

My name is Sheena Williams and I represent Oregon First Ladies, a new bipartisan pro-2nd Amendment group with 370 members - and growing every day. We include Republicans, Democrats, Independents, Libertarians, conservatives, liberals, progressives and more. We include women, men, and those outside the binary.

We include people of all races, ethnicities, and national origins. We include LGBTQIA people, straight people, and anyone who doesn't have a word that quite fits. We include atheists, agnostics, and people from every religion and belief system. I tell you this to make it clear that we are all wildly different, but we have one thing in common: We are all passionately pro-gun and pro-2nd Amendment.

I am writing to you about HB2543 which prohibits the transfer of a firearm by gun dealer or private party if Department of State Police is unable to determine whether recipient is qualified to receive the firearm. We imagine the idea behind this bill was to keep firearms out of the hands of dangerous people. However, this is a one size fits all bill in a state that values diversity. Instead of keeping people safer, this bill will put vulnerable populations at risk of harm. Such as the partner fleeing a domestic violence situation, or the single mother of 2 who had a man looking in her windows at her daughters that police were not able to locate (true story from 2/12/2021 in Stayton).

Currently the system in place in Oregon for background checks are overwhelmed and cannot keep up with current demand. To put someone's safety at risk because of State workload and over run system is unacceptable. Especially given the current rate of divorce and with the state of the court systems backed up due to Covid 19 - leaving women at an extra high risk of violence.

At this time, an FFL can make the determination as to if they will send the buyer home with the firearm. I believe it is better to leave that in the hands of a local store owner or private FFL dealer. All of the buyers information is kept with the FFL Legally for 2 years and audited by the ATF regularly.

We are responsible gun owners who want to increase the safety of our communities. Firearms are a vital tool for personal protection, especially for the vulnerable populations we represent, who rely on firearms as a defense to imminent physical assault. Our first priority is to protect all citizens from violence. We believe we understand the concerns of those who have brought this bill to you. We can help to rewrite the bill to suit all of our needs. We would like to schedule a phone call, Zoom call, or meeting to discuss how we can make this a bill that will not only be bipartisan, but one that you'll get to place on your list of successes due to bipartisan support. Because of the importance of this bill, we will be continuing to reach out until we are able to connect and discuss what needs to be adjusted in this bill before the vote. You can contact me at 503-851-7360 or sheenawilliams3327@gmail.com. I very much look forward to working with you to make Oregon a safer place for everyone.