of being treated as criminals due to the actions of others who commit crimes. I pledged most of my early adult life to defending Freedom in the United State by serving in its armed forces. But proposed laws like this make me feel that I am considered a criminal because I enjoy firearms as a hobby. One of the Freedoms that is supposed to be part of the US Constitution, as well as the Constitution of the State of Oregon.

I thank this committee for the opportunity to speak or at least provide written testimony. Good Day

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