

My name is Laura Mertens and I live in Portland, Oregon. I'm writing to urge this committee to support HB 2543.

Under federal law, gun purchases can move forward by default after three business days. This is even when a background check has not been completed.

While 90% of federal background checks are completed very quickly, those that take longer than 3 business days are 4 times as likely to be denied. Those denials are most often for things like prior felonies or domestic abuse. This loophole will allow convicted felons and domestic abusers to buy guns, even though they are legally barred from doing so. We need to stop this from happening immediately.

Background checks are the best way to keep guns out of the wrong hands. It's just common sense to prevent sales without a background check. Please vote yes on HB 2543.