



Ceasefire Oregon

February 18, 2021

Judiciary Committee
Oregon House of Representatives
Re: Ceasefire Oregon Supports HB 2543

Dear Chair Bynum and Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

Ceasefire Oregon urges you to support HB 2543 that would close the default proceed rule, better known as the Charleston Loophole. HB 2543 will enforce existing laws, including long-standing laws prohibiting felons, abusers, fugitives from justice and other prohibited purchasers from buying guns.

Oregon State Police Firearm Instant Checks have skyrocketed since March 1, 2020, rising 46% statewide when compared with the same time one year ago. The rate of denial investigations, however, has plummeted from an average of 0.85% between March 2019 and January 2020 to 0.51% between March 2020 to January 2021.

At this time, we do not know if the drastic decrease in denial investigations reflects an increase in the number of prohibited firearm purchasers who illegally purchased firearms through the Charleston Loophole.

We do know, however, that 98 Oregonians were fatally shot (excluding suicides) between March 1, 2019, and February 29, 2020 and 133 were fatally shot between March 1, 2020 and February 28, 2021 (Gun Violence Archive).

In other words, homicide shootings rose in Oregon by 36% compared to the year immediately preceding the COVID-19 pandemic and the coincident surge in firearm sales (March 1, 2019 through February 29, 2020 compared to March 1, 2020 through February 28, 2021).

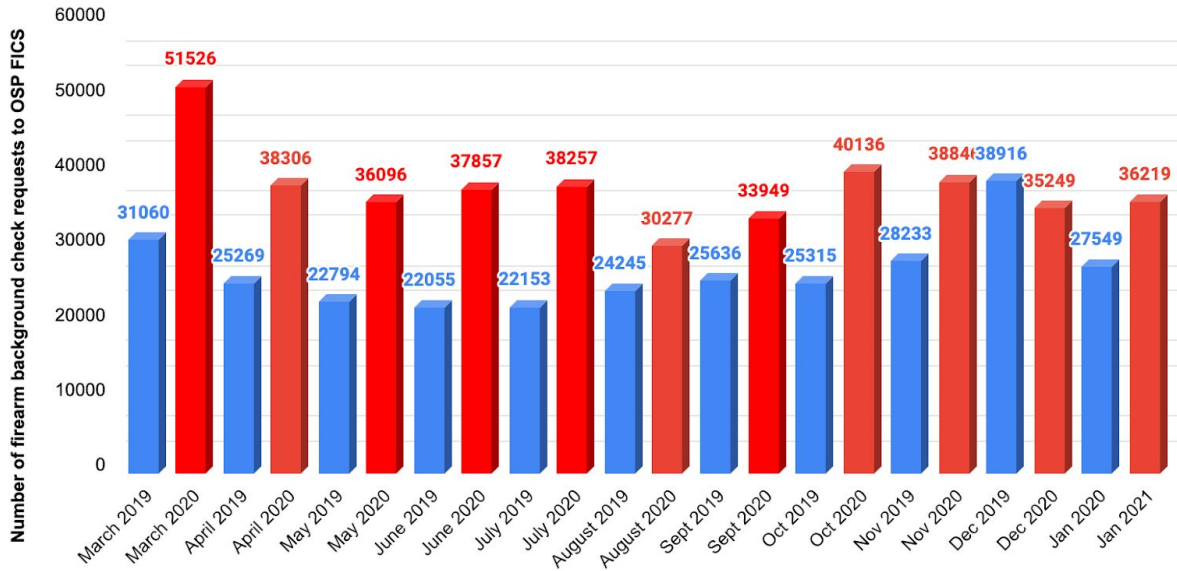
Oregon has been plunged into a tidal wave of gun sales. Homicide shootings are already on the rise. By closing the Charleston Loophole, Oregon would enforce existing federal and state laws while making it more difficult for prohibited purchasers to obtain firearms.

Ceasefire Oregon urges you to ensure that felons, abusers and criminals cannot legally buy guns in Oregon. Please keep our background check system strong and protect Oregonians. Ceasefire Oregon urges you to support HB 2543.

Sincerely,

Penny Okamoto
Executive Director
Ceasefire Oregon

Oregon Firearm Instant Check Requests, Comparing Months from March 2019 to January 2021
 Pre-COVID Months in Blue, COVID Months in Red



Data from Oregon State Police FICS, Compiled by Ceasefire Oregon Education Foundation

	FICS Requests	FICS Investigations	Percent Investigations
March 1, 2019 - January 31, 2020	285978	2419	0.85
March 1, 2020 - January 31, 2021	416718	2138	0.51