



March 2, 2021

Oregon House of Representatives  
Salem, Oregon 97301  
House Committee On Judiciary

Dear Chair Bynum, Vice-Chairs Noble and Power, and Members of the Committee:

The Oregon National Organization for Women supports the passage of HB 2543.

HB 2543 simply eliminates the situation in which a firearm may be transferred when a required background check fails to complete within the time period currently defined by Oregon statute. While background check failures are uncommon, there have been catastrophic consequences in the past when a gun was sold without waiting for the completion of a background check. The most memorable is the shooting of nine people in the Emanuel A.M. E. Church in Charleston, SC, by a White Supremacist shooter who would have been disqualified from purchasing the gun had the background check completed. The "Charleston Loophole" name is tied to this incident.

Eliminating violence against women is a top priority for NOW, so keeping guns out of the hands of people who are not qualified by law to possess them is a priority for our organization. Completion of background checks should be essential, no matter how long it takes.

Please support the passage of this critical legislation now.

Respectfully,

Christine Chin Ryan  
President, Oregon NOW

H. Rebecca Callison  
Legislative Chair, Oregon NOW