



February 4, 2016

Judiciary Committee
Oregon House of Representatives
Re: Ceasefire Oregon Supports HB 4147

Dear Chair Barker and Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

My name is Penny Okamoto. I am the executive director of Ceasefire Oregon. Ceasefire Oregon supports HB 4147. This bill will enforce existing laws, including longstanding laws prohibiting felons, abusers, fugitives from justice and other prohibited purchasers from buying guns.

Last June, nine people were gunned down in the Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, South Carolina after a man was able to buy a gun without completing a background check. Had the gun seller been required to complete the check, nine Americans worshipping in their own church might not have been shot to death.

From 2010 through 2014, gun dealers throughout the United States have gone forward with 15,729 gun sales to prohibited people because a background check could not be completed within three business days.¹

According to FBI data, more than 20 percent of "proceed default" sales, where a final determination was made by the FBI, involve sales of firearms to prohibited individuals. [An analysis](#) of FBI data by Mayors Against Illegal Guns found "default proceed sales are more than eight times more likely to be associated with a prohibited purchaser than sales where the purchaser's background check is resolved within three days."²

Would a bank give someone a home loan if the credit check wasn't complete?

Would a parent hire a caregiver if the background check wasn't complete?

Why are we allowing gun sellers to sell a gun when the firearm check isn't complete?

Oregon should not let prohibited buyers obtain a gun simply because of a loophole placed into the law. The so-called burden of waiting for a completed check is certainly much less of a burden than the Mother Emanuel AME survivors are carrying today.

Keep our background check system strong and protect Oregonians. Gun violence is preventable. Ceasefire Oregon urges you to support HB 4147.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Penny Okamoto
Executive Director
Ceasefire Oregon

1. In 2010, FBI referred 2,955 denials to ATF for firearm retrieval actions because the sale was denied after the three-business-day period. 3,166 such referrals were made in 2011; 3,722 in 2012; 3,375 in 2013; and 2,511 in 2014. FBI, NICS Operations Reports, 2010-2014
2. Retrieved on February 3, 2016 from <http://mediamatters.org/blog/2015/07/21/nra-calls-loophole-that-allowed-charleston-shoo/204516>