



To: House Committee on Rules
From: Oregon Health Equity Alliance
Date: April 22, 2015
Re: Support for SB 941

Chair Hoyle, Members of the Committee:

The Oregon Health Equity Alliance (OHEA) would like to express our support for SB 941. OHEA represents a collective effort of 41 member organizations who work together to make Oregon a more equitable place for all. Our coalition believes every Oregonian should have an equal chance to achieve their full health potential, and that is why we are supporting SB 941.

This bill will require criminal background checks for private gun sales, with exceptions for family members, inherited firearms and antique firearms. Oregon families have lost too many loved ones to gun violence, and background checks are quick and effective at saving lives.

In Oregon, background checks cost only \$10 and are usually completed in less than five minutes over the phone by the Oregon State Police. In states that require a background check on the sale of every firearm:

- 48 percent fewer on-duty police officers are shot and killed,
- 46 percent fewer women are shot and killed by their intimate partners, and
- 48 percent fewer people commit suicide with guns.

SB 941 will uphold the Second Amendment while preventing guns from getting into dangerous hands—those of felons and domestic abusers. Most of Oregon voters support background checks, including those who own guns. It's time for action on gun violence in Oregon.

OHEA urges your full support of SB 941. Thank you for your commitment to our communities.

Joseph Santos-Lyons, APANO, OHEA co-Chair
Midge Purcell, Urban League of Portland, OHEA co-Chair