

Submitter: Patrick Iler
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure: HB2005

I oppose HB 2005

As a result of the passage of SB 941 in 2015 Oregon law requires a background check for all transfers including those that take place at a gun show and between private citizens (close family members and law enforcement excepted). If a firearm is transferred without the transferor following the above requirement, then they are breaking the law. All firearms fall under this law, including those not serialized. Based on the above facts, the statement by proponents and supporters that unserialized firearms can be legally obtained without a background check is patently false and misleading. They can be legally manufactured without a background check, but they cannot be legally transferred without a background check.

Between 2016 and 2020 the ATF recovered a total of 1,281,195 firearms including the 24,000 untraceable firearms touted by the proponents and supporters of this bill as being an overwhelming amount. Doing the math, less than 1.9% of the firearms recovered by the ATF were untraceable. By any reasonable standard, less than 1.9% cannot be considered an overwhelming amount.

Therefore, when truth and facts prevail, we can see that once again Oregonians are being deceptively led to believe that firearms are a huge menace to society by the proponents and supporters of this bill, when truth, fact, and reality say otherwise.

Back in 2015 Michelle Ganow-Jones of Oregon NOW submitted testimony in support of SB 941 that included the statement "Passing this law will keep guns out of the hands of domestic abusers. Passing this law will save women's lives".

Here in 2023 Kim Critelli of Oregon NOW has submitted testimony in support of HB 2005 which testimony includes the statement "We don't need the data to tell us that Oregonians, especially our most vulnerable are dying from firearm fatalities at an alarming rate. We believe this bill will save lives".

The above statements show two things. One, they are consistent in supporting any anti-gun legislation regardless of its merits, flaws or ineffectiveness. Two, it could be gathered from the two statements above that if "our most vulnerable are dying from firearm fatalities at an alarming rate", SB 941 obviously did not accomplish the goals Oregon NOW and the other proponents said it would.

Based on the above it is clear that passage of HB 2005 will not stop or prevent gun

violence any more than the passage of SB 941 did. However, it will turn otherwise law abiding Oregonians into felons.

The arguments put forth by the proponents and supporters of this bill are based on emotion and fear instead of truth and facts. Without exception testimony by proponents and supporters is based on their fears of what might happen, not what is happening, and they are presenting data and testimony that is misleading, incorrect, fabricated, or meaningless assumptions. All the Committee has to do is investigate the points and claims made in testimony by proponents and supporters to discover this for themselves.

If HB 2005 were to pass, it will be challenged and found unconstitutional. As a taxpayer, I find it abhorrent that if passed, the state will inevitably spend huge amounts of money to defend a bill that is indefensible and will ultimately be found unconstitutional. There are many higher priority issues to invest time and resources on rather than a ridiculous bill like this which will have absolutely no effect on the issues it purports to address and that is almost criminal.

Therefore, I strongly urge the Committee to reject this foolish and contemptable bill and invest our state's finite resources into more productive areas and needs. Thank you.

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