

Hello, my name is Jared Caranto, and I am a lifelong resident of Multnomah County. I am submitting this testimony in opposition of SB941, by email as I will unfortunately be unavailable to attend the hearing in person.

Requiring background checks on every private-party sale or transfer of a firearm will only increase the number of hoops that must be jumped through by those who are of a mind to obey the law, while also creating more technicalities by which a law-abiding person could be charged as a criminal and installing pointless bureaucratic barriers to what is and has been perfectly legal activity since the creation of our state; this will cause needless frustration on the part of citizens and officials alike, and diverting tax money towards SB941's enforcement rather than somewhere it could benefit Oregonians, such as improvements to education, healthcare, resource management, or simply the sustenance of our ailing economy.

In addition, presently-available data collected by several agencies including the FBI shows the implementation of the NICS background check system currently used for all retail firearms sales (and already able to be used by any diligent citizen who wants it during a private transfer) has not had any significant impact on the number of illegally-possessed firearms recovered from felons. In fact, though knowingly falsifying information on the Form 4473 used for performing background checks in an attempt to acquire a firearm despite knowing you are disqualified is a crime in itself, the arrest and conviction rate for those caught attempting to bypass the current system is dismally low. Funding that would otherwise be used to enforce SB941 would be better used to create a task force within the Oregon State Police dedicated to tracking down and arresting those that attempt to illegally acquire firearms from a dealer. These people, after failing that attempt, will then go on to find other ways to obtain a firearm without scrutiny.

Meanwhile, the subset of people including those mentioned previously who work in violation of the law will continue to do so, ignoring SB941 as they do every other law on the books, and even being glad for its presence because they know every new burden on law-abiding firearms owners makes their criminal intention to cause harm to the public a task that they can undertake with lessened fear of a citizen defending themselves. The criminal element will do as they have done since the conception of the rule of law; they will steal firearms from legal owners, dealers, or even the police, either surreptitiously or by force, threatening the lives and safety of peaceful citizens. They will continue to buy, sell, and trade weapons amongst themselves all the while laughing in the face of any law like SB941.

Thus I request of you, as a law-abiding constituent intimately familiar with what lawful firearms ownership means in the real world, to place your vote and the weight of your elected position squarely in opposition of SB941. This bill is not in the best interest of Oregonians.

Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,  
Jared Caranto