

Regarding HB 2543:

I am an independent voter and women's rights advocate and I oppose HB 2543 for the following reasons:

1. It purports to solve a 'loophole' that is rarely, if ever, exploited
2. It potentially limits the ability of women in crisis to be able to defend themselves.

1. I ask the committee "Percentage-wise, how many times has this loophole been exploited in the past couple years? Additionally, in the cases where a gun purchase was allowed because the OSP delayed a background check, how many times did that result in a crime?"

My data indicates that this loophole is exploited less than 1% of the time and of that 1% few, if any, sales can be correlated with a crime being committed. Why then, is the committee wasting its time fixing this so-called loophole that hasn't resulted in any harm?

2. As a women's rights advocate I advocate for women to arm themselves for protection. Firearms are a women-in-crisis' best friend and power equalizer. In most cases, however, people in crisis wait until the last moment to seek protection, whether legal protection or physical protection. If HB 2543 passes it creates a roadblock for people in crisis seeking to protect themselves. These people need protection in a timely manner and it is unconscionable to deny them access simply because the OSP is busy. It is essential that we give the benefit of doubt in favor of those vulnerable Oregonians seeking protection. Don't let it be on your conscience that a delay caused by your bill resulted in a vulnerable woman in crisis being unable to protect herself.

Please, support women's and all people in crisis' right to obtain protection in a timely manner