

sjud.exhibits@state.or.us

Chairman Prozanski and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

I am a child, adolescent and adult psychiatrist as well as a grandfather of 4 children. I support SB 941, the background checks bill.

There are 8 Health Professional Organizations and the American Bar Association that support a public health approach to firearm-related injuries and deaths. One of the approaches the group recommends is Universal Background Checks.

Although persons may suggest that firearms provide protection, evidence indicates that firearms actually increase the likelihood of homicide or even more commonly, suicide. Thus, access to guns in the home increases the risk for suicide in adolescents and adults.

Early identification, intervention and treatment of mental and substance use disorders would reduce the consequences of gun related injury and deaths.

In states that have passed comprehensive background checks, there have been 48% fewer successful suicides. If a person is suicidal and has a gun, the likelihood of that person being successful in killing himself (herself) is extremely high in contrast to other methods. There are no second chances or second thoughts with guns.

Nationwide, 40% of firearm transfers take place through means other than a licensed dealer. It is estimated that 6.6 million firearms are sold annually with no background check.

I strongly support SB 941. Please vote in favor of SB 941. Thank you for taking up this vital issue.

Gene Stubbs, M.D.

SW Portland

Reference: Steven E. Weinberger, M.D., David B. Hoyt, M.D., Hal C. Lawrence III, M.D., Saul Leven, M.D., MPA, Douglas E. Henley, M.D., Errol R. Alden, M.D., Dean Wilkerson, J.D., MBA, Georges C. Benjamin, M.D. and William C. Hubbard J.D.

Firearm-Related Injury and Death in the United States: A Call to Action From 8 Health Professional Organizations and the American Bar Association. Annals of Internal Medicine: <http://www.annals.org>