

I'm writing to provide testimony on behalf of bill HB 2543, to close the Charleston Loophole.

We as a state and as a country are endangered daily by the gun violence that is so prevalent in the US. Loopholes like "Charleston" account for a significant part of it. With gun sales high, many places including Oregon are experiencing backlogs for background checks, and the Charleston Loophole currently allows guns to be sold without review of background results when results take more than 3 days.

Those opposing closure of the Charleston Loophole note that it is "inconvenient" to wait for a delayed background check. Yes, delays of our personal wishes can be "inconvenient." However, I'm an ER doctor and have never heard of a deadly case of "inconvenience" related to background checks (or anything else for that matter). On the other hand, I have heard of, seen, treated, and notified family members of the deadly results from gun violence perpetrated by people who would have failed background checks. Happens all the time, as you know. The Charleston Loophole got its name from the deadly 2015 gun rampage of Dylann Roof at the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, South Carolina. Roof was allowed to buy the gun he used when his background check results took longer than three days. He would have been prohibited from purchasing the gun due to previous prohibited offenses. The results of his rampage, and the similar risk of gun violence from those whose background checks would not allow gun purchase, were/are considerably beyond "inconvenient."

Closing the Charleston Loophole can and should be accomplished at the federal level. However multiple attempts have failed, so it now falls to individual states to protect their citizens. I urge you to act on behalf of me and all Oregonians in closing the Charleston Loophole with HB 2543.