



POLK COUNTY

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SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Sheriff Bob Wolfe

Criminal Division
Civil Division
Marine Patrol Division
Dog Control
Emergency Management

March 31, 2015

As Sheriff of Polk County I have been asked by citizens my opinion regarding proposed legislation now that the Oregon Legislative body is in full session at the Capital in Salem. There are many bills before the Oregon State Legislature this year that in my opinion, are cause for concern. One of these bills is SB 941 which calls for background checks on the private party transaction of firearms.

SB 941 really is doing nothing to make our community safer; in fact, it would simply add requirements and unnecessary laws for our law abiding citizens which ultimately would waste time and limited resources which could be better utilized addressing the bigger issue; mental health issues and crimes committed by individuals while using a gun.

Individuals with mental health issues continue to fill our county jails due to a lack of mental health programs to help them deal with erratic behaviors, at times with firearms. We need to focus on helping those in need of treatment, this should be the priority; leaving the law abiding citizens with their right to carry a firearm.

In February the Polk County Commissioners and your Sheriff signed Polk County Resolution 15-06 In the Matter of Supporting Federal and State Constitutional Rights To Keep and Bear Arms.

As your Sheriff, I am committed to keeping guns away from criminals. However, I am also very committed to allowing law abiding citizens the right to possess firearms, given to each of you by the US Constitution, "right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed".

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bob Wolfe". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Bob Wolfe

Sheriff of Polk County