

Dear Ms. Heaton,

This is my testimony concerning HB 4147.

This bill is a bad one, and it would be a mistake to make it a part of Oregon law. Even the bill's author says that "the background check system is flawed and there is nothing we can do about it." Well, since that is the case, why in the world is she proposing HB 4147, which will just add to the problems that plague the background check system already?

If the State Police are having difficulty doing their job clearing people for firearms purchases, why should the citizens have to pay the price? Why should their right to buy a firearm be held up indefinitely by the failures of the State Police and the background check system?

This makes no sense whatsoever!

Under the present system, if a purchaser isn't cleared or denied in 3 days, the dealer may sell them the firearm. That has been working pretty well for many years now, and there is no reason to change that part of the law and replace it with something that could conceivably stop many people who are totally legitimate from exercising their rights as American citizens. It is a fact that almost every time someone is "put on hold," they are ultimately cleared to make the purchase. If HB 4147 becomes law, the sale could be held up indefinitely, perhaps for months or even years, and for something that would not even be their fault.

That is neither right nor fair.

Rather than create more problems by passing HB 4147, it makes a lot more sense to me to figure out what is causing the hold-ups on legitimate purchasers, and doing something to fix that. I believe that if some real effort was put into it, the background check system could be improved.

To sum up, then, HB 4147 is a bad bill that will create more problems than it will solve. It should be withdrawn, and efforts should instead be made to fix the background check system that we have in place already.

Sincerely,
Hugh F. Simpson
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