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HB 2543 Testimony

If we've learned one thing from the covid lockdowns it's how, with the stroke of the governor's pen, not only can countless small businesses be crippled and bankrupted, but how many state agencies can simply stop doing the jobs they are paid to do.

Anyone who's tried to register a car or help a kid get a driver's permit can tell you what an exercise in frustration that can be.

But at least in some cases when the DMV won't do its job, it makes some allowance for the people who are prevented from using its mandated services. (This of course has not helped gun buyers who could not renew driver's licenses and are not allowed to use expired licenses as ID for gun purchases.)

In Oregon, buying a firearm is like playing the lottery. Sometimes you win, but when you lose through no fault of your own, you are just out of luck. Qualified gun buyers are delayed, sometimes for months, simply because their name is SIMILAR to someone else's.

The Firearms Instant Check system, while always a crap shoot, has become a nightmare of frustration for lawful gun owners who are told they may not take possession of a firearm but usually can't find out why. And while FICS has always been a black hole for people trying to fix the mistakes made by OSP, since the COVID lockdowns the situation has become exponentially worse. The queue for background checks now is almost *7000 people*.

The current law allowing transfers after 3 business days is not a "loophole," It's a safeguard. And while rarely used it provides some small hope for a single mom in rural Oregon who needs a firearm to protect her family in a state growing more dangerous every day.

Right now the Oregon State Police are routinely breaking the law by not providing dealers with dispositions of background checks in the legal time frame and by actually cancelling sales they decide to not investigate, even though they have no statutory authority to do so. OSP lists a transaction from Sept 2020 that has not STARTED research.

When this bill was introduced in the past, Jennifer Williamson actually *promoted* it by saying that 95 % of delays were errors. Only in the government would a 95% error rate be considered a success story.

The murders in Charleston did not happen because of a loophole. They happened because of a cascade of law enforcement failures and would not have been prevented by this law. All this law will do is prevent good people from exercising their rights while the ever spiking gang shootouts will continue to take the lives of innocent bystanders. I urge you to vote no.