From: Sen Whitsett
To: DeJong Annola
Subject: Testimony - gun bill public hearing tomorrow
Date: Monday, April 08, 2013 1:24:36 PM

Hello Senators,

I am writing in regards to a few new Senate Bills that have been brought to my attention. I would like to offer my views on the bills and I hope that you will take the time to hear what I have to say. I'm sorry that I was unable to be at the hearing in person but I am unable to get off of work.

SB 758- As an insurance agent and a gun owner, I have a really hard time with this bill. I get what you are trying to accomplish but there is no way to enforce a law like this without gun registration. I believe that gun registration is an infringement of my gun rights and is unconstitutional. If this was to become law, the only guns that would be insured would be owned by law abiding citizen like myself. Last time I checked, we are not the ones who are committing gun related crimes! This bill is a waist of time and tax payers money. Please throw out this bill.

SB 760- This is a redundant law. As it stands right now, a law abiding citizen can only use a weapon to defend themselves if the person attacking them has the means and intention to harm or kill. As it stands now, you can only defend yourself as a last resort! Please throw out this bill as we have laws that already cover this matter.

SB 699- Why on earth would you feel the need to ban CHL holders from carrying into the Capitol? Do you not have faith in the Federal background checks that are required to get a CHL? All this law does is punish the good guys with guns. Period. This bill makes no logical sense. Again you are focusing in on controlling law abiding citizens instead of the criminals your laws should be going after. Please throw out this bill.

SB 700- This is another redundant law. It is already a federal felony for any private person to sell, trade, give, lend, rent or transfer a gun to a person they know or should have known is not legally allowed to own, purchase or possess a firearm. Furthermore, Oregon already has strong background check laws in place for firearms. It should be noted that every year, tens of thousands of people fail to pass the background checks required for firearm purchases, yet only a small fraction are prosecuted for providing false information. Before lawmakers consider passing more onerous rules and regulations, they should start enforcing the laws that are currently on the books.
Those who urge passage of so-called “universal background checks” fail to grasp the fundamental truth that this will only affect law-abiding citizens and not criminals. Criminals do not obey the law in the first place. Please throw out this bill as well.

From what I have been seeing, you are trying to curb the emotion of gun related crimes by restricting the law abiding citizens. Instead of wasting time and money by drafting bills that won't help, why don't you try to figure out a way to enforce the laws we already have? To me, that would make the biggest difference.

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