

My name is Judi Sanders and I live in Corvallis. I am in support of HB 2543.

HB 2543 would close the “Charleston loophole” in Oregon. This loophole allows gun sales to proceed if a background check is not completed within the statutory time—in other words, sales can proceed to people who are not authorized to purchase guns. And such sales occur. This is referred to as the Charleston loophole because Dylan Roof, who killed 9 people in a Charleston church, was able to buy a gun that way. For a variety of reasons, gun sales increased in 2020 as did the number of sales to unauthorized persons under this loophole. According to CBS news “There were 5,807 cases in which gun purchases should have been prohibited last year through November 3, 2020, on pace to roughly double the 3,139 total for all of 2019.” <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/gun-purchases-charleston-loophole-2020/> While these are national figures, it only takes one case to create a tragedy here in Oregon as Charleston shows. Further, it makes no sense to allow sales to potentially unauthorized persons just because of an artificial statutory time limit. I urge you to support HB 2543.