

Thank you to the members of the state legislature for taking the time to hear and read all of the testimony given today in regards to SB941. I am strongly opposed to this bill. There is no doubt that our nation has a problem with violence. Every day I hear about another person who has tragically lost their lives to violence. It is easy to see that we need to take some sort of action to reduce these senseless deaths. The difficulty you face is to craft legislation that actually has a hope of reducing violence. SB941 has no chance of accomplishing this. Criminals use stolen guns or guns bought from other criminals. They are not interested in purchasing guns from law abiding citizens. Criminals or domestic abusers are already prohibited from purchasing guns. Having one more law is not going to stop them if they want to own guns. This law cannot be enforced as it is currently written. Sheriffs from around our state have made that crystal clear. Many murders are committed by first time offenders who would pass a background check. You heard many examples today of crimes that were committed which would not have been stopped even if SB941 were passed. The problem our society faces is that some members do not value human life. More laws to punish them will have no effect. In fact it will place a burden on our already overworked and underfunded law enforcement agencies. SB941 also contains a provision that declares an emergency in our state. This clause would make the bill become law quicker and also prevents voters from ever getting a chance to vote on this important issue. I do not believe that 90 people should be able to decide what is best for 3.97 million people without a chance for them to have a vote. Please strike down SB941 and go back to the drawing board to figure out how we can actually have an impact on violence.

Senator Prozanski asked for any suggestions on other ways to reduce gun violence and I welcome that opportunity. I believe people are better motivated by rewards than by fear of punishment. One of the most common ways criminals obtain guns is by stealing them. This is why I believe that the state should offer a tax deduction for the full purchase price of a firearm safe. This would result in more guns being securely stored and not available to criminals. I believe that the OSP background checks should be free. This would encourage people to do background checks on private party transactions. There should also be a program to obtain a firearm purchasing card. Once you obtain said card you can buy as many firearms as you want. Sellers could call in or go online to make sure your card is still valid. When a person loses their firearm rights OSP could revoke the card's status. This system would end the long wait times for background checks and also maintain personal privacy. I would love the opportunity to work with members of our legislature regarding my ideas for decreasing gun violence.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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