

My name is Pritam Khalsa and I am a high schooler in Portland, Oregon. I support the bill HB-2543 because the Oregon Charleston Loophole makes it incredibly easy for people to purchase a gun without proper background checks. The Charleston Loophole allows gun sales to proceed if a background check is not cleared in three days. With gun sales rising in Oregon, it is more important than ever to make sure people who should not have firearms cannot bypass a proper background check. It is estimated that at least 585,000 background checks will have taken longer than three business days in 2020. In Oregon, over 89% of denials to gun purchases were because the purchaser was a felon or another prohibited person. In 2020, 5,807 guns were flagged by the FBI as being transferred to prohibited purchasers, which is higher than any other year. Given that hundreds of thousands of records are required to be purged from the system after 90 days, this is likely a drastic undercount. It is incredibly dangerous for people who did not pass a background check to still have access to a firearm because this will rise gun related violence. Voting yes on this bill is necessary to protect people from gun violence.