

Oregon Senate Judiciary Committee

SB 941 April 1, 2014

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- 2nd Amendment Action Center Study

- Oregon has 1.5 homicides with Firearms per 100,000 pop. States with background checks are 4.5 in 2013.
- FBI DATA shows Violent crime statistics: Oregon 275 per 100,000 population. States with background checks: 500/100,000 people almost 2x as high
- Oregon is safer than 41 other states, including 15 states with enhanced background checks.

FBI Uniform Crime Statistics also indicate a 49% higher incidence of police officers killed in the line of duty in states with “universal background checks.”

Even putting these facts aside, this bill would place a significant strain on law enforcement, corrections and court resources, as well as a huge fiscal burden on citizens already staggered under the existing load of taxation, all in the name of making “criminals” of citizens who have done no harm to anyone, and are unlikely to do harm.

If this bill accomplishes anything, it will be to increase crime within the state, both by tying-up law enforcement, correctional and court resources that could be better spent making sure that truly dangerous criminals are not on the street to purchase firearms in the first place.

A majority of Oregon’s counties have already expressed opposition to this bill, and any like it. Less than 40 percent of the registered voters actually voted in the last election, and much of the legislature and the recently-disgraced governor won by a narrow margin of that. Only seven of Oregon’s 36 counties make all of the policy for the rest. It is disingenuous in the extreme to maintain that “a majority of Oregonians” support laws of this kind. They do not. The majority of Oregonians simply no longer vote, because they are virtually unrepresented in the legislative body.

If the State of Oregon’s treasury, law enforcement, courts and penal system are so grossly underworked as to be able to support such a measure, when and in what form are the tax cuts coming, and why aren’t schools fully funded throughout the state? SB941 is legislative folly akin to repealing the law of gravity, and this committee’s, and indeed the legislature’s time would be better spent on real issues, instead of “feel good” legislation at the behest of Portland and Eugene. If those two cities wish to institute something of this nature, let them do it at the municipal level, without going into the pockets of honest, hardworking Oregonians. The majority of the state doesn’t want it, doesn’t need it, and won’t comply.