

Some have put forth the premise that Universal Background checks will somehow solve the gun problem in Oregon or stop handgun murders. I was born and I lived in NY for 55 years. I moved to Oregon to be with family here. NY has some of the strictest gun laws in the country. You must have a pistol permit before you can buy a pistol, there are background checks, fingerprints, three character witness statements taken, a \$ 250 fee and at least a 6 month on average waiting period to finish the paperwork. With all of these checks and requirements, Rochester NY, a city of 200,500, has had 30 to 35 homicides from firearms every year, from 2007-2013. If these crimes were solved the person was usually also charged with criminal possession of a firearm. The NY SAFE Act was supposed to put an end to the rash of firearm shootings by tightening the Universal Background Checks. In 2013, the same year SAFE was implemented, there were 36 murders in the city of Rochester and an increase of robberies; of the 354 robberies reported, firearms were involved in 150 of these crimes, which was an increase of 24 percent. It appears SAFE did not work; it failed to lower the murder rate or stop the use of illegal guns in the commission of crimes.

The Fourth Amendment to the Constitution spells out very clearly “ The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures shall not be violated.” When you use a computer to collect information it is called a Data Search. All searches are not physical in this technological age. Data mining and unauthorized use of information strips the people of their rights to be secure in their persons, houses, papers and effects.

A personal Background Check with gun information attached to it is a de facto gun registration. It can and will be used to show what citizens own guns and what guns they own. History has shown that a comprehensive gun control law, in which the police have the records of all firearms acquisitions, except the illegal ones, has been used to systematically disarm the people, and subjugate the people. This was not necessarily the intent of the government in power at the time the gun control laws were passed and enacted. Though well intentioned, the law remains in effect after others are elected and come into power. The gun control laws in the Weimar Republic had been in place for six years before the Nazi party came into power. The Gun Control information on record, was used to disarm the Jews first and then to disarm the German people.

There is a phrase often repeated “Information is power.” Without the peoples Constitutionally guaranteed right to privacy and self-protection, the power given by collected information, can and will be used to disarm and enslave the people. No person, party or government entity, should have this kind of legislated power over the people. The power has been used to commit crimes against humanity, and if passed and enacted, the possibility is in place for it to be used to commit crimes against humanity in our own state and nation. Our founders understood this and history continually proves them right.

I urge you to vote NO on SB 1551. This bill is a registration bill pure and simple. It does nothing to prevent felons from getting guns but is an unwarranted invasion of my privacy. I urge you to vote against any gun registration or restrictions on private transfers.

Yours,  
John Woods