

Submitter: Nicole Chaisson
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3076

I am writing to respectfully express my opposition to House Bill 3076 (2025), which directs the Department of Justice to study the feasibility of a state-based gun dealer licensing program. As a dedicated Oregon resident and advocate for our communities' well-being, I appreciate the intent to enhance public safety. However, I am deeply concerned that this legislation, even in its exploratory phase, may pave the way for measures that unnecessarily burden law-abiding businesses and citizens while failing to address the core issues of gun-related crime.

Oregon's licensed gun dealers currently operate under stringent federal oversight by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF). This includes comprehensive background checks, compliance with detailed regulations, and mandatory license renewals every three years. A state-level study to potentially duplicate these efforts risks diverting resources from more pressing priorities. Rather than scrutinizing an already regulated sector, I urge consideration of strategies that directly target illicit activities driving violence, preserving efficiency in our legislative and administrative efforts.

The potential economic implications of this bill also weigh heavily on my mind. Many gun dealers in Oregon are small, family-owned businesses, particularly in rural areas like Wasco County, where they serve as vital community resources. Should this study lead to additional licensing requirements or fees, these establishments could face unsustainable financial pressures, threatening their viability. Such an outcome would not only harm local economies but also limit access for responsible individuals hunters, sports enthusiasts, and homeowners who rely on these businesses for lawful purposes. I believe we should prioritize supporting, rather than encumbering, these contributors to our state's fabric.

Moreover, I question the efficacy of this approach in enhancing safety. Reports, such as those from the Oregon Capital Chronicle, highlight a troubling rise in firearm homicides, yet evidence consistently points to illegal markets and unregulated transactions as primary sources—not licensed dealers. A study focused on further regulating lawful businesses seems misaligned with the data, diverting attention from proactive enforcement against criminal networks. I would welcome solutions that address these root causes with precision and compassion, ensuring our efforts yield meaningful results for Oregon families.

Finally, I am compelled to address the broader implications for personal liberties. The right to self-defense, upheld by both the U.S. and Oregon Constitutions, is a value I hold dear as a means of protecting my loved ones. While HB 3076 is presently a study, it signals a trajectory that could incrementally restrict access to this right for law-abiding citizens. I respectfully ask that we proceed with caution, safeguarding the freedoms that define our state's character and empower its people.

I recognize your commitment to Oregon's safety and prosperity, a goal I share wholeheartedly. I respectfully urge you to reconsider HB 3076 and explore alternatives that strengthen our communities without imposing undue burdens on those who uphold the law. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this perspective and your service to our state.

Sincerely,

Nicole Chaisson
The Dalles