

April 22, 2015

To House Committee on Rules

Written testimony in support of SB 941

Dear Chairperson Hoyle and Members of the Committee

My name is Karin Radtke. I live near Florence in Lane County.

I attended the hearing held by the Senate Judiciary Committee on April 1st. I have read every single written testimony that was submitted to this Committee for and against SB 941. I listened to every speech made on the floor of the Senate on April 14th.

An analysis of each written testimony shows that the majority of those against this Bill were doing so because they were under the impression that they were about to lose their right to own a gun.

But there is no wording in this Bill that would remove the constitutional right to own a gun.

This made me wonder how many people who submitted testimony had actually read the entire Bill. It is more than about closing the loophole in a background check law that has been in place for over fifteen years in Oregon. It is also about law enforcement sharing the information on failed background checks with each other. And it is about allowing judges to withhold possession of a firearm to someone in an assisted outpatient treatment program.

Another thing I noticed was that the majority of testimony writers against this Bill mentioned over and over that "criminals will be criminals."

But they offered no solution. Are they willing to live with this situation? I am not.

We know, for example, that stricter laws have reduced the number of drunk drivers on our roads, even though we know the number will never be reduced to zero.

This Bill will discourage firearms from being handled by people who could be a danger to others and themselves, even though we know the number will never be reduced to zero.

Finally,

This Bill is also known as the "Oregon Firearms Safety Act".

Passing SB 941 is the least we can do for the safety of all.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Karin Radtke".