From: Richard Fields
To: DeJong Annola
Subject: Firearms legislation
Date: Monday, April 08, 2013 11:25:49 AM

Dear Oregon Legislature
This is my testimony concerning the proposed firearms legislation.
I have a sister who began exhibiting severe schizophrenia episodes over forty years ago. She terrified our family with threats and violent confrontations and mentally crushed her children with provocative outbursts at school and in the community. She would be taken in for a 72 hour hold and medicated, then released as soon as she was "stable". Those of us, brutalized by her behavior, tried to have her forcibly medicated and the laws did not allow us to have a voice in her treatment. She was only forcibly treated after she deliberately ran her van into a police car.

I feel this relates to the current firearms proposals in that only a mentally disturbed person will commit the horrific crimes with a firearm which are being used to justify additional firearms legislation. You should focus on the mental health system laws and reporting requirements to keep firearms away from the mentally disturbed. I am not proposing additional universal background checks, but a reporting requirement to include the mentally disturbed in the existing system.

I view any proposals for a "universal background check" as the beginning of universal registration. Universal registration has a historical record of preceding confiscation. Magazine size and firearms bans will only punish law abiding firearms owners.

Any additional legislation which controls the "transfer" of firearms from one person to another is, in my opinion, designed to trap and criminalize firearms owners. As an example, allowing a friend to fire my firearm at a shooting range can be interpreted as a transfer and turn both of us into criminals, since a background check would not have preceded the "transfer".

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