

Representatives thank you for considering my comments OPPOSING HB 2543.

It appears that this legislation is intended to address an issue created by the legislature by not providing the appropriate resources to the enforcement division (Oregon State Police aka OSP) to complete their duties as required by existing law. Regardless of the circumstances, the 3-days is not being supported and the proposed legislation simply removes the requirement. This is not acceptable and disingenuous at best. We have accepted background checks and understand the importance and value of them; the current statute accommodates that and was enacted. This is not being disputed. The discussion that arises with this current proposal, is simply the manner this legislation is revising that existing law.

The existing law is perfectly workable as long as appropriate resources are provided so as to not create the failure that is being addressed. Two options exist that will resolve this within the existing written framework:

1. Provide legislation that allows variable funding that accommodates staff increases as may be necessary for emergency purposes; this would be temporary as needed to address backlogs created by stoppages (as earlier mandated by the Governor of Oregon), increased check volumes or other unforeseen delays as has been experienced numerous times in the past. This might also include use of the National Guard personnel to assist in assembling/gathering data for OSP review.
2. Provide provisions in legislation that eliminates the states responsibility for background checks and moves it centrally to the national system; this has been presented by several organizations in other testimony. Oregon is not special in regard to reviews and a national system would provide a more consistent checks/balances system for firearm ownership across the nation. In combination with this approach, appropriate funding would need to be in place to ensure that accurate and current data was provided from Oregon to the national system and that should be done in a timely manner.

Simply eliminating the validation period is not reasonable and allows too much latitude for not performing the duties required by the existing legislation and precluding the majority of citizens from firearm ownership and purchase.

As the legislative branch, do not set our enforcement organizations up for failure. Provide them the resources they need to perform the duties required to support enacted legislation or adopt the existing alternative national review process and support it appropriately.

Thank you again for considering my comments AGAINST proposed HB 2543