

Good Afternoon, Judiciary Committee Chair Representative Bynum and Vice-Chairs Representative Noble and Representative Power, and Fellow committee members.

My name is Rick Coufal. I am a member of the Oregon State Shooting Association and a life member of the National Rifle Association. As a board member for the Oregon State Shooting Association, we represent approximately 15,000 voting members in our association and member clubs here in Oregon. Additionally, we provide information to over 100,000 Oregon hunters. We are strong believers in the 2nd Amendment and the Oregon Constitution and the rights and responsibilities of responsible firearm owners to enjoy safe, family-oriented shooting sports here in Oregon.

Today I would like to testify against HB 2543 which would Prohibits transfer of firearms by gun dealers or private parties if the State Police are unable to determine whether the recipient is qualified to receive a firearm. Current laws at both state and federal level require authorities to uphold their responsibilities to respond within 1-3 days and issue an approval number for the transaction, failure to respond within the required timeframe authorizes the Dealer or Private Citizen to go forward with the transaction. The proposed amendment of eliminating the requirement to respond in Oregon by the next business day or at all infringes upon law abiding Oregonians 2nd amendment rights, while having no effect on criminals.

I believe the legislature should increase the budget for the State Police as the sole authorizing agency in the state to ensure quicker and more responsive background checks. Responsible law-abiding Oregonians should not have to wait to purchase a firearm, due to staffing shortages or incomplete Background investigations. They should be approved while in the store or at the local gun shop, private residence, or Firearm show. The rights of responsible firearm owners to purchase firearms quickly, without undue regulations is part of our right, guaranteed by the 2nd Amendment "The right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be Infringed."

Thank you for the time to express my views and I hope the Committee will vote against HB 2543.