

Senate Judiciary Committee and Esteemed Senators,

As I'm sure you're aware, Sen. Prozanski has once again trotted out his gun registry bill, this time designated SB941. I'm not sure where you stand on this issue, as the legislature has had the good sense to shoot it down in committee for several years running, so there has never been a vote on it. This, too, is good, since I'm certain you and your colleagues have more pressing matters to debate. The usual rhetoric aside (regarding constitutionality and oath of office violation), I have some deep concerns about this bill being put forward yet again. Primarily, I want to know where the money is coming from? Mr. Prozanski has, himself, admitted it is unenforceable without a sweeping registry of all firearms and their owners. This is not possible without a major expenditure, dwarfing even Cover Oregon. How is this going to be funded?

Further, the Senator from Eugene has also admitted it will do little or nothing to prevent criminals from acquiring firearms, and is unlikely to prevent crime in any aspect. So, then, why are we even considering this? Does the State of Oregon have that much disposable revenue that it can be squandered on measures that even proponents say won't work?

Hard-working Oregonians throughout the state are already staggering under the load of current taxation, and are still being told they need to come up with still more money in order to fund legitimate functions of state government, like schools, roads and emergency services: functions which are, indeed, sorely lacking in many areas of our great state. How are we, then, going to convince them that still MORE money must be taken from them to pay for a legislative fantasy?

In addition to the direct financial burden, there is also the correctional and law enforcement burden of prosecuting and incarcerating all the newly-minted "criminals," made so by a law which, again, won't affect the real criminals, only those inclined to obey laws in the first place, in short, the same taxpayers. Are our prisons and courts so empty that they can easily accommodate ordinary, decent citizens made felons by the stroke of a legislator's pen?

SB941, while an entertaining fancy for some, is an undue and unjust burden upon people who have done no harm, and are unlikely to do harm. Do you want to be on record supporting such expensive entertainment on your constituents' dime? Please consider the real common sense position, and vote NO on SB941.

Sincerely,

Loran Ayles -
an Oregon Voter