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To: Oregon Senate Judiciary Committee:

I am submitting my testimony opposing Senate Bill 797, which would prohibit transfer of firearm by gun dealer or private party if Department of State Police is unable to determine whether recipient is qualified to receive a firearm.

This bill is one of too many laws that infringe upon the right to keep and bear arms, which is essentially the right to defend oneself, a God-given right. This right is not a right that is given to us by the Federal, State, or local government, or even by the Constitution. The Constitution only enumerates that pre-existent right, which would exist, even if there were no Second Amendment.

This bill involves more interaction and paperwork between the potential firearm owner, the seller of the firearm, and law enforcement. Any type of paperwork is a form of registration. Firearm registration can be a precursor to firearm confiscation in the event that a tyrannical government comes to power.

The county sheriff, who is the highest law enforcement officer in the county, would have the right to nullify such an unconstitutional law, and I would support any sheriff who would do so.

There is no provision for either the State or the Federal government to abrogate these rights regardless of the motives and opinions of the legislature or the courts. To do so is breach of the People's trust and a violation of the oaths of office that every elected and appointed officer takes when assuming the duties and responsibilities entrusted in them by the People.

Gun laws have no effect on the curtailing of violent crimes; in fact, when one examines the hard evidence, gun laws only leave good men and women who abide by those laws defenseless against the criminals who ignore the laws. Gun laws, with the accompanying license requirements, also create a form of gun registrations, which can be used by a tyrannical government to confiscate guns, as was, or is, the case in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, National Socialist Germany, Fascist Italy, North Korea, the Peoples Republic of China, etc. After gun confiscation, a tyrannical government can then more effectively oppress its citizens and even exterminate those citizens who resist such oppression .

I, therefore, am totally opposed to the passing of SB 797, and urge that it be defeated, and am totally opposed to any law that regulates, licenses, or restrict the right to keep and bear arms

Sincerely,

S. Thomas Lewis