

Dear Senators, committee members, et al,

Please accept my written testimony in vigorous opposition of HB2543.

As you may have heard, owning a firearm is a constitutional right for all law abiding citizens. Period. Oregon is a "shall issue" state when it comes to concealed carry licenses but this legislation aims to change the even more basic right to own a firearm to "may issue".

Absolutely unacceptable!

This legislation acts in blatant disregard to the Constitutions of both The United States and the State of Oregon.

The current background check system operated by the State Police is already overloaded and understaffed due to recent increases in firearm purchases. Many of these purchases wouldn't have happened if our legislators would back off the systematic attacks on our rights every session! There is an obvious problem involving volume vs. approvals and your answer is to "just say no" rather than do what is needed to move the process along. Our legislature created the current background approval system and that system is now broken. So fix it. Don't throw our constitutional rights out the window because the system you created is not working.

"Just say no" is not an option, and a poorly run background check system is a poor scapegoat for denying us of our right to bear arms.

The cost to increase the staffing and efficiency of the background check process, or correct its mismanagement perhaps, will be far less than a lengthy court battle that will surely be the result of this insidious legislation passing.

I'm sure you already know that, so I'm left with the firm opinion that this is yet one more attempt to trample on the rights (our God given constitutional rights, mind you) of law abiding firearm purchasers in Oregon.

In Liberty,

Don Denning