

As you know, this bill will prohibit law abiding Oregonians from purchasing firearms if the Oregon State Police cannot, or will not, complete the mandated background check. This will, far and away, not be a step to reduce gun violence so much as it is yet another hinderance to law-abiding citizens exercising their Second Amendment rights. I grow weary of saying this, but only law-abiding citizens will obey the law, and they are not the ones behind gun violence. Criminals are, and they will not use the OSP background check process to acquire a firearm for nefarious purposes.

Under both Oregon and Federal law, when a background check is not completed within 3 business days but the intended buyer is not "denied", the buyer may legally take possession of the firearm with the approval of the gun dealer. Nothing mandates that the dealer transfer the firearm, but they are permitted to do so. Under this bill, a person like a single mother whose life is in danger can be told that she may not have the means to protect herself and children with a firearm, potentially forever if the background check cannot or will not be completed. The Oregon State Police Firearms Instant Check unit regularly delays qualified buyers as a result of bad or outdated records. These delays have been known to stretch on into years. Calls to the Oregon State Police "challenge line" have been reported be an exercise in futility and frustration, and this problem has grown far worse since COVID has so many state employees not coming into work.

Bills such as this one are nothing less than another step in a slow, progressive, incremental destruction of our rights under the Second Amendment, under the guise of administrative procedure. I will call it nothing else, and if you are being intellectually honest, you should call it nothing else.