

Samuel Thomas Lewis
908 21st Ave SW
Albany, Linn County, Oregon 97321

9 February 2018

sthomaslewis@gmail.com

To: Oregon House Judiciary Committee:

I am submitting my testimony opposing Senate Bill 4145, which requires yet another background check when purchasing firearms.

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 governments, 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 bill also involves more interaction between the State and Federal governments, and further violates the 10th Amendment to the Constitution, which severely limits the power of the Federal Government to those specified in the Constitution. There is nothing in the Constitution that gives the Federal Government the power to monitor private transactions.

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 registration, 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 personally do not believe that the intent of those proposing this law is to protect potential stalking victims. Those who have been issued restraining orders would abide by such orders to refrain from stalking their alleged victims. However, those who would not abide by such orders would obtain firearms regardless of an restraining order. Therefore, it is my conclusion that the major intent of HB 4145 is simply part of an overall stratagem to disarm the populace to ensure compliance with potential tyrannical governments in the future.

I, therefore, am totally opposed to the passage of HB 4145, and urge that it be defeated, and am totally opposed to any law that regulates, licenses, or restricts the right to keep and bear arms

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "S. Thomas Lewis". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "S".

S. Thomas Lewis