

Dear Committee Assistant Catherine Heaton:

Re: Hearing Testimony for HB-4047 pdf.

Please reconsider and cancel continuance of HB-4047. If there is a structural or leadership problem with the Oregon State Police processing of background checks, please address that problem and get them up to speed. Holding up requests for background checks is counter-productive and possibly dangerous. The requests are not going to go away, but there may be some that will tire of the inefficiency of their state government and find a way to work around the background requirement by purchasing their guns in less than legal ways, to avoid the delay and hassles.

There is no sensible reason to punish legal purchasers of legal items, for the inefficiency of our government. Something smells in Denmark here. I'm beginning to believe that the original purpose of this bill is to punish those legal purchasers, not to give the State Police breathing room in doing their mandated jobs. I'm not in favor of letting our children and misguided youngsters turn into dope smoking losers, but I don't think it would be fair to punish them by arbitrarily hindering their abilities to purchase the very product that our state has determined is legal and safe for them to purchase and use. Neither do I think it would be fair at all, if you were to go down to purchase a new automobile and be told that you cannot purchase one today and perhaps for the unknown foreseeable future, because the Department of Motor Vehicles has a backlog of auto registrations to process. But be assured the DMV will give you a call back when they feel they can get around to processing your paperwork. However, think of all the deaths and injuries that could be prevented if there were limited or even no automobiles allowed to be sold. They are highly dangerous and the lives that could be saved by their absence would dwarf those that could be saved by a complete ban and confiscation of all guns. Check the facts please.

I don't want to be just a negative person here, I want to offer a real solution to the problem. This is the computer age, and it would not be remotely difficult to issue gun purchasing permits in the same form as driver's licenses. You would have one background check done on yourself and obtain the license to purchase firearms. The card would have a magnetic strip, just like a driver's license or a credit card. That would give the powers that be, a method of electronically canceling the card in the event they later receive any disqualifying information on the card holder. The card holder decides he wants to purchase a firearm and goes to the store or gun show to find one. He selects one and presents his card. The card is swiped, just like a credit card. It immediately shows the card as still valid and he pays for the firearm and goes home. Done deal. The State Police do not need to know what firearm it was or what the serial number was. They are not suppose to be keeping a registry of firearms in the first place. That is not their business. We've just eliminated the need for one background check. This same person goes to the store next week and purchases another firearm. Scan the card. Card is still valid and we've saved another background check. Everything was done electronically and was completely legal. The next week, another person in possession of a firearm purchase card goes to purchase a firearm and presents his license. It gets scanned and you hear a ding, ding, ding. The sales person says, "sorry sir, your card has been electronically cancelled and I cannot sell you a firearm at this time. Here is a form and phone number for you to contact regarding the reason your card was cancelled and the procedure to attempt to correct the situation." Another background check not needed. The man walks out of the store quite befuddled, wondering why his card was cancelled. Then, it dawns on him that it could have something to do with threats of violence to someone that he was arrested and convicted for a few months ago, or perhaps it was related to the formal report from a licensed psychiatrist that he visited two weeks ago and complained that he was imminently suicidal or was definitively diagnosed as insane or an imminent threat to the public or a specific individual.

We've just eliminated almost all background checks except for those obtaining their initial firearm purchasing license. No wait time needed, as they are already approved. We've also eliminate almost every instance of a person in a fit of jealous rage, running down to the store to purchase a firearm to assault someone with, because if they already have the firearm purchase license, they almost certainly already own a firearm and have no need of an additional one to carry out their nefarious deed. The person without the license will have

to present himself to obtain the license before he can he can purchase his first firearm. After that, the number of firearms he ultimately collects has no bearing on anything, as they are all legal until he has been deemed by competent authority to no longer be allowed to purchase and perhaps to possess a firearm.

All those personnel that are so backed up at the background check facility, and who must be quite exhausted, can now take a coffee break, decide if they want to retire or not, or decide if they would like to be a part of the office that does the limited amount of firearm purchase license cancellations, as a conviction records and psychiatrist reports come in. They won't really be very busy, because there won't be that many of them that they will have to actually deal with. It's the electronic age and all they really have to do is make sure the magnetic strips get the appropriate cancellation key hit when the court clerks file the conviction reports and enter them on their computer.. Back to coffee break.

Now, I know I probably deserve some kind of "government cost-savings award" for this. However, to be honest, this is not all my original idea. I've have some input and law enforcement experience that tells me how simple and cost effective this can be if it is set up by professional, not in-house "computer experts" or old college friends of First Ladies who have a software business in Canada. But I digress.

I'm willing to pass on the cost-savings award for the good of the State of Oregon, so no need to wait. People say not to complain if you don't have a solution. Well, there you go.

Thanks for your time and consideration. I am looking forward to hearing of the cancellation of HB-4047.

Sincerely,

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