

Date: February 12, 2021
To: Chair Bynum, Fellow Judiciary Committee Members.
From: Kerry Spurgin
President, Oregon State Shooting Association (OSSA)
Regarding: Opposition to HB2543



I am an Oregon citizen as well as a member and President of the Oregon State Shooting Association (OSSA). The Oregon State Shooting Association directly represents nearly 15,000 members through member clubs and individual membership to foster safe and responsible firearms use as well as family-oriented shooting sports in Oregon. Additionally, we provide information, resources, and assistance to Oregon hunters. OSSA, and its members, are also strong supporters of the 2nd Amendment of the Bill of Rights, the US Constitution, and the Oregon Constitution that support the rights and responsibilities of responsible firearm owners.

On behalf of OSSA, I would like to testify, against HB 2543 which Prohibits transfer of firearms by gun dealer or private party if Department of State Police does not complete their part of the background check process.

Current state and federal laws meet the need for safe and responsible gun ownership as well as our 2nd Amendment rights. Current laws require law abiding citizens to submit for background checks. The law requires authorities to uphold their responsibility to respond within 3 days and issue an approval number for the transaction; failure to respond within the required timeframe authorizes the Dealer or Private Citizen to go forward with the transaction.

HB2543 eliminates the requirement of Oregon state authorities to respond thus infringes upon law abiding Oregonian's 2nd amendment rights, while having no effect on criminal use of firearms.

Improving our communities and state, in the matter of criminal use of firearms, requires that we focus on the true problems that affect our citizens.

1. If the problem is to stop criminal use of firearms – then legislation should be introduced to increase penalties to hold criminals accountable for their actions. Infringing upon law-abiding citizens will not solve the problem of criminal use of firearms.
2. If the problem is that background checks are not being completed on time, as per the laws passed by this legislature – then legislation should be tendered and approved to afford the state authorities the resources (\$, staffing, correction of current process, ...) to complete the current requirement. Infringing upon law abiding citizens will not solve the problem state authorities to complete their required tasks.

HB2543 does NOT serve to address the real problem of criminal use of firearms and will only impact law-abiding citizens by infringing upon their 2nd amendment rights.

I ask, on behalf of OSSA's Members, that the judiciary committee and the Oregon legislature vote to reject HB2543.

Kerry Spurgin

President, Oregon State Shooting Association.