

Chair Bynum and Members of the Committee:

My name is Tom O'Connor and I am a resident of Clackamas County.

As a life-long gun owner I strongly support HB 2543 and its requirement that all firearm sales must have a completed background check before finalized. Completed background checks are a critical tool to keep firearms out of the hands of felons, domestic abusers and the dangerously mentally ill.

I do not believe that background checks are intrusive or burdensome; they usually only take a few minutes in my experience. If there is a longer period necessary to resolve outstanding issues, that should not override the need to protect our fellow citizens from unauthorized purchasers. And no owner should want to sell to someone who has not been cleared by the background check system even it takes a little longer.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Tom O'Connor