

Testimony In Favor of SB 941 (Background Checks on All Gun Sales)

Chair Hoyle, members of the Committee, thank you for hearing our testimony today. I am here to speak in support of SB 941, which would require background checks on all gun sales in Oregon.

For the past couple of years I have worked in support of background checks on all gun sales. Background checks help keep guns out of the hands of felons, domestic abusers, and other dangerous people who should not have them.

FBI data shows that in states with stronger background check laws, fewer women are shot to death by their intimate partners and fewer law enforcement officers are killed by handguns.

SB 941 will close a dangerous loophole in Oregon's background check system by requiring background checks on all private sales, with exceptions for close family members. It also requires Oregon state police to notify local law enforcement when a person prohibited from buying a gun tries to do so and fails a background check. Background checks would not be required for temporary transfer of a firearm, only permanent transfers.

87% of Oregonians, the vast majority, support universal background checks. In 2013, Oregon's background check system prevented 2,215 prohibited persons from purchasing guns from licensed firearms dealers and gun shows. This data comes from the Oregon State Police.

SB 941 is a good bill that will save lives and help prevent criminals from getting guns. I ask that you support it. Thank you.