



From the Desk of
Representative
Mike McLane

Board of County Commissioners

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Tammy Baney
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April 23, 2015

The Honorable Tina Kotek
Speaker of the House
900 Court Street, NE, Room 269
Salem, OR 97301

Speaker Kotek and Members of the House:

The Deschutes County Board of Commissioners would like to bring to your attention serious concerns regarding Senate Bill 941. While the Board shares the Legislature's desire to keep our communities safe and supports meaningful efforts to keep firearms out of the hands of those who may use them to deliberately harm others, SB 941 does nothing to accomplish those goals. The bill, in its current form, contains multiple flaws, including:

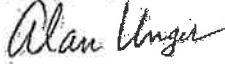
- **Use of the Emergency Clause:** There is no emergency associated with this legislation. The use of an emergency clause in this case is being used to circumvent the right of Oregonians to make their voices heard. While it may require significant effort to bring the issue before voters, our citizens should be given the opportunity to try in the event that SB 941 passes.
- **Criminalization of Law-Abiding Citizens:** Some of the conditions in this bill make law-abiding citizens, during the course of safe gun use, become subject to enforcement action and criminal penalties. As an example, please review the language that prohibits a lawful gun owner from lending a firearm to a responsible person for the purpose of engaging in gun safety programs.
- **Retention of Background Check Results:** Presumably, the purpose of this bill is to keep criminals from obtaining guns. However, if a background check results in no cause for concern, the information should be expunged. While creating a gun registry was likely not the intent of SB 941, it appears to open the door to such a possibility.
- **Disregard for Root Causes of Gun Violence:** SB 941 does nothing to address the issues of mental illness and other social factors that contribute to suicides and crimes involving firearms. Additional resources in these areas would do more to reduce gun violence than further restricting private gun sales.
- **Inattention to Safe and Secure Gun Storage:** We understand that proponents of the bill may want to take up this issue once and move on. Please weigh citizen rights and citizen safety. Education and incentives to store guns safely and in a secure location will do more to protect our citizens from the unauthorized use of all guns, not just those involved in private sales.


We ask that you not waste money on a feel-good bill that will do nothing to address what is actually going on in our communities. Rather, allow us to partner with you in addressing the gaps in services that are eroding the health and well-being of our families.

Sincerely,

DESCHUTES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS


Anthony DeBone
Chair


Alan Unger
Vice Chair


Tammy Baney
Commissioner