



Before the Oregon State Senate Committee on the Judiciary

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SENATE BILL 941

Written Testimony Submitted by

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Good morning. Chairman Prozanski and fellow Judiciary committee members, thank you for this opportunity to testify. My name is Dan Gross, and I am the President of the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence. On behalf of our Oregon chapters and members, we fully support Senate Bill 941 to expand Brady background checks to prevent guns from getting into the hands of dangerous people, like felons, fugitives, and domestic abusers.

I am submitting with this testimony a copy of the Brady Campaign's latest report, which shows, first, how effective Brady background checks have been in Oregon. Between checks conducted at federally licensed dealers, as mandated by the Brady Law passed by Congress in 1993, and with the added benefit in Oregon of background checks at gun shows, as mandated by the Citizen initiative that passed overwhelmingly in November 2000, tens of thousands of sales have been blocked to dangerous, prohibited purchasers. Undoubtedly, lives have been saved as a result. In 2013 alone, Brady background checks blocked 2,215 prohibited sales in Oregon; that's an average of six every day.

But what our report also shows is that a new, significant issue has developed since the implementation of the Brady Law in 1994 and since Oregon closed the gun show loophole in 2000, and that issue is the emergence of the Internet and the ease with which criminals can now use it to buy guns. Today, online purchases represent a shockingly easy way for criminals to evade federal and state laws and buy guns without the Brady background check that would stop them.

The Internet hosts the largest gun show on the planet – and it never closes. Armslist.com, one of the more popular sites, posts upwards of 70,000 gun advertisements at any given time, many of which can be purchased without a background check. It's like Craigslist for guns. All a criminal needs is an email address and cash.

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Our report documents sales like this one. Here is an actual advertisement on Armlist.com, just posted on March 22 by an Oregon gun seller who advertises that this Ruger 10/22 is available with “no background check. Cash only.”

The corporate gun lobby will claim that criminals will always find a way to get guns, and if you pass a law requiring background checks you will only make it harder for law abiding citizens to buy guns. To be clear, that is complete and utter hogwash. First of all, background checks only prevent prohibited purchasers from buying guns – the people who are already not allowed to own them. In essence, background checks are the greatest tool for enforcing the laws that already exist. And, according to the FBI, they take, on average, a mere 72 seconds to complete.

And just as importantly, background checks work. In the 21 years since the Brady Law has been implemented, 2.4 million sales have been blocked to felons, fugitives, domestic abusers and other prohibited, dangerous people. And states that have expanded background checks to all gun sales, as Senate Bill 941 will do for Oregon – those states have seen even greater benefit in the form of public safety and lives saved.

In fact, states that have expanded background checks experience on average 46% fewer women killed by intimate partners, 48% fewer law enforcement officers killed with guns, even 48% fewer suicides. Clearly, background checks are effective in keeping guns out of dangerous hands.

Since the terrible tragedy at Sandy Hook Elementary, Congress has failed the American people by failing to “finish the job” of the Brady bill and expand background checks to gun shows and online sales nationally. Yet fortunately for the American people, states have started to take matters into their own hands, with five states passing new laws expanding background checks in just the last two years.

Now, thanks to Senate Bill 941, the Oregon legislature has a critical opportunity to continue this wave of momentum sweeping across the nation, to reflect the will of the overwhelming majority of Oregon voters who support expanded background checks (87% according to the latest polling) and, most importantly, to make Oregon a much safer state for everyone who lives, visits, or does business here.

Sen. Prozanski, thank you for your extraordinary leadership on this issue. On behalf of Sarah Brady, our Oregon members and chapters, the Brady Campaign fully supports Senate Bill 941 and I ask for your AYE vote. I thank all the committee members for the opportunity to testify today. I would be happy to answer any questions.

Gun in Oregon for Sale on Armslist.com Without a Brady Background Check

ARMSLIST
FIREARMS MARKETPLACE

CREATE A LISTING

Home > Oregon > All Categories > Search > For Sale: Ruger 10/22 black composite stock

FOR SALE: RUGER 10/22 BLACK COMPOSITE STOCK

share:    

Price: \$ 200
Seller: Private Party
Account: Unregistered
[Listings by this user](#)

Listed On: Sunday, March 22, 2015
Listed In: Rifles
Location: Madras, bend, redmond, Bend, Oregon -
[Map](#)
Shipping: No

Manufacturer: Ruger
Caliber: 22 Long Rifle
Action: Semi-automatic

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[Contact Seller](#)

I have a brand new in box ruger 10/22 for sale. 325 rounds of ammo, a 25 rd magazine and the 10 rd stock mag. Face to face transaction..no **no background check. Cash only.** five-3199 text or email. Thanks



ARMSLIST.COM

[Contact Seller](#)

FINISH *the* **JOB**
DEMAND BRADY BACKGROUND CHECKS ON ALL GUN SALES

Brady Campaign

To Prevent Gun Violence