



PROSECUTORS AGAINST GUN VIOLENCE

April 21, 2015

To: The Oregon House Committee on Rules
Addresses Listed Below

Re: Oregon Firearms Safety Act, Senate Bill 941 A

We are the co-chairs of Prosecutors Against Gun Violence (PAGV), an organization committed to reasonable and responsible state and federal gun policies that helps keep guns out of the hands of felons and other prohibited persons. We are writing in support of Oregon Senate Bill 941 A (SB941A), also known as the "Oregon Firearms Safety Act."

This bill, which was brought to our attention by Multnomah County District Attorney Rod Underhill, is a well thought out effort to help make Oregon citizens safer from gun-involved violence. We believe that state legislation requiring private sellers to complete background checks on firearm sales and transfers is sound public policy, balancing appropriate restrictions with reasonable exemptions. This bill will close a loophole that has allowed violent felons to buy guns with no questions asked. Further, we believe that Oregon has engaged in a responsible use of resources by charging a nominal fee for the background check and in having the Oregon State Police notify local law enforcement when a person prohibited from buying a gun tries to do so and fails the background check.

In summary, as co-chairs of the PAGV we support responsible legislation that prohibits the transfer of firearms by private sellers to convicted felons or other prohibited persons. Consequently, we believe Oregon's SB 941 A is a sound public safety effort to help keep citizens safe and firearms out of the hands of convicted felons and other prohibited persons.

Sincerely,

Cyrus R. Vance, Jr.
District Attorney, New York County

Mike Feuer
Los Angeles City Attorney

To:
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