



Oregon

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TO: Sen. Floyd Prozanski, Chair
Sen. Jeff Kruse, Vice-Chair
Senate Judiciary Committee
State of Oregon

FR: Juliet Britton, J.D.
Executive Director
Psychiatric Security Review Board (PSRB)

RE: Testimony for May 7, 2015 Hearing on HB 2429 (Gun Relief Sunset)

Good morning Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Kruse and members of the committee. I am Juliet Britton, Executive Director of the PSRB. HB 2429 is a housekeeping bill that would remove the sunset clause for the PSRB's relief program and permanently assign firearm restoration authority to our Board.

Firearm relief responsibilities for those who have an adjudicated mental health determination were transferred from the courts to the PSRB in 2009 based on the Board's expertise in mental health and risk assessment, our already existing hearings' process, and the statutory mandate that the Board's primary concern is the protection of society (2009, HB 2853 and later extended in 2011, HB 2662). The PSRB's relief program is ATF-certified which means that individuals who are granted relief simultaneously receive state and federal firearm privilege restoration. There is no fiscal associated with this bill as our current service level can accommodate these relief hearings, as demand for hearings has been low.

It is important to note that since 2009, Oregon State Police has received federal grant money to improve the State's process for submission of names to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) database in all categories of persons prohibited from purchasing a firearm. To date, Oregon State Police has uploaded more than 30,580 names of Oregonians who have been determined to be barred under state law from possessing a firearm due to a psychiatric finding by a judge. An ATF-certified relief program is a requirement in order to receive federal grant monies that help improve records' submission to NICS and other public safety programs.

The Board supports this legislative fix and hopes to see it permanently adopted. Do Committee Members have any questions for me?