

I support this common sense gun safety bill: **SB 941 Expanded Background Checks to Close the Private Gun Sale Loophole.**

The reasons why I support the bill are:

- **87% of Oregonians support background checks, including 83% of Oregon gun owners.**¹
- In Oregon, background checks for gun sales are only required from a federally licensed firearms dealer or at a gun show.
- Oregon voters closed the gun show loophole in 2000, but an estimated 40,000 to 75,000 guns are still sold annually in Oregon without a background check through private sellers.
- Felons, domestic abusers, and the dangerously mentally ill can avoid the background check system by going to private sellers, no questions asked.
- **Exempt family members** include parents, children, grandparents, siblings, aunts, uncles, nieces, and nephews.
- Background checks would **not be required for temporary transfer.** (For example, if a gun were lent for hunting for a short time.)
- The private gun sale loophole is one reason why **Oregon is one of 14 states where gun deaths now outnumber car fatalities.**²
- Taking the responsible step of requiring background checks for private gun sales is the most effective way to reduce gun violence.
- In states that require comprehensive background checks:
 - **48% fewer on-duty police officers are shot and killed, and**
 - **46% fewer women are shot and killed by their intimate partners.**³
- Background checks are simple and effective. During 2013 alone, Oregon's background check system prevented 2,215 prohibited persons from purchasing guns from licensed dealers and at gun shows (Oregon State Police data)

1. [Americans for Responsible Solutions](#)

2. [Violence Policy Center](#)

3. [Everytown for Gun Safety](#)

Background checks save lives, and it is time to close the private sale loophole now.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Walt Mintkeski
SE Portland, Oregon