

Respected Representatives,

I am writing in opposition to HB 4147. The failure of the Oregon State Police to conduct a background check in a timely manner should not result in innocent Oregon Citizens losing their rights.

The Supreme Court of The United States has rules that the Second Amendment is an individual right, protected by the Constitution. This bill would deny that right to thousands of people a year (8,000 according to the Oregonian in 2015) without due process.

I would support a bill that required the police to report/prosecute prohibited persons who attempt to purchase firearms, but this bill does more than that, and our legal system is built on an assumption of innocence until proven guilty. The denial of Constitutional rights because of a computer glitch or slow paperwork flips that concept on its head. The burden of proof to deny or exercise a constitutional right should not be placed on the citizen to demonstrate their innocence. The State should be required to show good cause for the denial of rights.

I ask that you oppose this measure and uphold the oath you swore to protect and defend the Constitution and the rights of the citizens of Oregon.

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